

TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: Tackling the Health Financing Crisis to End Poverty

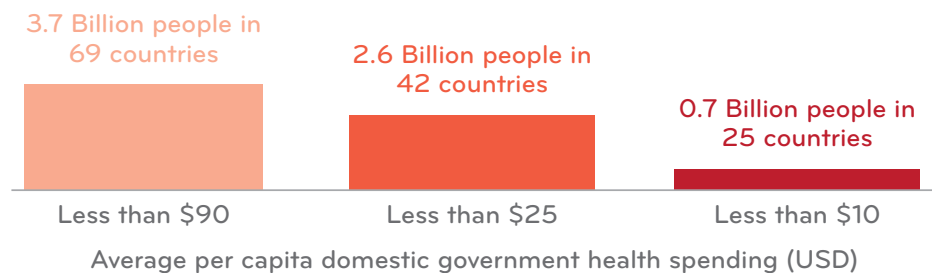
Not on Track

With less than 5,000 days left to achieve the target on universal health coverage (UHC), current progress is too slow.

- At least half of the world's population lacks access to health services¹.
- Every year, close to 100 million people fall into extreme poverty from paying for health services¹.

More than half of the world's population lives in countries where governments don't spend the minimum needed for essential health services².

\$90 is the minimum average per capita health investment needed to finance a **basic package of health services** in low- and middle-income countries.



Failure Is Not an Option

Overcoming the UHC financing crisis will yield huge benefits.

- Progress on health service coverage and financial protection is essential to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 on health and SDG 1—the goal of ending poverty.
- Investing early in UHC leads to a healthier population, prevents runaway costs later on, and builds and protects a country's strongest asset—human capital.

Going Beyond Business as Usual

Several countries are pioneering paths forward to raise and execute health sector financing, challenging the status quo.

Countries can accelerate progress by making fair and smart investments in UHC³. To do this, they must:

- Learn from high performing countries and disseminate lessons widely;
- Set a deliberate agenda to tackle bottlenecks through innovation;
- Mobilize political leadership for investing in human capital and financing UHC;
- Use development assistance to complement domestic financing and strengthen financing institutions;
- Pursue equity in UHC by making deliberate decisions for fair financing².

¹Tracking universal health coverage:2017 global monitoring report. World Health Organization and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank; 2017.

²On the Path to UHC: Deliberate Decisions for Fair Financing. UHCFF 2018 Forum Background Paper.

³Business Unusual: Accelerating Progress Towards Universal Health Coverage. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank; 2017.