

## KEY ACTIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Strengthening and investing in primary health care (PHC) has long been recognized as a key to achieving health for all. PHC can meet 90% of a population's health demands. A strong PHC system not only delivers high-quality care and services, it also builds trust with families and communities to promote health and well-being, as well as treatment when necessary. Fundamentally, when PHC works, people can get the care they need to stay healthy. But the mere presence of a PHC system is not enough. Financial barriers, infrastructure problems, stigma and mistrust can stand in the way. Access must be complemented by quality and investment. Achieving health for all requires partnerships across political, health, economic and other sectors.

The PHC Strategy Group advocates to strengthen PHC systems, by promoting health equity and access to high-quality, essential health services on the road to achieving universal health coverage (UHC).



We call on member states during the United Nations (U.N.) High-Level Meeting on UHC to:

- 1 **Call for increased public health financing** for country-determined essential health services and **reduction of out-of-pocket payments, working towards their elimination.** Ministries of Finance and Health must work closely on costing, allocating and tracking accountability of spending for PHC services.
- 2 **Promote multisectoral solutions for health and well-being,** recognizing the social determinants of health. **Optimize resources and expertise** of government, as well as private sector and civil society.
- 3 **Request clear mechanisms for community participation in local health systems** to foster transparency and accountability and give people a voice in health-related decision-making.
- 4 **Foster inclusion, nondiscrimination and access to essential health services,** addressing the most vulnerable populations first and ensuring no one is left behind.
- 5 **Invest in the PHC workforce, including paid community health workers and a progressive career pathway for the frontline health workforce.**
- 6 **Improve quality of, access to and use of data to inform investments and improvements for people-centered PHC systems and health outcomes.**
- 7 **Promote equity in UHC and prioritize the most vulnerable populations by investing in a community-based PHC system** that bridges geographic, cultural and financial barriers.