



UN Secretary-General's Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent 2020 Report: Universal health coverage for all people: accountability for every woman, child, adolescent and those left behind in the SDG era

Introduction

The United Nations Secretary General's (UNSG) Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent (IAP)¹ was established in 2016 as part of Every Woman Every Child movement.² Appointed by the UNSG, the IAP is composed of 10 internationally-recognized experts in the fields of health and human rights. The Panel's mandate includes:

- providing rigorous, independent and transparent assessment of progress on implementing the Global Strategy ([Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, 2015-2030](#)), under the overall rubric of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- issuing recommendations and reports with a view to providing constructive, solution-oriented directions based on the best available evidence and analysis, with the aim of contributing to strengthened accountabilities for accelerated achievement of the Global Strategy and the SDGs.

In 2020, the IAP is preparing a landmark report: ***Universal health coverage for all people: accountability for every woman, child, adolescent and those left behind in the SDG era***. This report will be launched alongside the High-level Political Forum, 14-16 July 2020. As requested by the UNSG's Executive Office, the report will distil lessons from a decade of EWEC accountability, and from new analyses, to make recommendations to strengthen accountability for health and rights of women, children and others left behind in the SDG era.

2020 Report Outline

Chapter 1: New imperatives for health accountability in the SDG era for every woman, child and adolescent and those left behind

- This report comes as countries battle the effects of COVID-19. It highlights lessons learned – including the indirect gendered effects of the pandemic, such as reduced access to SRH services, an increase in domestic violence and the increased burden of care borne by women – and applies them to wider accountability issues for women's, children's and adolescents' health.
- Accountability lessons from COVID-19 show that, more than ever, collective multilateral action is needed to protect and advance WCAH, especially in areas such as funding and developing common goods for health, regulating the private sector and tackling the impact of waste and corruption on resources for health.
- Countries and their partners have made high-level political commitments and accelerate efforts to achieve the health SDGs, with universal health coverage (UHC) and primary health care (PHC) as the main drivers of investment and implementation.
- UHC cannot be achieved without a strong focus on women, children and adolescents, who make up over half the world's population. UHC and PHC are in turn critical to ensure the health and rights of women, children and adolescents and others left behind across the SDGs.
- This IAP report will demonstrate why accountability matters to ensure that UHC and PHC deliver optimum results for women, children and adolescents and others left behind especially in fragile settings.
- This chapter summarizes how technical understanding of accountability has evolved within the global health and development community.
- It sets out key challenges facing accountability, and recommends critical shifts needed to ensure effective accountability in the SDG era.

¹ For more information visit IAP website: <https://iapewec.org/>

² For more information visit EWEC website: <https://www.everywomaneverychild.org/>

Chapter 2: Reinforcing accountability for women's, children's and adolescents' health in the SDGs era

- This chapter summarizes progress made in developing accountability frameworks since 2010 and outlines principles and core components underpinning rights-based and sociopolitical accountability.
- Evidence from countries shows that effective, constructive accountability needs strong engagement of 'custodians of accountability' in countries: parliamentarians, courts, media, civil society, academia and importantly, the people, with women, children and adolescents and others left behind.
- Effective accountability also needs interconnected institutions able to perform the key IAP-recommended accountability functions of Monitor-Review-Remedy and Act in order to drive change towards achieving the health SDGs and human rights.
- Based on evidence of what works, accumulated since 2010, the IAP presents an updated framework for accountability for health and rights in the SDG era. This emphasizes the importance of hardwiring core accountability characteristics into institutions; meaningful citizen participation; investment in institutions; and strengthened accountability mechanisms. It sets these in the context of universal rights and goals and unique complex and changing contexts.

Chapter 3: Country tables on key indicators for women's, children's and adolescents health, with accountability analyses on who is being left behind, where and why

- Country league tables show current status and progress across all countries on the EWEC Global Strategy and accountability indicators. They highlight priority areas, including high-burden countries, fragile settings and intractable challenges, to inform joined up approaches to investment and programming.
- Based on country evidence, this chapter recommends actions to address data gaps for WCAH, to institutionalize accountability concepts and practices among all stakeholders, and to embed participatory accountability in all aspects of EWEC.

Chapter 4: Country case studies amplifying the experiences and voices of women, children and adolescents left behind, with recommendations for remedy and action

- Country case studies highlight what accountability means to individuals, how it benefits women, children and adolescents health, and where accountability barriers obstruct progress on health, rights and SDGs.
- Case studies in:
 - Ethiopia on community scorecards to strengthen accountability in health
 - Georgia on accountability of public-private partnerships in attaining UHC
 - Guatemala on early childhood development and inequities
 - Kenya on pregnancy-related medical detentions
 - Papua New Guinea on accountability barriers to maternal and newborn health

Chapter 5: Lessons from a decade of EWEC accountability to strengthen accountability to ensure health and rights of every woman, child, adolescent and those left behind in the SDG era

- Evidence from the preceding report chapters will inform the IAP's recommendations on strengthening accountability for women children and adolescents, with UHC and PHC and the main drivers of investment and implementation in countries with a key focus on vulnerable populations and fragile settings.
- The report will also synthesize lessons from a decade of EWEC accountability mechanisms including the Commission on Information and Accountability for Health (CoIA: 2010), the Independent Expert Review Group (iERG: 2011–2015), and the IAP (2016 to current), including the IAP's 2019 external evaluation and EWEC partner consultations on next steps.
- Chapter 5 develops the recommendations outlined in chapter 3 to suggest specific actions to be taken by countries and other stakeholders to strengthen accountability for WCAH.

Conclusion

The IAP remains committed to its vision to provide an independent and transparent review of progress on the implementation of the Global Strategy and to identify and advocate the necessary actions to accelerate achievement of its goals from the accountability perspective. It is further committed to promoting accountability for UHC and PHC to ensure they deliver for the health and rights of all women, children and adolescents, enabling them to access the quality services they need without financial hardship, and allowing them to realize their rights to health and wellbeing.