Perspectives from Africa; the role of SDGs/UHC to address current and future health challenges in the African Region

Kevin B. Ousman, WHO AFRO

INSTITUTE FOR
GL🌐BAL
HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP

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Presented by
Sigma Theta Tau International

Outline

- **The Background and context of Healthcare in the African Region (AFRO)**
- **Health Challenges in AFRO**
- **WHO's work in AFRO and where Health Systems fit in**
- **Overview of SDGs and UHC as a way forward**

Background

- **Increased investments in Health**
- **Inadequate translation of investments into good health outcomes**
- **Need for renewed efforts to strengthen health systems**
- **New Public Health Challenges**

Systems Challenges in AFRO

- Inadequacies in the health workforce.

- Low levels of government spending coupled with high out of pocket payments.

- Weak procurement and supply systems.

- Poor information and monitoring systems.

- Weak community engagement.

- Africa's unique health landscape along with a looming NCD catastrophe coupled with vibrant social-demographic and economic growth.

Some Challenges in the AFRO cont'd

- **Demographic Transition-**Youth & elderly increases

- **Epidemiologic Transition** - CD & NCD double burden

- **Economic Transitions –** newly middle income countries; middle class; urbanization, demand shifts

- **Political transitions –** None peaceful power tranisitions*

- **Social and cultural transitions-** modernity with traditions that affect health

- **Climate & Environmental Risks-** frequent outbreaks, disasters, conflict

- **Varying Country context in Africa** (LIC, LMIC, HICs and HIC with Low Health Indicators)

Why discuss Challenges?

An overview of WHO in AFRO

- WHO is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations' system

- In the African region and elsewhere, it does by:

- **providing leadership** on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed;

- shaping the **research agenda** and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge;

- setting **norms and standards** and promoting and monitoring their implementation;

- articulating **ethical and evidence-based** policy options;

- providing **technical support**, catalyzing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and

- **monitoring** the health situation and assessing health trends

WHO in Action

WHO in Africa cont'd

- **Health systems**

- **Noncommunicable diseases**

- **Promoting health through the life-course**

- **Communicable diseases**

- **Preparedness, surveillance and response**

SDGs and UHC as a way forward...

Wait! What are SDGs and how does health fit in?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_hLuEui6ww

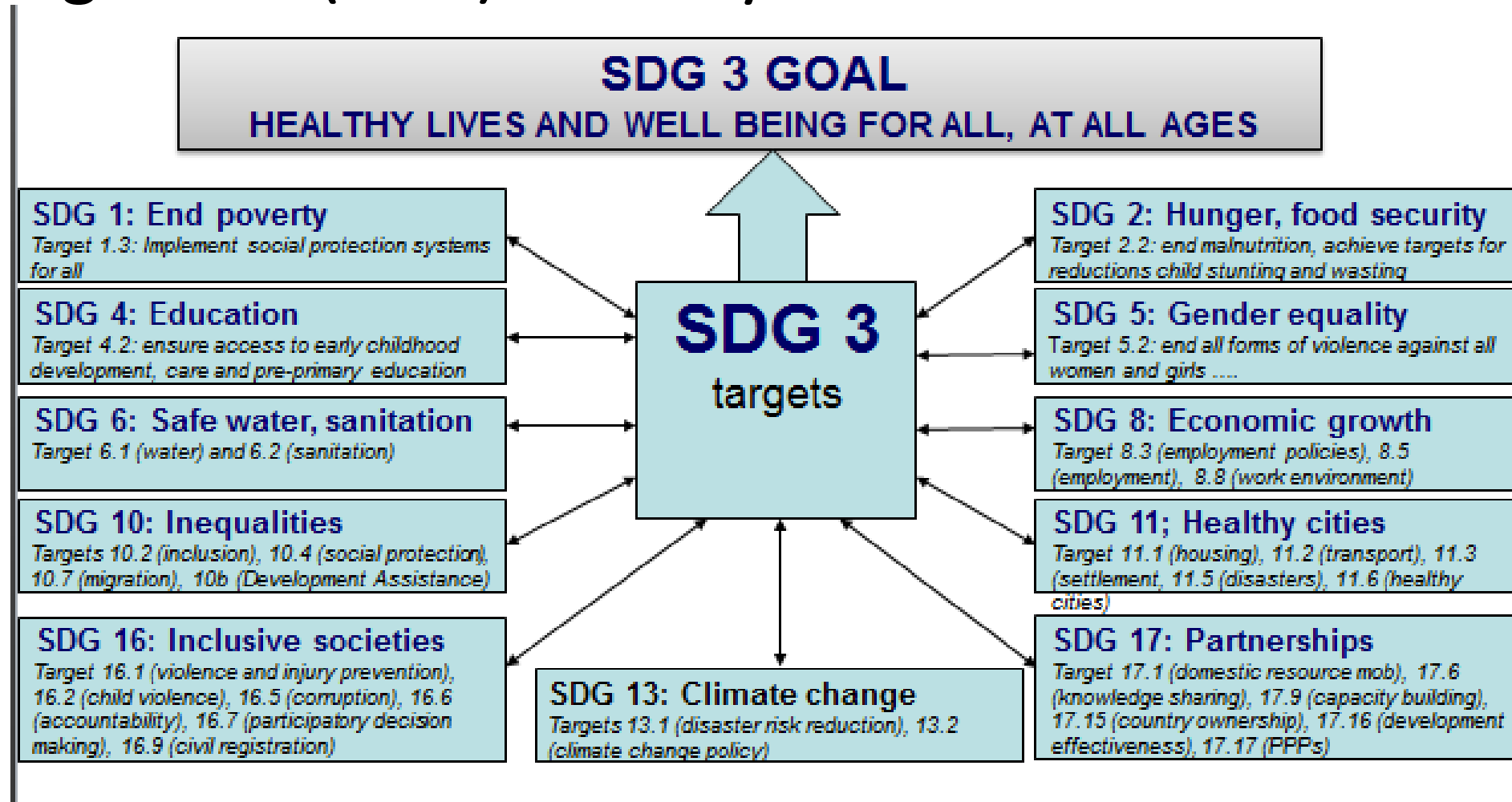# Achieving the SDGs and UHC: Lessons from the MDGs

