Universal Health Coverage

- Referring to WHO EB 144, agenda item 5.5
- Initial input: Giulia Loffreda, PHM WHO Watch
- Guest: Dr Naoko Yamamoto, WHO ADG for UHC and Health Systems
- This session will end at 10.15 hrs
Universal Health Coverage (EB agenda item 5.5)

“Primary health care towards universal health coverage”

Giulia Loffreda
Summary

INTRO-WHAT IS PHC

HISTORY

EB144 PHC TOWARD UHC

ALTERNATIVE DECLARATION OF ASTANA

PEOPLE HEALTH ASSEMBLY (PHA) AND PEOPLE’S HEALTH MOVEMENT (PHM) STAND
What is Primary Health Care (PHC)?

....Essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their full participation and at a cost that community and the country can afford ... (Alma-Ata, 1978)
What is PHC?

- PHC (Comprehensive PHC)
- Selective Primary Health Care
- Universal Health Care
- Universal Health Coverage

Health for all
Comprehensive primary health care

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY
COMMUNITY CONTROL
SOCIAL CHANGE
MANAGES FACTORS THAT GENERATE ILL HEALTH
APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE AS A CONTINUUM
Introduction

EB144 will discuss three reports concerning UHC.

The discussion follows the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma Ata, marked by the Global Conference on Primary Health Care held in Astana in October 2018, and the UN High Level Meeting on UHC that is to be held in 2019, as decided by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 72/139.

The intention of the reports is to renew the WHO’s commitment to UHC and PHC in the context of them being an important part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Declaration of Astana

A Vision for primary health care in the 21st century

Making the case for PHC
- The economic case
- Health outcomes case
- Responsiveness case

Operational Framework

From vision to action
- Health in All Policies / Multi-sectoral Action
- Empowering individuals, families & communities
- PHC Health workforce
- Strategic purchasing
- The private sector
- Quality in PHC
- Digital technologies

Integrating health services
- Integrating public health & primary care
- The role of hospitals in PHC
- Antimicrobial resistance
- PHC and health emergencies
- Rural primary care

Meeting health needs through PHC
- Sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child & adolescent Health
- Older people
- Palliative care
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Mental health
- Communicable diseases
- HIV/AIDS
- Traditional and complementary medicine

Regional Reports on PHC
- Africa
- Americas
- Eastern Mediterranean
- Europe
- South-East Asia
- Western Pacific

Country case studies
- Ghana
- Jamaica
- Kazakhstan
- Samoa
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Viet Nam

* = Health in all policies cases
Primary health care towards universal health coverage-EB144/12

Renew commitments in the Astana Declaration;

• briefly reviews contemporary health and health system challenges;

• refers to several key documents prepared by WHO & UNICEF as inputs to the Astana Conference;

  Background documents:
  • a set of documents on the Case for PHC
  • a series of documents on several of the ‘operational levers’ included in the Operational Framework;

Refers to the Global Action Plan for healthy lives and well-being for all (a joint initiative of 11 global health organisations and structured around achieving the SDGs and especially the Health goals); and also refers to the decision of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to hold a high-level meeting on UHC in 2019

The DG invites the EB to focus its discussions on:

• consideration of the Declaration of Astana, including its potential role in reorienting health systems around primary health care in Member States;

• the process for taking into consideration the commitments of the Declaration of Astana in the preparations for the forthcoming high-level meeting on UHC;

• the interlinkages between reforms in primary health care and development of the health workforce, including community health workers and all other relevant cadres according to context.
PHM Position

Although the objectives of Alma Ata are shared in the official Astana Declaration (version 16th August 2018) it is concerning that the latter frames PHC primarily as a foundation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

PHC, is broader and indeed subsumes UHC, which is, in many countries, being implemented by private health insurance companies and aggravating health inequities.

Additionally, the official declaration is insufficiently clear that governments have primary responsibility for health service delivery and for ensuring that social determinants maximise health and equity. While the official declaration recognises “that people in all parts of the world have unaddressed health needs and inequities persist”, it does not acknowledge that health gains in some places are being reversed.

These issues and their fundamental economic and political causes which are responsible for widening inequalities worldwide need to be more explicitly stated. These are some of the reasons why People’s Health Movement and its constituency feel it necessary to elaborate an Alternative Statement.

An element of the Alma-Ata Declaration which has been completely expunged in the Astana Declaration and the new documents is the call for a new international economic order (NIEO).
Alternative Civil Society Astana declaration

Primary health care:

• reflects and evolves from the economic conditions and socio-cultural and political characteristics of a community;
• addresses the main health problems in the community, including promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative services;
• involves, in addition to the health sector, all related sectors and aspects of national and community development, in particular agriculture, trade, food, industry, education, housing public infrastructure, communications and information technology and other sectors; and demands the coordinated efforts of all those sectors;
• requires and promotes maximum community and individual self-reliance and participation of community in the planning, organization, operation and control of primary health care,
• relies, at local and referral levels, on health workers, including physicians, nurses, midwives, mid-level workers and community health workers as applicable, as well as traditional practitioners as needed, suitably trained socially and technically.

https://who-track.phmovement.org
4th People’s Health Assembly, Nov 2018, Dhaka, Bangladesh
People’s Health Movement

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