

Healthy Lives For All At All Ages Through Access To Health Products And Technologies

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Access to health products is a universal need



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Health for all, at all ages

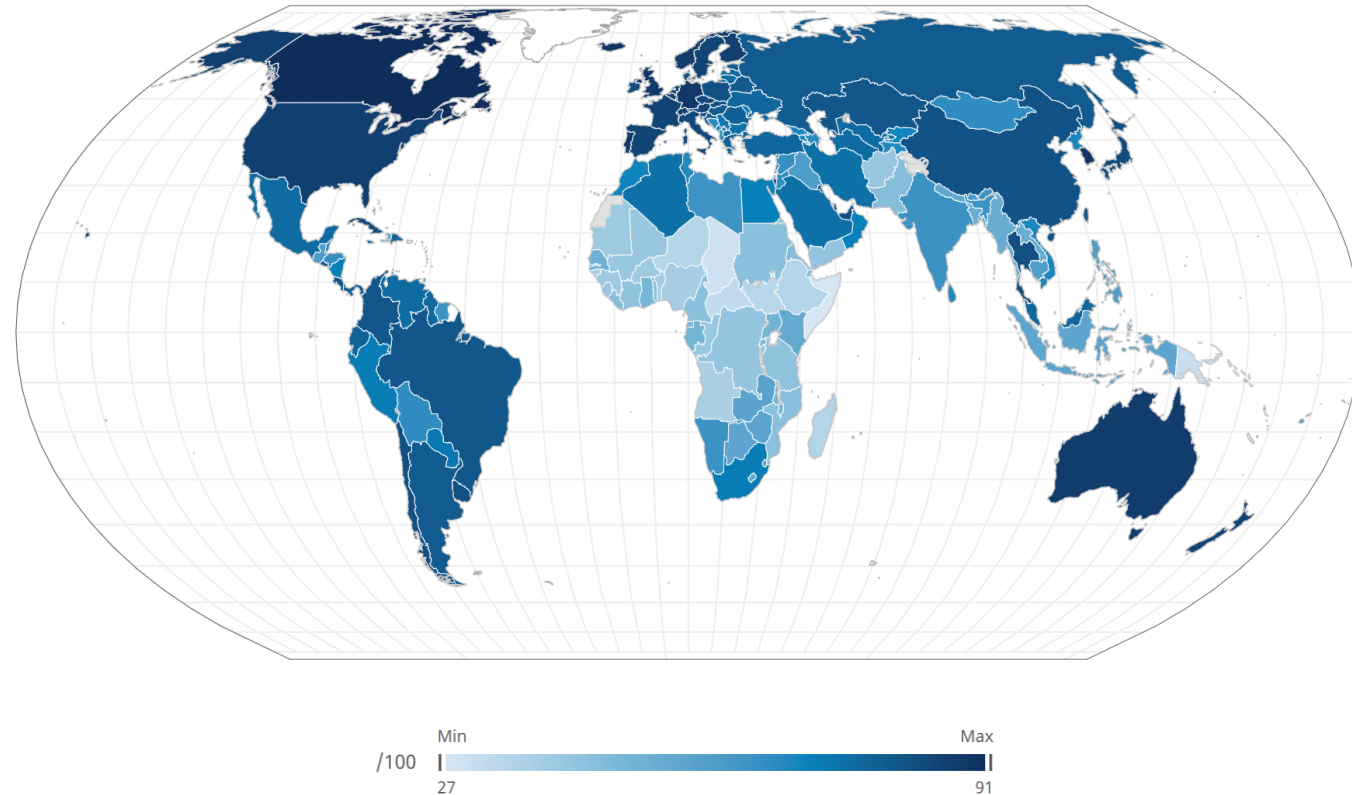
- Universal health coverage (UHC) means that **all people have access to the full range of quality health services** they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.
- Achieving UHC is a target (3.8) of the **2030 Sustainable Development Goals 3** “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” and aligns with the ICPD Programme of Action by promoting equitable access to essential health services.
- Improving **access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable medicines, medical devices, assistive technologies and other health products** for all is crucial to achieve UHC.



An off-track world requiring urgent action

- The world is off track to achieve UHC goals by 2030
- **4.5 billion people are not fully covered by essential health services**¹
- 2 billion people face **financial hardship** due to out-of-pocket health spending²
- The cost of medicines and other health products is often the main drivers of impoverishing out-of-pocket spending³

UHC service coverage index⁴



The global burden of the lack of access to health products and technologies



\$30.5 billion

Global estimated spend on substandard and falsified medicines in LMICs¹



2.5 billion

2.5 billion people globally need one or more assistive products²



In 2022, **more than half of people living with diabetes** did not take medication for their health condition, and treatment coverage is lowest in low- and middle-income countries³

¹ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-MVP-EMP-SAV-2019.04>

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/assistive-technology>

³ Global Burden of Disease Collaborative Network. Global Burden of Disease Study 2021. Results. Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. 2024

The World Health Organization's historical role in improving access for all



- WHO's mandate in **supporting Member States to improve access to safe, effective and quality-assured health products and technologies** is firmly established in the WHO constitution.
- The mandate has continued to expand in response to the numerous World Health Assembly and Regional Committee resolutions.
- The **2025-2030 Road map outlines WHO's approach for increasing access to safe, effective and quality-assured health products and technologies** in order to achieve universal health coverage.