Achieving the SDGs and UHC: Lessons from the MDGs

- **We need to make good policies and strategic choices to achieve UHC.**

- **SDGs will not be achieved without effective country leadership, stewardship and country ownership of the goals.**

- **Relevant stakeholders must be mobilized and effective partnerships built to guide domestic and external investments towards the goals.**

- **Partnerships must go beyond traditional partners to include intersectoral collaboration with non-traditional partners**

SDG goal 3.8 (UHC) as a way forward!

SDG 3 GOAL
HEALTHY LIVES AND WELL BEING FOR ALL, AT ALL AGES

SDG 3 targets

SDG 1: End poverty
Target 1.3: Implement social protection systems for all

SDG 4: Education
Target 4.2: ensure access to early childhood development, care and pre-primary education

SDG 6: Safe water, sanitation
Target 6.1 (water) and 6.2 (sanitation)

SDG 10: Inequalities
Targets 10.2 (inclusion), 10.4 (social protection), 10.7 (migration), 10b (Development Assistance)

SDG 16: Inclusive societies
Target 16.1 (violence and injury prevention), 16.2 (child violence), 16.5 (corruption), 16.6 (accountability), 16.7 (participatory decision making), 16.9 (civil registration)

SDG 2: Hunger, food security
Target 2.2: end malnutrition, achieve targets for reductions child stunting and wasting

SDG 5: Gender equality
Target 5.2: end all forms of violence against all women and girls .....

SDG 8: Economic growth
Target 8.3 (employment policies), 8.5 (employment), 8.8 (work environment)

SDG 11; Healthy cities
Target 11.1 (housing), 11.2 (transport), 11.3 (settlement, 11.5 (disasters), 11.6 (healthy cities)

SDG 17: Partnerships
Target 17.1 (domestic resource mob), 17.6 (knowledge sharing), 17.9 (capacity building), 17.15 (country ownership), 17.16 (development effectiveness), 17.17 (PPPs)

SDG 13: Climate change
Targets 13.1 (disaster risk reduction), 13.2 (climate change policy)

Some Proposed Africa Region Targets

By 2030,

at least 80% of Member States will have health systems that are performing optimally* for effective delivery of essential package of health and related services

By 2030,

all Member States will have at least 80% of their populations utilising the identified essential package of health and related services

By 2030,

all Member States will have in place and be implementing the investments plans needed to align their health systems to the SDGs

Proposed Milestones for the African Region

By 2021

50% of all Member States will show evidence of improving population coverage of agreed standards and assessments.

50% of Member States will have evidence of improving health system performance as measured by the framework

80% of Member States will have started implementing the health system investments plans required for optimal performance

By 2025

80% of Member States will show evidence of improving population coverage of agreed standards and assessments

80% of Member States will show evidence of improving health system performance

All Member States will have started implementing the health system investments plans required for optimal performance

AFRO's Health systems Approach

System building blocks

Service delivery

Health workforce

Information

Medical products, vaccines and technologies

Financing

Leadership / governance

Access

Coverage

Quality

Safety

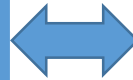**Overall goals / outcomes**

Improved health (level and equity)

Responsiveness

Social and financial risk protection

Improved efficiency

UHC?

- Service delivery
- Health workforce
- Information/data
- Medical products
- Financing
- Leadership/Governance

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO GET, BE AND STAY

HEALTHY?

