

## **GLOBAL ACTION PLAN FOR HEALTHY LIVES AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL**

*Strengthening collaboration among multilateral health organizations to accelerate country progress on the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

### **FOREWORD**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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#### **1. Advancing the joint commitment to work together**

##### **1.1 About the Global Action Plan**

- In October 2018, 12 leading health, development and humanitarian organizations engaged in global health announced a commitment to strengthen their collaboration and advance collective action to accelerate country progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 3 - ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and related health and development goals, including universal health coverage (1). The 12 “signatory agencies” to the October 2018 commitment and this Global Action Plan include United Nations organizations and programs and other multilateral organizations and partnerships in global health, including the World Bank (2).
- The Global Action Plan does not provide a roadmap to achieving achieve SDG 3. Instead, it describes how the 12 signatory agencies will advance their October 2018 commitment by working together in the coming years to identify and tackle key barriers and seize new opportunities in health, adopt new ways of working, build on existing successful collaborations, and jointly align their support around countries’ national plans and strategies to help achieve SDG 3 and related health and development goals, with a focus on action in low- and middle-income countries.
- The Global Action Plan complements existing agency-specific strategies and builds upon ongoing efforts among global health actors to streamline coordination on health, including by more effectively leveraging the capacities of the United Nations system and contributions from multisectoral partners at global, regional and country levels.
- The Global Action Plan provides a unique opportunity to leverage the collective power of the signatory agencies to help increase momentum towards the health-related SDG targets. Although referred to as a Global Plan, its true value will be realized through coordinated support, action and progress in countries, based on their priorities and needs.

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1. Towards a Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All: Uniting to accelerate progress toward the health-related SDGs. October 2018. Available [here](#)

2. The 12 signatory agencies to the Global Action Plan are Gavi – The Vaccine Alliance; Global Financing Facility; Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); Unitaaid; UN Women; World Bank Group, World Food Program (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

## **1.2 Sustaining and accelerating country progress across the health-related SDGs**

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has strongly reinforced health as a political, development and humanitarian priority for all countries. SDG3 – to “ensure healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages”. Progress in health is also closely linked to the achievement of other SDGs, including poverty eradication, reducing inequality, food security, education, gender equality, climate action and peace, justice and strong institutions. In total, around 50 targets across 14 goals are critical to ensuring health and wellbeing, highlighting the importance of multisectoral collaboration and leveraging shared gains across the SDGs.
- Despite impressive gains on several fronts, overall progress will need to be accelerated for the SDG3 targets to be achieved by 2030. *[Add selected data on progress against key SDG3 indicators]*
- A sustained effort is needed now to maintain momentum and accelerate gains against SDG3 targets where significant progress has been made, and to increase the speed and scale of responses where progress is lagging behind.

## **1.3 Challenges and opportunities for collective action**

- Progress against the health-related SDG targets is hampered by several persistent challenges and bottlenecks that cut across all targets. At the same time, major opportunities exist to strengthen health systems at country level and to leverage global public goods for greater health impact. These key major challenges and opportunities include:
  - Reaching the most vulnerable and leaving no one behind: Key approaches to ensuring this include closer links between and joint efforts by the health, development and humanitarian sectors; meaningful engagement and adequate resourcing of civil society and communities; and concerted attention to structural and social determinants of health, especially gender equality.
  - Strengthening primary health care and achieving universal health coverage;
  - Ensuring sustainable financing;
  - Strengthening capacities to collect and use health data effectively;
  - Ensuring access to and uptake of science, technology and innovation;
  - Tackling growing threats and challenges including air pollution and the health impact of climate change, antimicrobial resistance, emerging and re-emerging epidemics.
- The Global Action Plan aims to increase joint, multisectoral action among the signatory agencies to accelerate progress on SDG3, with a focus on helping countries to address major challenges and ensure that better alignment and coordination among the agencies acts as a catalyst to help accelerate progress. Through development and implementation of the Plan, the agencies also aim to strengthen the case for and increase investments in health and to promote knowledge exchange between countries based on local innovations, approaches and experience.

**Box 1: Timeline for development and implementation of the Global Action Plan**

## **2. FRAMEWORK FOR THE PLAN**

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### **2.1 Vision**

In developing the Global Action Plan, the vision of the signatory agencies is accelerated progress against the health-related SDGs in countries, catalyzed through supportive and collective actions that are aligned with country plans and respond to their priorities and needs.

### **2.2 Guiding principles**

As part of their commitment to working more effectively together, the Global Action Plan agencies recommit to key aid effectiveness principles, including the “seven behaviours” for health development effectiveness and the principles that guide the UHC2030 Global Compact for progress towards universal health coverage (principles in box).

### **2.3 Mapping the signatory agencies’ priorities and work**

In Phase 1 of the Global Action Plan, a mapping of the signatory agencies’ shared priorities for the health-related SDGs was undertaken to determine where their areas of work converge. The full mapping document is available on the Global Action Plan website.

