

# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IS THE PATHWAY TO UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE



To promote prosperity and eradicate poverty, countries must ensure that all citizens have access to quality, affordable health services. In many parts of the world, lack of access continues to be a major concern.

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">AT LEAST</p> <h1 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">400</h1> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">MILLION</p>	<p>people are lacking at least one of seven essential services such as family planning or child immunization</p>
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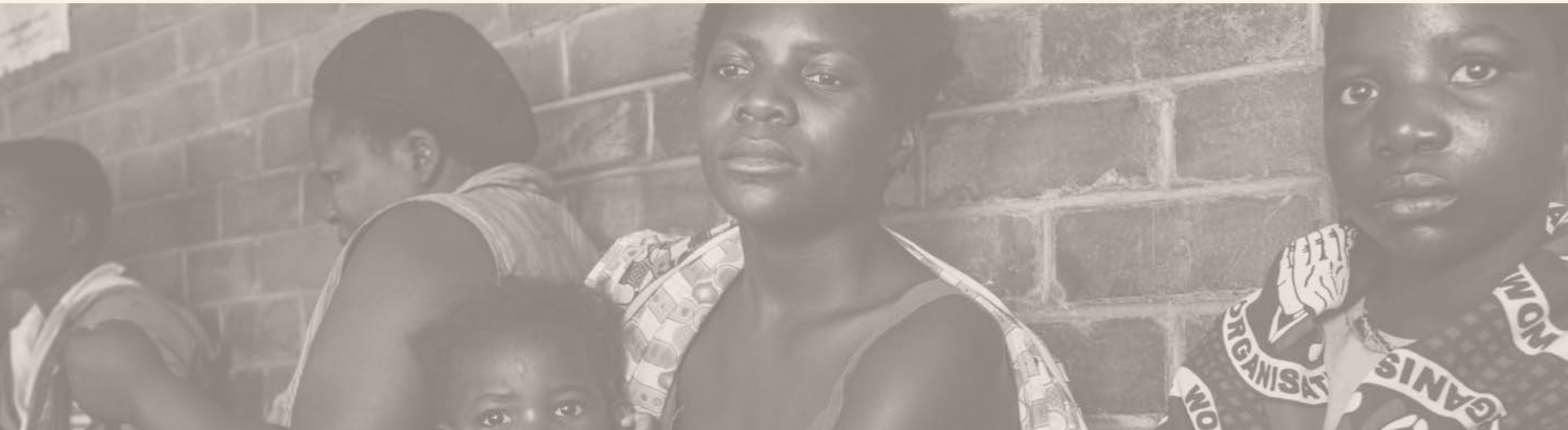
## BARRIERS TO HEALTH ACCESS INCLUDE:

- 1 Basic lack of **QUALITY** health services
- 2 **DISTANCE** to the nearest health facility
- 3 **OVERCROWDING** or **RESTRICTED HOURS** at facilities that impose long waiting times
- 4 **COST** of the health services may deter use
- 5 **LACK OF INFORMATION** on available services
- 6 **LACK OF CONFIDENCE** in facilities and staff
- 7 **SOCIOCULTURAL BARRIERS** including constraints related to gender or age, beliefs and cultural preference

<p>In order to achieve universal health coverage, Goal 3.8 outlined in the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a strong primary health care system needs to be in place.</p>	<h1 style="font-size: 2em;">90%</h1> <p>of a community's <b>HEALTH NEEDS</b> can be met by a well-functioning <b>PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM</b>.</p>
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Strong primary health care systems ensure a focus on **EQUITY, ACCESS** and **QUALITY** of services by:

<p><b>IMPROVING HEALTH</b> over the course of life, <b>FROM BIRTH TO OLD AGE</b></p>	<p>Serving as an early <b>WARNING MECHANISM</b> to detect and <b>STOP DISEASE OUTBREAKS</b></p>	<p><b>EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES,</b> and <b>COMMUNITIES</b> to be active decision-makers about their health</p>
<p>Supporting a more <b>EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF HEALTH</b></p>	<p>Leading to <b>HIGH-QUALITY</b> and <b>COST-EFFECTIVE CARE</b> for people and communities</p>	<p>A <b>HEALTHY</b> and <b>PROSPEROUS FUTURE</b> for all depends on <b>STRONG PRIMARY HEALTH CARE.</b></p>



### SOURCES

[1] World Health Organization, World Bank. Tracking universal health coverage: first global monitoring report. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2015.

[2] Doherty J, Govender R. Washington. The cost-effectiveness of primary care services in developing countries: a review of the international literature. World Bank, World Health Organization, Fogarty International Centre of the U.S. National Institutes of Health; 2004.