**WHO ROAD MAP
FOR ACCESS TO
SAFE, EFFECTIVE AND
QUALITY ASSURED
HEALTH PRODUCTS
AND TECHNOLOGIES**

2025-2030



WHO's core
contribution
to global
health

Supporting health leadership

Providing global goods for health

Tailored support to countries

Underlying
principles
of work

Evidence-based approach

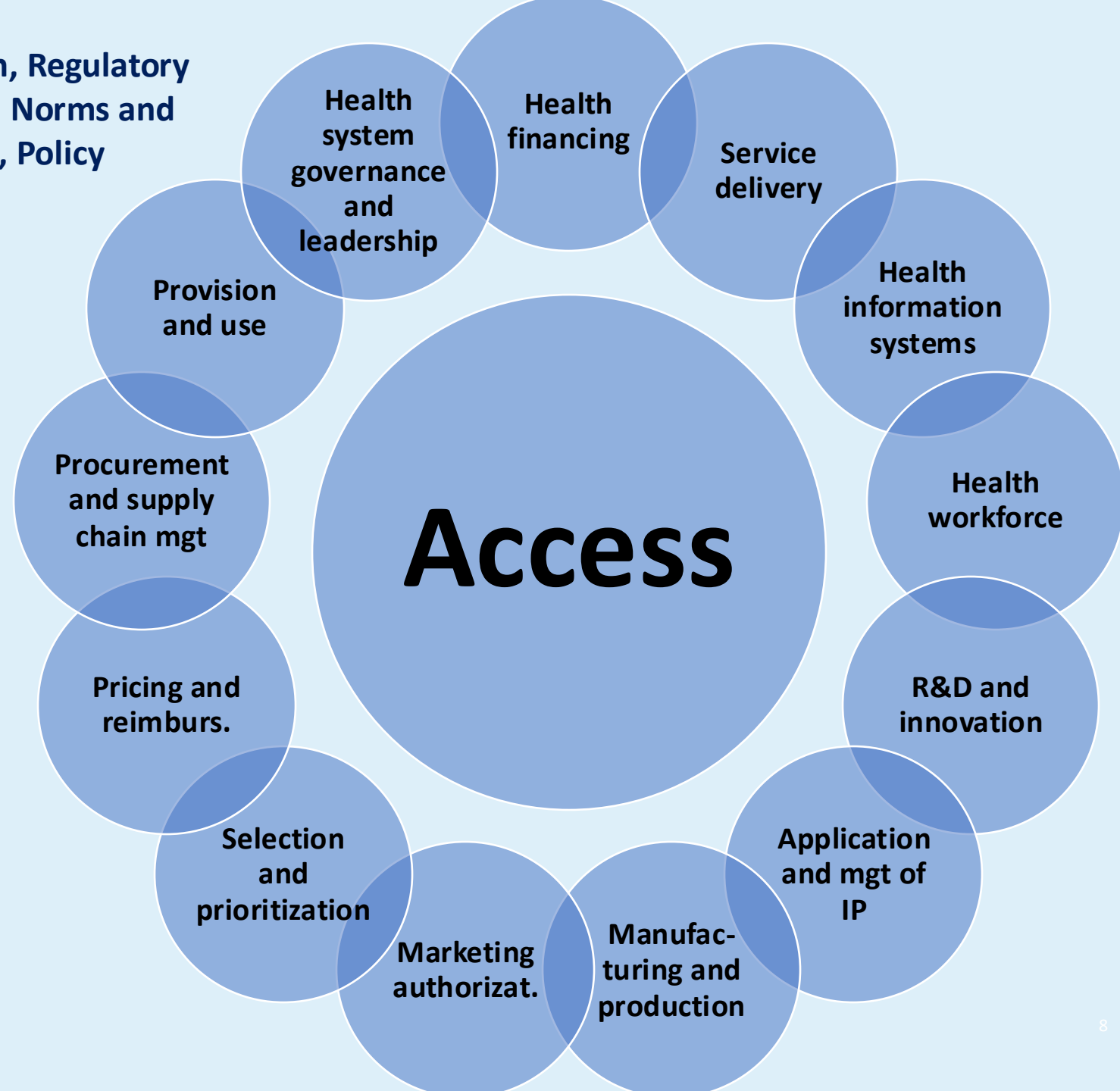
People centered

Transparent, accountable and participatory processes

Health product and technology ecosystem

The parallel achievement of **affordability, availability and accessibility, acceptability and assured quality** is required for health products access for all at all ages.

