

Session 1a: Resilient Primary Health Care as the foundation for UHC:

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Progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), greater capacity for preparedness and response in the face of emergencies and climate change, and achievement of specific disease control and public health priorities require strengthening resilient and equitable health systems with Primary Health Care (PHC) as a foundation, everywhere in the world.

For health care to be truly universal, it requires a shift from health systems designed around specific diseases to systems designed for people. Several events and processes in 2023 have reconfirmed the centrality and reemergence of primary health care as a priority area in global health, including:

- The [Political Declaration on UHC at the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting](#) - in which world leaders (again) committed to accelerate progress towards UHC by 2030 using a primary health care (PHC) approach.
- The [International Conference "Primary health care policy and practice: implementing for better results"](#) in Astana, which took stock of progress from Alma-Ata in 1978 and Astana in 2018, and shifting focus from concepts to country-led actions;
- [The International Conference on Primary Health Care](#) organized by the Federal Ministry of Health in Ethiopia - showcasing country-led leadership and national experiences with PHC in the African region and around the globe.
- The [Future of Global Health Initiatives](#) process on how global health initiatives (GHIs) can be optimised to best support national health priorities and countries' progress towards UHC – with joint contributions to integrated PHC emerging as a key recommendation.

In this session, we will:

- Summarize the main characteristics of successful PHC approaches for UHC;
- Learn from a few examples of PHC-related research projects involving Norwegian researchers and practitioners and their international partners;
- Discuss strengths and added-value of Norwegian international expertise and partnerships in PHC - and possible entry points and opportunities to further advance the science of PHC implementation in global health.