Public Health Services and Universal Health Coverage: an unbalanced relationship

Rosemary James

School of Medicine, National University of Galway, Ireland
Share of current expenditure on health spent on preventative care (2013-2015)

Percentage (%)
What defines universal health coverage?

“Access to key promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health interventions for all at an affordable cost, thereby achieving equity in access” (WHO, 2005).
Who decides how UHC is monitored?

• Since 2015, 7 meetings with WHO and World Bank within the UHC index will be updated every 2 years by WHO.

Based on 16 proxy tracer indicators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RMCH</th>
<th>Infectious diseases</th>
<th>NCDs</th>
<th>Service capacity and access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family planning</td>
<td>Tuberculosis effective treatment</td>
<td>Prevalence of raised blood pressure</td>
<td>Basic hospital access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antenatal and delivery care</td>
<td>HIV antiretroviral treatment</td>
<td>Prevalence of raised blood glucose</td>
<td>Health-worker density</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full child immunization</td>
<td>Insecticide-treated nets coverage for malaria prevention</td>
<td>Cervical cancer screening</td>
<td>Access to essential medicines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health-seeking behaviour for child illness</td>
<td>Adequate sanitation</td>
<td>Tobacco control</td>
<td>Compliance with the International Health Regulations</td>
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</table>

**Universal Health Coverage Tracer Indicators**
Clustering of Essential Public Health Operations (EPHOs)
- to deliver Public Health services

VISION: Sustainable Health & Well-Being

CORE EPHOs

INTELLIGENCE
EPHO 1 + 2
Surveillance

Monitoring

Informing health assessments and plans

SERVICE DELIVERY
Health Promotion

EPHO 4

Health Protection

Disease Prevention

EPHO 3

EPHO 5

ENABLER EPHOs

Governance
EPHO 6
PH Workforce
EPHO 7
Funding
EPHO 8
Communication
EPHO 9
Research
EPHO 10

World Health Organization
Regional Office for Europe
Aims (a preliminary analysis)

1. To evaluate whether or not UHC is fully representative of the EPHOs
2. To gauge whether the EPHOs will help to increase UHC attainment
3. To investigate factors preventing EPHO and UHC attainment
Methods (a preliminary analysis)

1. Literature Review (problem statement)
   - Google Scholar, Pubmed, WHO Europe
   - WHO Regional Offices + HQ TC’s
   - Email correspondence with experts

2. Systematic Text Condensation (thematic analysis)
   - UHC tracer indicator metadata Vs. WHO Europe's EPHO descriptions

3. Comparative Gap Analysis
UHC Tracer Indicator: Tuberculosis effective treatment

Input (EPHO) → Mediator (EPHO Service) → Output (UHC tracer indicator) → Outcome (SDG indicator)

Surveillance (1) Contact Tracing

Percentage of incidence TB cases that are detected and successfully treated in a given year:

\[
\text{Number of new and relapse cases detected in a given year} \div \text{Number of new and relapse cases in the same year}
\]

Contact tracing systems will increase the number of TB cases detected, therefore increasing the indicator success.

3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services
Results

A symbiotic relationship
All ten EPHOs contribute to all sixteen UHC proxy tracer indicators, but there is heterogenous coverage.
Results

- **Surveillance, Research, and Disease Prevention** services appear to be the EPHOs which most markedly impact UHC attainment.

- EPHO services found to be least related to the UHC tracer indicators:
  - Mental health
  - Substance abuse
  - Nutrition services
  - Occupational safety
  - Health literacy programmes
  - Self-management of chronic disease
  - Injury prevention
### Discussion

**“Candidate” Tracer Indicators:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease Prevention</th>
<th>Health Promotion</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injury prevention</td>
<td>Nutritional support</td>
<td>Substance abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prophylaxis against neglected tropical diseases</td>
<td>Health literacy programmes</td>
<td>Cataract surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental health</td>
<td>Breastfeeding support</td>
<td>Mental health services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational safety</td>
<td>Chronic disease self-management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Universal Health Coverage Data Portal, WHO
Discussion

Limiting factors for more comprehensive UHC tracer indicators include:

- **Overlap.** Other SDG 3 targets include health-related indicators (i.e. vaccination, sanitation, epidemics)

- **Lack of available data.** It is ambitious to select tracer indicators for which data is scarce or not available at a national level.
Take home messages

1. All EPHOs are essential.

2. There are indications that this current basket of UHC tracer indicators is not a balanced measure, nor inclusive, of the full spectrum of EPHOs. The EPHO self-assessment tool should therefore be used alongside UHC measurement.

3. Countries will not be able to gain a clear picture of their health services covered by UHC, without more comprehensive indicators, which balance the EPHOs proportionally.

4. Avoid selecting tracer indicators solely based on good data availability / ease of access.
References

2. Martin-Moreno JM., Self-assessment tool for the evaluation of essential public health operations in the WHO European Region, World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, 2014
9. World Health Organization. Metadata for tracer indicators used to measure the coverage of essential health services for monitoring SDG indicator 3.8.1., 9 March 2018
Thank you

Danke

Merci de votre attention
"...There is potential to rapidly move towards full coverage with interventions that can be delivered through non-clinical service delivery platforms. All countries could afford universal access to the range of public health services delivered through mostly policy, population-wide, and periodic schedulable and outreach delivery platforms.”