



JOINT LEARNING NETWORK

For Universal Health Coverage

Prospective Member Packet

Learn more about the benefits of membership

About the Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage

The Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage (JLN) facilitates practitioner-to-practitioner knowledge sharing and knowledge co-production to help countries design stronger, more equitable and efficient systems to achieve universal health coverage (UHC).

In the coming decade, many countries will need access to practical guidance to achieve UHC, and other health-related Sustainable Development Goals. The JLN facilitates connections between practitioners from 37 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East at different stages of health systems reform to learn from each other’s successes and failures, build new solutions together, and accelerate progress toward UHC.

The JLN’s innovative collaborative learning approach goes beyond sharing experiences. JLN members work together to translate their knowledge into practical tools and guides on how to address various implementation challenges. Through a combination of in-person meetings, webinars, blog posts, and discussion boards, members exchange tacit knowledge and contribute to the production of a range of new global knowledge products, such as step-by-step guides on costing and self-assessment tools.

The following diagram illustrates the knowledge co-production process:



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The Principles

The JLN supports the achievements of our member countries' self-defined goals for UHC, while avoiding being driven by external agendas. We are dedicated to creating a sustainable infrastructure for member countries to **share and co-produce pragmatic technical knowledge** that leads to feasible solutions that aid the successful implementation of UHC reforms and avoids inefficient “recreating the wheel”.

Coordinated approach.

The JLN coordinates with other local and global initiatives and organizations to collaborate on and/or share experiences to strengthen national health systems.

Country-led priority-setting.

The JLN Steering Group, comprised of representatives from member countries and development partners, ensures that the network's technical initiatives are aligned with country priorities and oversees the strategic direction of the network.

Knowledge co-production.

Member countries are willing to experiment with new approaches, be **reflective, honest and open** about what has worked and what hasn't, and **commit to documenting their own learning** to share with other countries.

Committed to achieving universal health coverage.

Member countries are at the forefront of UHC reform and are actively experimenting with models for moving toward UHC as a way to protect individuals against financial risk, increase access to health services, and improve health outcomes. These countries are represented by senior people with highly valuable, practical implementation experience from **key institutions involved in UHC reform in their countries**

Openness.

JLN knowledge products are disseminated through the website, and are available to the global community.

Benefits

The JLN is comprised of 37 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East that have committed to providing access to quality health care services to achieve UHC in their countries. Membership in the network allows practitioners and policymakers from each country to participate in a variety of virtual and in-person learning and networking activities. Associate Members engage in, contribute to, and benefit from joint learning opportunities in a number of different ways:

Community Membership

Members are a part of a supportive community of practitioners and policymakers that share common interests and connect with other countries to share pragmatic knowledge about working towards UHC. The JLN is governed by a country-led JLN Steering Group, which sets the agenda and priorities for the network. Associate Members are invited to provide input on Steering Group agenda items in advance of Steering Group meetings, and they will receive updates on Steering Group decisions.

Technical Initiative Participation

JLN technical work is grounded in the principles of practitioner-to-practitioner learning and cross-country exchange. Engagement in the JLN provides individuals and the institutions and countries they represent with opportunities to share expertise, co-develop solutions to common challenges, and gain professional acknowledgement of their skills and expertise. JLN associates have the opportunity to request to virtually participate in targeted technical work through one or more JLN “Technical Initiatives.” There are currently Six Technical Initiatives: Health Financing, Provider Payment, Service Delivery and Quality including primary Health Care, Population Targeting and Equity, Information Environment and other cross-cutting. Participation in the technical tracks is determined based on the member country’s priority challenges, learning needs, and the available resources. Future JLN technical topics and activities will be determined by the JLN Steering Group.

Multilateral Learning Workshops

The JLN hosts multilateral learning workshops to maximize opportunities for networking and informal discussions on technical topics of shared interest among practitioners and policymakers in many countries. Participation in workshops is determined based on the member country’s priority challenges, learning needs, and available resources.

Opportunity to Transition to a Full Member

Associate Members have the opportunity to become more actively engaged in JLN activities and convert to Full Membership after one year of JLN Associate Membership. To become a Full Member, countries must create a JLN Country Core Group, an organized country-level learning group or network made up of key actors involved in UHC. More information on the criteria for conversion to Full Membership can be provided by the Network Manager.

Levels of Membership

The JLN accepts new **Associate Member Expressions of Interest** on a rolling basis. Applications are approved by the JLN Steering Group at their next organized meeting, which occur a minimum of twice annually. If you are interested in becoming a member, please review the membership criteria below, and the benefits of membership.

An Expression of Interest can be easily submitted online. Email the Network Manager at JLN@amref.org for additional information and instructions for applying.

Associate Membership

Associate Members will have access to the JLN Member Portal and virtual activities including webinars and facilitated discussions.