### **2.4 Operational approach: Align, Accelerate, Account, Assess**

**Fig. 1: Global Action Plan operational approach**



The Global Action Plan is underpinned by a four-step operational approach (Fig.1). Across these approaches, the signatory agencies will work with a shared commitment to accelerate impact in countries while advancing country ownership and enhancing learning among countries and the organizations. Under this framework, the signatory agencies will:

- **Assess** needs, priorities and gaps identified by countries through a process of engagement and dialogue, described in Section 3, *Translating the commitment to better serve countries*.
- **Align** operational approaches and ways of working through collective responses to shared challenges. Specific actions to align operational approaches at the global level are described in Section 4, *Actions to accelerate country progress and improve global alignment*.
- **Accelerate** progress, results and impact in countries through concrete actions in key, cross-cutting areas to address major challenges, overcome implementation bottlenecks, increase efficiency, and foster innovation. The accelerator areas represent opportunities and catalytic enablers for the signatory agencies to the Global Action Plan to combine resources, expertise, reach and capacities in areas that are significant to their mandates across the health-related SDGs, building on existing platforms and collaborations wherever possible. The thematic accelerator areas described in Section 4 include specific actions that could be undertaken with countries by the signatory agencies. The actual actions taken will be based

on country expressions of their priorities and needs and aligned with national plans and strategies.

- **Account** for delivering collective results. As part of developing the Global Action Plan, the signatory agencies are developing a set of mid-point milestones for nearly 50 health-related targets across 14 SDGs that provide countries and the international community with a critical checkpoint to determine where the world stands in 2023 and whether it is on track to achieve the targets by 2030.

### 2.5 Leveraging existing collaborations and platforms

- The Global Action Plan will seek to avoid creating new platforms. Instead, the signatory agencies are committed to more effective leveraging of and alignment with existing country-led planning and assessment processes (Box 3).

#### Box 3: Examples of successful collaboration between the signatory agencies

### 2.6 Theory of change

*[Text and graphic in development]*

## 3: TRANSLATING THE COMMITMENT TO BETTER SERVE COUNTRIES

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- The value of the commitments made in the Global Action Plan will ultimately be determined through action and impact at country level. Initial discussions undertaken while developing the Plan show that many countries have clearly-defined gaps and priorities for which they require coordinated support and action to accelerate progress across the health-related SDGs.
- Summary of 5 initial country engagements undertaken to date; analysis of common themes and specific country challenges, including
  - Existing country collaborations that are strong;
  - Opportunities for further action;
  - Follow-up/next steps with these countries

*[In development]*

## 4: ACTIONS TO ACCELERATE COUNTRY PROGRESS AND IMPROVE GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

### 4.1 Accelerators for country action

- In Phase 1 of the Plan, the signatory agencies identified seven areas (“accelerators”) that provide a specific focus for potential joint action by the 12 signatory agencies. While these areas represent critical opportunities to expand access to global public goods for health and to accelerate progress against the health-related SDGs in countries, they are not intended to be prescriptive. Support and joint action undertaken with countries will be tailored to specific country priorities and needs.
- Section 4.2 describes each of the accelerator areas, outlining 1) key challenges, including what has been done and learned so far; 2) the planned collective actions (align) and how they will contribute to an acceleration in progress in countries (accelerate); and 3) how accountability for the implementation of commitments will be ensured (account and assess).

Table 1: Summary of accelerator areas and potential collective actions [to be populated]					
Accelerator	Potential joint actions				Lead and participating agencies
1. Sustainable financing					
2. Primary health care					
3. Community and civil society engagement					
4. Determinants of health					
5. Research, development, innovation and access					
6. Data and digital health					
7. Innovative programming in fragile and vulnerable states and for disease outbreak responses					

### 4.2 The accelerators in depth

#### 4.2.1 - 4.2.7 [Heading of each accelerator area]

## **INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS - GLOBAL ACTION PLAN DRAFT OUTLINE**

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- Problem statement
- Approach to addressing challenges
- Concrete actions by the signatory agencies
- Goal – how will these actions accelerate progress on the SDGs

*[In development]*

### **4.3 Actions to improve global alignment**

- The signatory agencies commit to a set of specific alignment actions at the global level to increase cohesiveness and consistency of their approaches, advance key elements of the global health agenda and strengthen their support for country action.
  - “New ways of working”
  - Align investment case approaches
  - Other key alignment activities

*[In development]*

## **5: WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PROGRESS**

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### **5.1 2023 SDG mid-point milestones** [under development, due end of July]

- The milestones will provide a common dashboard and diagnostic tool to guide understanding of where the signatory agencies may need to recalibrate and coordinate their efforts and where additional, focused action may be needed. In addition to mid-point milestones related to existing health-related SDG targets, additional milestones have been included to address emerging challenges not included in the SDG framework, including antimicrobial resistance.

*[Insert mid-point milestones or as an Annex].*

### **5.2 Tracking joint actions**

- Signatory agencies to Global Action Plan will develop a light mechanism to measure and report on progress in relation to joint actions undertaken to accelerate progress in countries, as well as key activities at global and regional levels to align approaches and advance global public goods.

## **6: TOWARDS 2030: ROLLOUT OF THE PLAN**

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- Implementation of the Global Action Plan is envisioned to commence following its launch and presentation at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019. Key steps in the implementation phase will include:
  - Expansion of country engagement
  - Collective country actions
  - Knowledge-sharing and reporting on progress

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