



GLOBAL MEASUREMENT UPDATE

Primary Health Care Measurement Framework and Indicators 2022

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) is a whole-of-society approach to health that combines multisectoral policy and action, empowered people and communities, and primary care and essential public health functions as the core of integrated health services. PHC ensures people receive quality comprehensive care - ranging from promotion and prevention to treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care – as close as possible to their everyday environments. Global commitments to PHC extend back decades – from the 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata to the 2018 Declaration of Astana. Achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require strong PHC.



WHAT ARE THE FRAMEWORK AND INDICATORS?

In February 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF jointly released the “[Primary health care measurement framework and indicators: Monitoring health systems through a primary health care lens](#)” report. This is the first-ever globally normative and endorsed PHC measurement and monitoring framework. It contains indicators that align to the core strategic and operational levers for action and investment in the 2020 WHO report, “[Operational framework for primary health care.](#)” Of the 87 indicators, the guidance specifies 13 core indicators considered highly relevant for global monitoring and reporting (Table 1).

TABLE 1: PHC GLOBAL CORE INDICATORS AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK LEVERS

PHC OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK LEVERS	PHC GLOBAL CORE INDICATORS
<p>Core strategic levers: political commitment and leadership, governance and policy frameworks, funding and allocation of resources, and engagement of community and other stakeholders</p> <p>Operational levers: models of care, health care workforce, physical infrastructure, medicines and other health products, engagement with private sector providers, purchasing and payment systems, digital technologies for health, systems for improving the quality of care, primary health care-oriented research, and monitoring and evaluation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health in All Policies with multisectoral coordination 2. Existence of national health policy oriented to PHC and UHC 3. Existence of policy, strategy, or plan for improvement of quality and safety 4. Coordination mechanisms with multistakeholder participation and community engagement 5. Per capita total health expenditure (and PHC-specific)* 6. Government PHC spending as percentage of government health expenditure * 7. Health facility density and distribution (primary care, public/private mix)* 8. Availability of basic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) amenities* 9. Health worker density and distribution (by occupation, public or private) [SDG 3.c.1]* 10. Availability of essential medicines (percentage of primary care facilities and other types) [SDG 3.b.3] * 11. Service package(s) defined meeting criteria for PHC 12. Outpatient visits (primary care) 13. Admissions for ambulatory care sensitive conditions*

*Indicators are currently already reported through ongoing global monitoring efforts.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE FRAMEWORK AND INDICATORS?

The PHC measurement framework provides guidance on how to define, measure, and track progress using common language and priority indicators to advance PHC and accelerate progress towards UHC and health-related SDGs by 2030. The intention is that national and subnational policy-makers and planners can develop country-tailored monitoring and evaluation plans for PHC and UHC by choosing a set of indicators relevant to their context. In addition, the 13 core global indicators align with monitoring of UHC and SDGs preventing duplication of efforts.

WHO SHOULD USE THE FRAMEWORK AND HOW CAN IT BE USED?

- This framework is intended for **national- and district-level policy-makers** and others working in PHC, such as MOMENTUM staff, to track and monitor PHC performance at national and subnational levels.
- The guidance provides a framework and menu of indicators that **country health leadership** can use to develop their own country-level and country-led PHC monitoring agenda. It presents a stepwise process for countries to tailor and adapt the implementation of the framework and indicators.
- **WHO**, together with **multilateral health agencies and other partners**, will annually review and update data on PHC performance using the global core indicators. The results will be available publicly through WHO global reports and databases.

Step 1: Align PHC monitoring within existing national processes

Step 2: Tailor selection of indicators based on country policies, priorities, maturity of health system and gaps and ensure inclusion of the 13 core indicators in tracking

Step 3: Set and monitor baseline values and country targets for PHC

Step 4: Identify data sources and address major data gaps through innovative methods and tools

Step 5: Strengthen capacities at national and subnational levels in data analysis, communication and dissemination of results

Step 6: Conduct regular process of policy dialogues to guide actions, interventions and investments for PHC performance improvement and management

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Bibliography

World Health Organization. 2022. Primary health care measurement framework and indicators: monitoring health systems through a primary health care lens. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240044210>.

World Health Organization. 2020. Operational framework for primary health care. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240017832>

Additional Resources

- <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2022/02/28/default-calendar/launch-of-the-framework-and-indicators-for-monitoring-primary-health-care>
- <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240044210>

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