Expectations

Associate Members are expected to actively participate in webinars, contribute to online discussions, and provide feedback on knowledge products as they are being developed. Associate Members are also asked to provide individuals' profiles and contribute a short country case study. In addition, Associate Members are encouraged to establish a Country Core Group comprised of key UHC stakeholders in their countries to help disseminate knowledge at the country-level. Associate Members have the opportunity to self-assess their level of engagement to determine if they are eligible for Full Membership status, which entitles the country to additional funded opportunities, listed below.

Benefits

- Opportunities to participate in select in-person collaborative learning activities based on the availability of space and match of skills. **NOTE: Associate Members will usually need to identify their own funding to participate in in-person facilitated learning opportunities.**
- Invitations to join member-only webinars and web-based moderated dialogues.
- Associate Members will be given preference if and when there are openings for additional countries to join the JLN as a Full Member.

Full Membership

Full Members have access to various sponsored learning activities. Full Membership is granted to Associate Member organizations that demonstrate strong commitment to the JLN by hosting learning activities, sharing knowledge with the community through the Member Portal, and forming a Country Core Group.

Expectations

Full Members are expected to engage deeply with the JLN by attending events, contributing to discussions and the development JLN knowledge products, and hosting study tours. Full Members are required to form a local Country Core Group to help manage cross-institutional engagement with the network at the local level. Full Members will also have representation on the JLN Steering Group, which makes decisions about membership, alignment with the network's technical priorities, and the future direction and funding of the network. Full Members will be expected to attend Steering Group meetings and provide feedback on issues as they arise.

Benefits

Full Members typically receive support for 1-2 individuals per country to attend in-person JLN technical initiative activities and workshops.

- Support from the JLN Network Manager to facilitate the development and optimization of Country Core Groups, in-country learning coordination, documentation of learning, and dissemination of knowledge.
- Access to the JLN Member Portal, which gives users access to our member data base, discussion boards, and all JLN documents, including knowledge products, tools, and internal reports.
- Invitations to join member-only webinars and web-based moderated dialogues.
- Representation on the JLN Steering Group.

Responsibilities of Membership

In order to ensure strong engagement by the country in the JLN, both for the country's benefit from the network as well as for its contributions to it, JLN Associate Members are asked to fulfill the responsibilities described below.

- The primary point of contact for each country is expected to disseminate collaborative learning opportunities within their organization and beyond to help identify appropriate country representation.
- Engage relevant institutions and individuals to establish a Country Core Group or country-level JLN list serve to disseminate and discuss issues related to implementing reforms to achieve UHC.
- Help coordinate and participate in JLN activities, including providing in-kind resources to develop materials and participate in JLN activities, as well as to host events, study tours, and other engagements, as appropriate.
- Document and share country experience, with support of JLN Network Manager, including producing and updating JLN country case studies and other analytical materials for the benefit of other member countries and the JLN's global audience.
- Share how learnings from JLN activities and events are being shared and applied to the country context, and how the JLN has helped to accelerate progress toward UHC.
- Stay actively engaged in Steering Group-led discussions about the future vision and agenda of the JLN.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage?

The JLN is a network of countries that are implementing reforms to achieve universal health coverage. Practitioners and policymakers from JLN member countries share knowledge and co-develop new products that focus on the practical implementation challenges of achieving UHC. By pooling their collective knowledge, members are able to more quickly find solutions to address tough reform challenges, and accelerate national progress towards UHC.

Who are our members?

Our current membership includes 37 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East at different levels of development and different stages of health systems reform.

How is the JLN managed?

A global, country-led **Steering Group** comprised of representatives from member countries and development partners ensures that the network's technical initiatives are aligned with country priorities and oversees the strategic direction of the network.

What are Country Core Groups?

Country Core Groups ensure key stakeholders from the institutions influencing UHC reforms in each country are engaged in the network's activities and are able to effectively cascade learning in the country and feed their priorities and learning to the global network. For Associate Members to become Full Member countries, they need to establish a Country Core Group with support from the Network Manager or engage an existing country network that is working to achieve UHC.

What are Technical Initiatives?

Technical Initiatives focus on key technical priorities defined by the Steering Group, and based on funding availability. Specific activities of the initiatives, called **Collaboratives** or **Exchanges**, are shaped by members, and **Technical Facilitation Teams** who coordinate learning across countries and draw out technical expertise from within the network and relevant non-member countries.

How are new collaborative learning opportunities announced?

New opportunities to participate in learning activities are sent by email through the JLN member communication group. Each member country is also assigned a designated point of contact on the Network Management team who alert members of new activities. Expressions of interest are submitted online.

How is member country participation in technical activities funded?

The network's activities are supported by a **consortium of financial and technical partners** including The Rockefeller Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, GIZ, the World Bank, PATH, Results for Development Institute, the World Health Organization, and Management Sciences for Health. Full Member countries are funded through the technical initiatives. Associate Members are expected to mobilize their own funding.



Do we focus on English speaking countries only?

No, JLN aims to connect with all the countries irrespective of the language and tries to provide translation support wherever needed.