



Highlights from the 2016 JLN Global Meeting

The Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage (JLN) is an innovative practitioner-to-practitioner learning network of 27 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Middle East, and Latin America where practitioners and policymakers are working together to build global knowledge that focuses on the practical, “how-to” of health system reforms. The JLN member countries adapt that global knowledge into their own policy contexts to make more rapid progress toward the vision of stronger, more equitable and efficient health systems to achieve universal health coverage (UHC).

The JLN 2016 Global Meeting was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from July 20th – 22nd, 2016, hosted by the Ministry of Health of Malaysia. The meeting attracted more than 150 participants, including policymakers and practitioners from 27 countries from across the globe, as well as development partners from The World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, Rockefeller Foundation, GIZ, WHO, civil society organizations, and other technical partners and facilitators. This meeting marked a historic moment for the Network, as the first time that representatives from all JLN countries, funder organizations, and technical partners have gathered with the goal of developing a shared vision for the next five years of collaborative learning.

The focus of the 2016 JLN Global Meeting was on building strong health systems to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) with an emphasis on strengthening integrated, people-centered health systems with primary health care at the core. The week began with a [series of pre-meetings](#), including the JLN Steering Group meeting and three different technical collaborative meetings on primary health care systems and one on monitoring & evaluation for provider payment mechanisms.

The main event commenced on July 20, with an overview of the JLN and how the platform was created. There were discussions on the role of the network and its unique, country-driven practitioner learning approach to supporting countries to accelerate progress toward UHC. Over the next two and a half days, there were a variety of interactive sessions covering ongoing and emerging priority topics of interest to JLN countries, including:

- **People-centered integrated care (PCIC)** systems as new models for service delivery with primary health care (PHC) as the bedrock, with examples from Turkey’s Health Transformation Program and the U.S. Veteran’s Administration patient-centered medical home model.
- **PHC improvement**, including assessing alignments/mis-alignments between PHC and UHC policies and systems, and implementation research for PHC-oriented UHC



- **Sustainable health financing**, including domestic resource mobilization, earmarking, and purchasing mechanisms
- **Private sector engagement**, including engaging private actors (e.g., mobile networks) to reach informal workers and their families, and advice from implementers to implementers on engaging private PHC providers
- **Critical UHC functions**, including leadership, governance, and strategic communications and stakeholder engagement

Emerging priorities, including health technology assessment for priority-setting, and information technology and claims management. The meeting agenda emphasized the role of Country Core Groups in providing a platform within countries to organize UHC stakeholders and link with the international network. Country teams met together throughout the Global Meeting to chart a plan for developing and/or strengthening Country Core Groups so that they can act as “think tanks” to bring joint learning for UHC forward at the country-level. Country teams also created action plans to prioritize and guide their future UHC efforts and maximize their engagement through the JLN. The planning sessions provided the space to discuss specific needs such as funding, technical assistance, monitoring/evaluation & research needed by JLN member countries.

Additional learning avenues included **Site Visits** to community clinics and hospital providers to see Malaysia’s health care system in action; a **World Café** for deeper-dives on specific examples of PCIC-reforms in JLN countries, a **JLN Marketplace** set up for casual engagement and sharing of resources among the diverse attendees, and **Lunch and Learns** for more focused conversation on specific initiatives featured throughout the meeting.

Live polling was used to assess and rank technical priorities of meeting participants, which have created a starting point to continue to assess demand from the broader Network. Among patient-centered integrated care (PCIC) action areas three areas emerged as priority areas: 1) primary healthcare as the first point of contact; 2) vertical integration, including new roles for hospitals and; 3) measurement and feedback. Among emerging technical areas: 1) quality; 2) monitoring and data analytics; and 3) de-fragmenting health financing mechanism continue to be high priorities in the network.

The final day of the Global Meeting featured a high-level roundtable discussion, followed by a plenary forum, chaired by the Hon. Minister of Health, Malaysia. These sessions created the unique opportunity for high-level policymakers, including ministers, CEOs, and director generals to conduct joint learning of their own to identify how learning from other countries can help them overcome the UHC challenges they are facing.

In his closing remarks of the 2016 JLN Global Meeting, Esteemed Minister Dr. S. Subramaniam emphasized the unique aspect of the JLN as possibly the only network that



discusses and shares practical solutions, actual implementation and how to's at a country level, particularly as such information is usually implicit and buried in the experience of individual countries. He emphasized that the JLN contributes to the practical knowledge on a global scale in such a complicated and challenging area of UHC, through the tacit experiences drawn out by joint learning. As the JLN embarks on the next five years, it seems clear that the Network will continue to provide a safe haven where country practitioners can come together to seek help from like - minded practitioners as they continue on the path toward UHC.

Conclusion

A complete meeting summary and content from all sessions will be posted to the JLN Global Meeting web site at: <http://jlnglobalmeeting.org/home/index>. Country teams are encouraged to share their Action Plans on the JLN member portal.

Participants are invited to complete the post-workshop evaluation [here](#). Participant feedback will provide important input that will assist in identifying specific focus areas for discussion and help make the follow up to the JLN Global Meeting more responsive to member needs.