

AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING

Monday 31 October 2016, 17:30 - 19:30

"Universal Health Coverage: The role of 1st level referral Hospitals in a Primary Health Care led System"

Host: National Department of Health of South Africa

OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEETING

This meeting will provide the opportunity for a group of African countries to share their experiences in implementing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) strategies. Ideally, this will feature countries at different points in implementation and with varying models for service delivery, based on their realities on the ground. This meeting will in particular, explore the role of level 1 referral hospitals, including in community outreach and support to primary health care centres, the integration of hospital services at this level across the public, non profit and private sectors and highlight the key policy, organizational and management elements needed for success.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Senior government officials tasked with health service planning and delivery, CEO's of public, non profit and private hospitals and international partners engaged in supporting health system strengthening and broader public health objectives.

SPEAKERS:

Senior officials from selected African countries at different points and employing varying strategies to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

SCOPE AND CONTEXT

Over the last four decades, there has been considerable progress towards "The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health"¹ for all, from the Alma Ata Declaration and Health for All, through to the health related Millennium Development (MDGs). However, the key challenges are evident at the hospital - primary healthcare interface, which currently prevent the full realization of the benefits of primary health care in African countries and which by extension, seem destined to impede progress towards UHC and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), if left unresolved.

This meeting will draw upon the experiences of these African countries and contributions from participants, to arrive at practical steps that will help place African countries on a trajectory to UHC and better health for their people.

FORMAT OF THE SESSION

It is envisaged that the meeting will take the format of a facilitated panel discussion over two hours. A key note address on the health related aspects of the province's flagship programme "Operation Sukuma Sakhe – Let us stand up and build", will be delivered by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal or the MEC for Health. This will be followed by short presentations from senior technical officials of selected African countries, specifically focused on the challenges encountered in this area of primary health care implementation, the corrective action taken and the impact thereof and the support needed to bring these efforts to fruition. Members of the audience will then be given the opportunity to contribute to what is expected to be a rich and robust discussion.

¹ "The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition"; paragraph 3 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, 1948.