CAN YOU GET HELP FROM A WELL-TRAINED HEALTH WORKER?

CAN YOU GET TREATMENT THAT HELPS YOU GET BETTER, AND IS SAFE?

CAN YOU GET THE MEDICINES AND OTHER HEALTH PRODUCTS YOU NEED?

WHO WILL PAY FOR IT?

ARE THERE POLICIES IN PLACE TO MAKE QUALITY SERVICES AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE, EVERY TIME?

DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE THE INFORMATION IT NEEDS TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS ABOUT THE WHOLE SYSTEM?
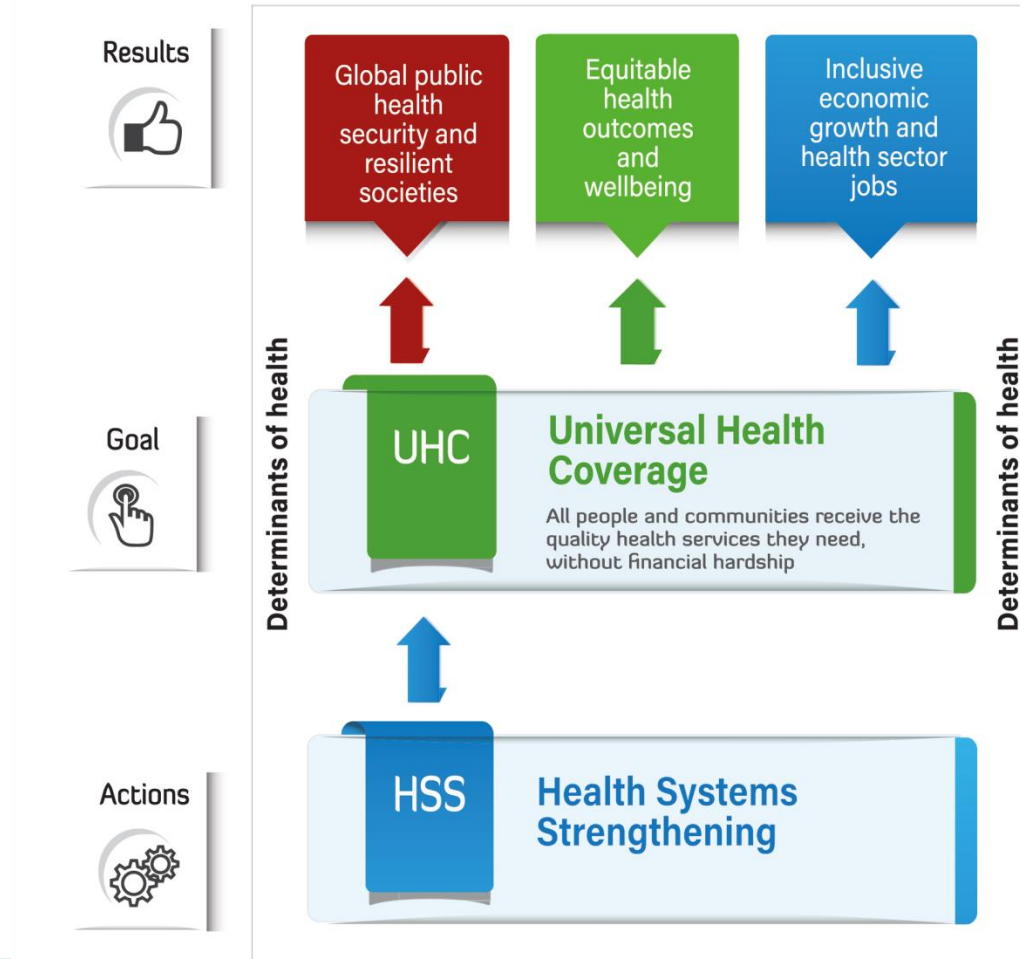
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION IS WORKING AROUND THE WORLD SO THAT ALL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES RECEIVE THE QUALITY SERVICES THEY NEED, AND ARE PROTECTED FROM HEALTH THREATS, WITHOUT SUFFERING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

THAT'S WHAT WE CALL

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

WWW.WHO.INT/UHC

World Health Organization

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HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP

EMERGING GLOBAL
LEADER INSTITUTE

AFRO's Health Systems Approach

@kousman

kbousman@gmail.com

Resources

- http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2017/universal-health-coverage/en/

- http://www.who.int/universal_health_coverage/en/

- http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwiz_rjauMXWAhVGTSYKHeN-BWUQFggvMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.medicc.org%2Fmediccreview%2Fpdf.php%3Flang%3D%26id%3D578&usg=AFQjCNFNQrKo13Km8yWOJ_0bFgaS31llSA (UHC and Politics- Nigeria Example)

@kousman

kbousman@gmail.com

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