

# Position on Universal Health Coverage

For many people around the world, good health is out of reach because of the accessibility or affordability of healthcare services.

Universal health coverage (UHC) is a global priority, championed by the World Health Organization and promoted by governments worldwide. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals, all United Nations Member States, including the United States, recommitted to achieving UHC by 2030 at the United Nations High Level Meeting on UHC, held in September 2023. Doing so will help build healthier communities and stronger economies.

We believe that everyone should have access to quality, affordable healthcare services that they need, regardless of where they live. We support UHC through initiatives in the following key areas:

- **Workforce and infrastructure:** A robust health system with well-trained and well-supported healthcare workers is foundational to achieving UHC. We believe a holistic approach helps ensure that:
  - Young people can gain the knowledge and support to enter health-related careers.
  - Healthcare workers are provided with opportunities to strengthen their skills and advance their careers.
  - Health systems are equipped with the supplies and tools they need to deliver quality care.
- **Access and affordability:** Patients and communities must have access to care, including drugs, vaccines, surgical care, and other medical technologies needed to prevent and treat diseases and address public health needs. We support the UHC goal of health equity and engage stakeholders throughout the world to achieve broad and timely access to our medical products at sustainable prices that aim to be locally affordable. Safe, authentic medicines must be procured and in stock at the local- and primary-care levels. This holds true for many medicines that currently are

available as generics, as well as newer, more innovative medicines. Ensuring access to innovative products can help individual patients and free up health system resources.

- **Sustainable financing:** While UHC is an important, unifying goal, there is no single universal approach to how UHC is financed and delivered through government, non-profit or private-sector channels. Rather, each country must tailor strategies that align to local needs, resources, market conditions and societal values. UHC can be established through a variety of models and systems, but all require sustainable financing for both providers and patients. This is particularly important during periods of global economic headwinds when efforts are needed to expand finances for health. Financing considerations should account for the full complexity of the healthcare system, rather than addressing specific issues in isolation. We support investments that spur the development of innovative ecosystems, such as value-based care and digital health, to advance the implementation of effective solutions for health systems. Johnson & Johnson Impact Ventures (JJIV) aims to accelerate access to affordable, quality healthcare for all. Since 2019, JJIV has invested in companies and supported entrepreneurs innovating to improve health equity for underserved patients around the world. In 2022, JJIV received its first return on investment and has reinvested the financial returns into new investments.
- **Shared accountability:** While governments have a leading role in building health systems, financing and/or delivering care, the inherent complexity of healthcare requires a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in the effective design, implementation and delivery of care for all. The public, private and nonprofit sectors have a shared responsibility and accountability toward achieving UHC. Appropriate, transparent ways to measure and track country-level progress toward key bellwether outcomes for health system capacity are crucial to ensuring this accountability.

**Activities to Support UHC:** At Johnson & Johnson, we are firmly committed to doing our part to ensure the promise of UHC becomes a reality for patients, families and communities around the world. We partner with stakeholders through a mix of global and country-specific policy and advocacy efforts. Around the world, we support hundreds of health-related programs, and we strive to align with government priorities and advocate for quality healthcare. We believe that tailored strategies that align local needs, resources and market conditions must be part of the solution.

## Application

This Position is relevant for the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, as detailed in our [governance materials](#). We provide updates, where relevant, relating to UHC in our annual [Health for Humanity Report](#). Johnson & Johnson's ESG Policies and Positions on these and other issues are available in full [here](#).

*Last updated: March 2024*