



## Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage Foundational Reforms for Financing and Delivery of PHC Collaborative Call for Expressions of Interest November 2023

The [Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage \(JLN\)](#) brings together 37 member countries committed to achieving universal health coverage (UHC). JLN is a member-driven network and facilitates high-impact practitioner-to-practitioner experience sharing and learning to identify solutions to common challenges. The JLN invites country member Expressions of Interest to participate in a **Foundational Reforms for Financing and Delivery of PHC Collaborative** focused on addressing common bottlenecks to financing and delivering PHC.

### *Topic Overview*

Primary Healthcare (PHC) is widely recognized as a smart investment and a critical foundation of health systems to achieve UHC. PHC is the first point of contact for households with the formal healthcare system and provides access to basic essential health services, including prevention and management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, while linking to higher levels of the healthcare system.

Despite recognition of the critical role of PHC, it remains chronically underfunded, with resources being channeled preferentially to curative services in hospitals. While more resources are needed for PHC, there are well-documented bottlenecks that hamper the effective use of PHC resources. In response to these challenges, many countries are prioritizing health system reforms that strengthen PHC by redesigning and testing different configurations to organizing PHC and addressing the bottlenecks to getting resources to PHC facilities by increasing the autonomy of health facilities to manage their own resources.

JLN members are increasingly expressing interest in practical lessons on sequencing and implementing PHC reforms. To meet this demand, Results for Development with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) is initiating a new Collaborative on the Foundational Reforms needed to build strong primary healthcare (PHC) systems. This two-year collaborative on “**Foundational Reforms for Financing and Delivery of PHC**” runs between November 2023 to September 2025 and will address common bottlenecks to financing and delivering PHC. In addition, through collaboration with the USAID-funded Health Systems Strengthening Accelerator, this collaborative will incorporate a learning exchange on “Financing PHC through different PHC service delivery models,” including individual public and private providers and primary care networks (PCNs). This collaborative will build on previous and ongoing JLN work -- [PHC Financing and Payment](#), [Primary Care Networks](#), and [Reimagining PHC](#) collaboratives.

R4D and the JLN Network Manager are pleased to invite Expressions of Interest from interested JLN members to participate in the Foundational Reforms for Financing and Delivery of PHC Collaborative which is anticipated to begin with an in-person event on “Financing PHC through different PHC service delivery models” in March 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. Countries are invited to submit an expression of interest via [this link](#) by **December 15, 2023**.

## ***Learning Agenda***

The objectives for this new Collaborative will be to create a platform for country teams to share lessons, and innovations, propose solutions to solve challenges, and co-produce knowledge that countries can adapt and implement on **Foundational Reforms for Financing and Delivery of PHC**. The Collaborative will engage 8-10 country teams with representatives from the front line of PHC, national policy, sub-national PHC providers and administrators' levels. As technical facilitators, R4D will source and validate learning questions at the initial scoping with collaborative members and define 2-3 learning questions/topics for in-depth discussion at a series of virtual and in-person meetings over the life of the collaborative.

## ***Expected outcomes***

- Surfacing learnings and best practices from countries on ongoing PHC foundational reforms.
- Improved design and implementation of PHC foundational reforms.
- High-performing PHC systems that advance progress towards UHC.

## ***Expected outputs***

- Co-created knowledge products- at least one core knowledge product on a topic identified by the collaborative members.
- Two-three in-person meetings.
- At least 6-8 virtual meetings in various formats and on themes agreed on with collaborative members.

## ***Country teams***

To participate, Country Core Groups (CCGs) are encouraged to constitute a team of four to five individuals committed to action to improve PHC financing and service delivery. In our experience, active and continuous participation are key factors for success in cross-country exchange and knowledge co-creation. We are therefore seeking teams who can meet the expectations below:

- The team should have a deep understanding of the country's PHC financing and service delivery.
- Attend in-person meetings in March 2024, November 2024, and July 2025.
- Attend, and actively participate in virtual learning events quarterly from April 2024 to June 2025.
- Contribute to the development of knowledge products.
- Facilitate the sharing of learning among key stakeholders in-country.
- Engage with and be responsive to the technical facilitator(s) via email and telephone.

The collaborative learning activities will be organized in English, but the technical facilitation team will provide simultaneous French interpretation for virtual and in-person learning events to allow Francophone countries to participate.

## ***Expected level of effort and duration***

The collaborative envisages 6-8 virtual meetings and two-three in-person meetings over the 24-month period. The collaborative will hold its first in-person meeting in March 2024.

## ***Participant profile***

The individual profiles below describe ideal candidates who should be considered to participate in the learning collaborative.

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Ministry of Health financing/ planning division or National Health Insurance Agency	National	A professional representing the health financing or planning division of the Ministry of Health or the National Health Insurance Agency. This individual should be aware of the key policy questions and information needs of the MOH or NHIA to support financing and delivery of PHC.
2	Ministry of Health or other national PHC division	National	A professional directly involved with the PHC sector and development of PHC policy
3	Medical supply chain agency or Ministry of Health division of supply chain for medicines	National or sub-national	A professional directly involved with the management of the medical supply chain. This individual should be aware of key bottlenecks and challenges to effective distribution of PHC supplies and service delivery.
4	Devolved health financing or planning division	Sub-national	A professional representing the devolved level of PHC service delivery from the health financing or planning division or PHC service delivery.
5	PHC provider or representative agency of PHC providers	Sub-national	A professional directly involved with the PHC sector and PHC providers. This individual should understand the challenges that inhibit reliable financing and efficient service delivery of PHC.

This learning collaborative is limited to 8-10 country teams, each with 4-5 individuals for a maximum of 40 members participating in the collaborative. The number of participants per country for in-person workshops will depend upon the availability of funding. The facilitators will work with each country team to confirm the availability of domestic, BMGF, and/or USAID support.

### ***Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)***

Countries are invited to submit an EOI using [this link](#) to access a short questionnaire where your country team will:

- Summarize how the topic of PHC financing and service delivery is relevant in your country.
- Highlight planned or ongoing efforts to improve PHC financing and service delivery.
- Demonstrate how you will translate learnings into country action.
- Propose country team members and summarize how their role is relevant to the learning collaborative (see the list of participant profiles above).
- Identify a contact person, including name, title, and email address.

If you are not able to access the questionnaire, CCG coordinators or JLN points of contact should email the JLN network manager at [JLNNMTeam@amref.org](mailto:JLNNMTeam@amref.org) for alternative arrangements to submit your EOI.

### ***Deadline and instructions***

Please submit your EOI via [this link](#) by **December 15, 2023**. Feedback on the EOI submissions will be communicated by the week of **January 8, 2023**.



### *Evaluation Criteria*

Prospective countries should meet the following criteria:

- Must demonstrate ongoing country reform processes related to PHC financing and improving the availability of PHC commodities.
- Demonstrate alignment of country reforms with the learning objectives of the collaborative
- Propose a strong team of relevant actors as suggested in the participant profile.

Expressions of interest are expected to meet all requirements to be considered. The selection of countries will be based on the strength of the statement on the relevance of this theme for the country and the proposed team composition, including diversity of gender and institutional participation. Any knowledge products developed by the collaborative will be shared publicly as they become available.