Innov8 approach for reviewing national health programmes to leave no one behind

What does it really mean to “leave no one behind”

The SDG’s commitment to leave no one behind requires that Ministries of Health and other stakeholders involved in health programme delivery, design and monitoring and evaluation:

• understand why some populations are being left behind and the factors contributing to this; and

• explore how to respond to these challenges concretely and effectively.

WHO’s Innov8 approach for reviewing national health programmes to leave no one behind supports operationalization of the SDGs commitment to leave no one behind at concrete, programmatic level through an 8-step review process.

Innov8 supports programmes to be more equity-oriented, rights-based, gender-responsive and to address social determinants influencing programme effectiveness.
**STEP 1**

**What is the baseline of the programme?**
Complete a diagnostic checklist to set a baseline for the rest of the analysis.

**STEP 2**

**Why is the programme expected to produce results?**
Articulate how the programme is intended to work, across stages and the assumptions that underpin it.

**STEP 3**

**Who is being left out by the programme?**
Identify population groups not reaching or benefiting less from the programme.

**STEP 4**

**What barriers and facilitating factors exist?**
Identify the factors that prevent or hinder and facilitate effective coverage (e.g. income, education, gender norms and discrimination on other grounds).
STEP 5

How are health inequities being generated?
Identify the intermediary and structural causes and mechanisms resulting in health inequities (e.g. including from social determinants, gender and human rights perspectives, within and beyond the health sector)

STEP 6

How can intersectoral action and social participation help overcome these challenges?
Consider how these barriers and mechanisms can be overcome, including through intersectoral action and social participation in the programme

STEP 7

What are the recommendations for how to leave no one behind in the programme?
Produce a proposal with action-oriented, targeted recommendations for programme adjustments to make it more equity-oriented, rights-based, gender-responsive and to address social determinants

STEP 8

How can monitoring and evaluation (M&E) be strengthened?
Propose revisions to M&E to track programme improvements and ensure sustained attention to leaving no one behind
Innov8 outputs and follow up at county level

The Innov8 approach has been tested in the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, European and South East Asian regions, and has been applied to different national and sub-national health programmes, strategies and activities. Two country examples are described below.

**Indonesia**

- Recommendations informed national and subnational maternal and neonatal action plans and programming (e.g. target and indicator added on reducing maternal health service disparities)
- Innov8 methodology integrated into annual district level planning processes to ensure sustained focus on leaving no one behind
- Led to capacity building to strengthen health inequality monitoring and its use to inform programme planning
- Participation in 10-country workshop in Nepal on reaching every adolescent, resulting in inputs to new adolescent health programme

**Nepal**

- Recommendations incorporated into revised *National Adolescent Development and Health Strategy*
- Regional workshop with 10 countries on reaching every adolescent hosted by Nepal
- Diverse recommendations, for example related to
  - *Programme design*: Adapt programme criteria and performance reviews for and enhance community outreach in rural remote and slum areas
  - *Financing*: Build the economic case for investment in adolescent health and broker increased district level funds
  - *Legislation*: Strengthen work across sectors to address the causes of and enforce laws against early marriage
- National piloting and implementation plan to take forward recommendations being developed following endorsement of the new *National Adolescent Health and Development Strategy.*