

Executive Summary: A pivotal year for UHC and P4H.

Increased focus on UHC: A broad consensus regarding the importance of universal health coverage (UHC) continues to build, with major international institutions actively working on UHC concept-framing, capacity building, and financial support. This is happening against a backdrop of intensified awareness of and focus on UHC. 2015 will see the global public health community pivot into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal 3 of which covers health and includes a specific UHC target. UHC-oriented efforts are also likely to get a boost from increased funding with the launch of the Global Financing Facility (GFF) announced by the World Bank in September 2014. P4H partners could play an important role in supporting the GFF, in particular by helping to align new funding efforts with broader health financing strategies. Also of interest on the financial front is the entry of the Global Fund into the network to collaborate in areas of mutual interest, and the entry of the Asian Development Bank which is keen to explore opportunities for collaboration and networking in the area of UHC in Asia. Increased UHC focus will likely be supported by recent M&E initiatives showing the extent to which progress on UHC is quantifiable. Notable in this regard is the WHO/WBG framework on UHC monitoring and the WHO/WBG UHC Global Monitoring Report.

Stabilisation of the P4H country portfolio. With 30 countries receiving (or having received) joint P4H support and five countries in the pipeline, the Network has reached its cruising altitude given the current funding levels, as reflected in the quasi-stabilisation and moderate increase in view of last year's portfolio (from 33 to 35). Burundi, Mozambique and Tajikistan (both registered as 'in the pipeline' in last year's report) ramped up to full collaboration with the network status, while Malawi entered the pipeline requesting P4H support in May 2015. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the main focus of P4H network activity, 20 countries currently engaged in UHC/SHP-related consultation, reflection or planning. Progress has been mixed on the continent, with several countries affected by political instability. On the brighter side, both Ivory Coast and Senegal launched UHC programmes, while others, notably Tanzania, are making steady progress towards their goals. Asia too remains an important focus of P4H network member activity, considering for instance Tajikistan, which produced a detailed strategic plan for 2015 – 2018, or Nepal, which has produced a draft policy on National Health Insurance and is moving towards the establishment of a semi-autonomous National Health Insurance Agency NHIA, or Cambodia which is currently working on a draft health financing policy. Other countries in the region have also been moving forward, including Mongolia which in January 2015 approved new amendments to the Law of Mongolian Citizen's Health Insurance.

P4H partners' deeper engagement: The P4H network has reached a point where its members have a much better grasp of the complexity of UHC oriented reforms: the various linkages with governance and political issues; the overarching social protection and fiscal space debates; the ever increasing number of stakeholders including national and international civil society organizations; the launching of new initiatives like GFF at global level; and the activities of practitioners' networks like JLN or the HHA communities of practice. At the country level, P4H partners are deepening their engagement through their growing network of local advisors. Their value has been proven across a range of activities this year, including responsive technical support and strategic consultancy to vital liaison roles ensuring continuity and alignment of support with country need. The P4H network currently has 7 part/full time policy advisors on the ground, working in 11 countries and greatly contributing to monitoring and evaluation of the quality of technical and financial support provided by the P4H network. However, progress towards UHC/SHP continues to be hard won in particular where reformers confront the complexity and adaptive challenges of UHC/SHP. In response to these challenges, P4H network partners are now presenting a range of non-technical products and services, notable among which the Leadership for UHC course, which was launched in June 2014 and which

aims not only to develop the personal leadership qualities of participants, but to support on-going UHC reform processes. The first edition brought together over thirty high level participants from Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Ethiopia and elicited very positive responses.

Needles to say, P4H partners also continue to provide extensive consultancy/advisory services, technical support such as Joint Scoping Missions, fiscal space assessment, and Health Financing Strategy development, as well as capacity building products and services, ranging from workshops, training courses and conferences, to peer-to-peer knowledge exchange through, for example, organized study tours. To further broaden the spectrum of available resources for capacity development, P4H partners GIZ and the World Bank have launched a web-based course titled Medicines in Low- and Middle-Income Country Health Systems Working toward Universal Health Coverage which was put together by experts at the Harvard Medical School and the World Bank. P4H network partners are also working on a UHC interactive guide, which was presented, at the 2015 PMAC conference in January in Bangkok.

P4H partners focused on learning: The past year again confirms that progress towards UHC in the countries requires more than technical or financial input and support: adaptive and change management solutions are at the heart of the most famous country success stories and are not considered as for granted by key stakeholders in these same successful countries. Several of the year's capacity-building initiatives offer learning opportunities for network members themselves. Examples include the Knowledge, Learning, Innovation (KLI) briefs, launched by GIZ and SDC, which promise to improve access to the wealth of research and analytical work generated in joint network support activities focused on the development and implementation of health financing strategies. A pilot KLI brief is in the process of being finalized and will be presented to the P4H network for discussion. Opportunities to learn from experience are also a key aspect of a proposed P4H M&E and Learning Tool. It is clear that in many ways the network has never been so strong in terms of what it is offering.

Clearly one of the greatest learning resources available to P4H network members is other members. It was to encourage dialogue and information exchange across the network that the P4H Intranet, was launched in September 2013. Since then more than 600 users have been registered, including 30+ country networks and colleagues at regional and global level. This year Intranet 2 was launched. It now allows for the uploading of new events and process/milestones in the country sections without administrator permissions, and includes a new notifications system, which allows partners to keep abreast of subjects that interest them without having to log in, as well as general News and Updates. Face to face technical exchanges were organized as well on two occasions (June 2014 and February 2015) and enabled intense discussions on the way the different P4H members deal with issues like social protection policies, voluntary health insurance, equity and the private sector in relation to their operations in the field of UHC.

Looking ahead: 2014/15 has a pivotal look, marked on the one hand by the attainment of P4H capacity limits, on the other, the entrance of the Global Fund and Asian Development Bank into collaboration with the network, as well as the expansion of P4H members' service and product offerings combined with deeper engagement on the ground. The bigger picture is also suggestive of change, in particular the inclusion of a specific UHC objective in the SDGs, and the launch of the GFF, both of which have implications for key P4H network countries. The coming year will doubtless bring more. The Asian Development Bank's decision to pursue opportunities for collaboration with P4H in the area of UHC, for example, will significantly augment the reach of the network in Asia. Similarly, increased collaboration between P4H and the Joint Learning Network (JLN), should it materialize, would open a number of doors for both organizations. It is going to be an interesting year.