



IAP RECOMMENDATION FOR GOVERNMENTS, PARLIAMENTS AND UHC2030 PARTNERS

Access to services and the right to health

To achieve universal access to services and protect the health and related rights of women, children and adolescents, governments should regulate private as well as public sector providers. Parliaments should strengthen legislation and ensure oversight for its enforcement. The UHC2030 partnership should drive political leadership at the highest level to address private sector transparency and accountability.

KEY MEASURES FOR GOVERNMENTS

Ministries of health should integrate for-profit providers into national health governance systems by developing private sector stewardship and accountability strategies.

- **Require private sector providers to report to the ministry of health, include them in system-wide monitoring and review processes, and harmonize quality of care standards across private facilities.**
- **Engage civil society in monitoring compliance with quality standards and health coverage entitlements.**
- **Ensure that providers comply with international human rights obligations for the protection of patients' rights;** and that the public is made aware of patients' rights and the grievance mechanisms available. Human rights violations, including those stemming from disrespect and abuse in maternity care, should be sanctioned.
- **Extend private sector stewardship to multisectoral planning and monitoring systems addressing nutrition, NCDs, environmental health and other social determinants of health,** covering both domestic and transnational business operations, through inter-ministerial collaboration.

KEY MEASURES FOR PARLIAMENTS

Parliaments should enact and strengthen legislation governing the parameters for private sector engagement in health, and ensure meaningful oversight and enforcement.

- **Mandate independent accreditation of private health providers and require independent audits of facilities and insurance companies to ensure compliance with quality of care standards and entitlements under UHC schemes.**
- **Strengthen the mandate, authority, independence and capacity of the judicial system** to enforce national legislation and human rights standards with respect to the private sector.
- **Establish or extend patients' rights charters to explicitly cover for-profit private providers; require private sector facilities and insurance companies to have effective complaint and redress mechanisms.**
- **Establish legal measures and tax policies to incentivize business sector contributions aligned with public health priorities.** This includes creating a legal persona for social enterprises and mandating CSR financial contributions from large companies and multinational corporations.

KEY MEASURES FOR UHC2030 PARTNERS

The UHC2030 partnership should help drive action to ensure comprehensive national policies and transnational collaboration for addressing private sector accountability. It should position women, children and adolescents—and accountability for their health and rights—at the forefront of the global UHC agenda. A comprehensive approach is warranted, including but going beyond the roles of ministries of health, to involve a range of sectors in holding industries to account for their impacts on nutrition, environmental and other social and economic determinants of health.

Reference

Independent Accountability Panel. **Private Sector: Who is Accountable?** woman's, children's, and adolescents' health. 2018. www.iapewec.org/reports/2018report.

ABOUT THE IAP

The Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent (IAP) is appointed by the UN Secretary-General. It is composed of an internationally-recognized group of experts in health and human rights, who serve in their individual capacities. The IAP's main functions are to:

- Independently review progress and accountabilities towards achieving the EWEC Global Strategy objectives aligned with Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3; and provide actionable recommendations
- Disseminate IAP reviews and recommendations to support country action and impact
- Promote accountability principles and advocate for remedy and action.

The IAP is the only independent accountability mechanism established under the SDGs so far. The panel recommends the development of an integrated accountability mechanism under UHC, addressing non-communicable and communicable diseases, emergencies and other SDG 3 issues. It should prioritize accountability for the health of women, children and adolescents, and others left furthest behind.