Legislation, Regulatory Oversight, Norms and Standards, Policy



Scope of the Road Map

HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

PROCEDURES
AND SYSTEMS

HEALTH PRODUCTS

Digital
technologies

Tissue
engineering

Assistive
products

Medical
devices

Medicines, including
biologicals/vaccines

Products of human origin

Vector
control
products

In vitro
diagnostics

Blood
and blood
products

Organs

Cells and
gene therapy
products

Two interlinked programme objectives in the Road Map

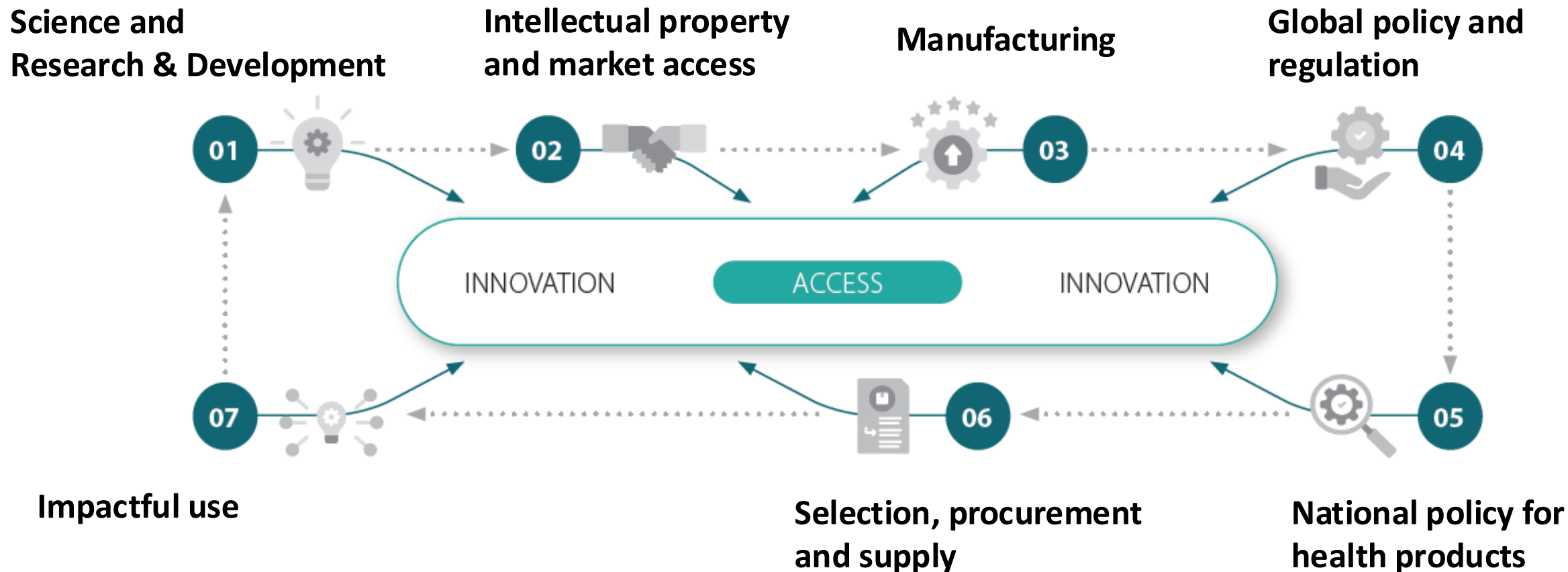


Ensure **safe, effective and quality-assured** health products and technologies



Improve **affordability, availability, accessibility and acceptability** for health products and technologies

WHO Road Map's end-to-end approach in accelerating access to health products and technologies



Advancing access in a changing world

- Population growth, shifting age structures, rapid urbanization, migration... These demographic and economic changes are further intensified the urgent threat of climate change and pose new challenges on road to improve access.
- Limited access to health products remains a significant barrier to the efforts for overcoming the rise of antimicrobial resistance and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and the growing mental health burden.



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The way forward (1)

- The **ICPD Programme of Action** and the **UHC agenda** are complementary agendas for ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages and achieving the SDGs.
- Investing in universal health coverage and in access to health products not only **promotes equity and social cohesion** but also **benefits development and economy**.



The way forward (2)

Strong political will, multisectoral cooperation and coordination, sustainable financing, and a people-centered and life-course approach are required to leave no one behind and improving access to health products by:

- Strengthening pricing policies, financial protection and increasing the use of quality-assured generics and biosimilars
- Improving procurement and supply chains including through geographically diversified manufacturing
- Strengthening regulatory systems, enhancing harmonization and regulatory convergence
- Aligning intellectual property policies with global health needs and promoting best practices

As we approach the **Fourth High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs** in September 2025, let us remember: it is only through our collective action can address the access challenges and ensure healthy lives for all at all ages



Side event: Advancing Health Equity: Universal Access to Health Products

Thursday **10 April 2025** from 13:15-14:30 (New York Time Zone, UTC-4)

Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building, and live on UN Web TV

Hosted by: World Health Organization, Uganda, Thailand, in collaboration with PATH, US Pharmacopeia, Management Sciences for Health, International Federation on Ageing

