At the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the overarching theme will be *Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*. Six additional named goals will also be receiving special attention, one of which will be *SDG 3: Health and Wellbeing*.

UNICEF Health Section is putting special emphasis on the aspects below, as they apply to UNICEF’s work in health across all country contexts, including in humanitarian crises and emergency settings. These aspects are integral to the newly published UNICEF Health Strategy. UNICEF Country Offices have been asked to share the UNICEF Health Strategy with their national counterparts and to encourage inclusion of its main messages into national programming.

- **Addressing inequities in health outcomes and access to health services**
  To prioritize policies, programmes, services and resources that benefit the most marginalized.

- **Strengthening health systems, including emergency preparedness, response and resilience**
  To strengthen health systems and connected health information systems is essential to reach the most marginalized children and women, to sustain progress and to increase the resilience of both delivery systems and communities in absorbing and recovering from external shocks, including from public health emergencies and outbreaks.

- **Promoting integrated, multi-sectoral policies and programmes**
  To improve overall health outcomes will require integrated service delivery and interventions beyond the health sector.

**HEADLINE MESSAGES/APPROACHES**

UNICEF’s Health Strategy for the period 2016-2030 focuses on the objectives to:

- **End preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths**

- **Promote the health, and development of all children**

The following SDG targets are most closely related to UNICEF’s core health aim.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 3.1</strong></td>
<td>By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births</td>
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<td><strong>Target 3.2</strong></td>
<td>By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Target 3.3</strong></td>
<td>By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Target 3.7</strong></td>
<td>By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Target 3.8</strong></td>
<td>Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Target 3.9</strong></td>
<td>By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</td>
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• **Health and wellbeing acts as both an outcome and a determinant for development**
  Child and maternal mortality rates are among the most important indicators for development and progress, as the survival of newborns, young children and women during delivery is dependent on a host of different facets including, but not limited to; access to health, quality of care, sanitary conditions and essential medicines. The targets connected to them therefore stand at the heart of the quest for greater equity.

• **Health system strengthening**
  The SDG neonatal mortality target is a good example of that the emphasis placed in the Agenda 2030 on interlinkages of development goals and sectors is sound reasoning. The neonatal mortality target levels of the SDGs will not be reached unless truly multisectoral planning and interventions spanning several key areas, incorporating fragile settings, is tackled simultaneously. Shifting the thinking in health development to a multi-sectoral approach should include promoting health systems as a platform for the delivery of multi-sector interventions and services. A platform that will work jointly among sectors and partners is needed to address the social determinants and underlying causes of health challenges.

• **Building resilience and healthy communities**
  Strong community health systems provide a critical foundation for resilience. Health programming in this area should focus on improvements in the provision, utilization, quality and efficiency of health services, broadly defined to include family care, preventive services and curative care. UNICEF aims to connect community, sub-national and national levels, acknowledging the importance of sub-national management capacity and community engagement to the overall performance of national health systems in any context, including humanitarian and fragile settings.

**DISAGREGATED DATA COLLECTED FROM OFFICIAL STATISTICAL CHANNELS**

• Addressing inequities in health outcomes and access to health services will require increased investment in the timely collection, analysis and use of disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data (e.g., by gender, age, education, wealth quintile, migrant status, ethnicity, geographic area, disability status, etc.) to identify marginalized groups and adjust programmes to their needs. It will also mean supporting governments to recurrently identify and address bottlenecks limiting the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of quality maternal and child health interventions, as well as systematically addressing gender-related barriers to care.

**FINANCING STATISTICS, SOCIAL SPENDING AND PROGRESS ON RESULTS FOR CHILDREN**

• It is vital that the indicator for Universal Health Coverage target 3.8 is formulated in a way that capture both coverage and access to essential health services as well as details the share of the both the general and the disadvantaged population that suffer impoverishing out-of-pocket expenditures. UHC is a stated goal for several large health institutions, including UN bodies. It is therefore essential that there is a commonly agreed way for effectively measuring progress.

**AWARENESS-BUILDING & PARTICIPATION, ESPECIALLY AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

• In UNICEF’s work with national governments and partners, adolescents are included as agents of change, to raise the needs and the voices of children in designing national health systems to care for poor and vulnerable children in all contexts.