

## PRIORITY 2

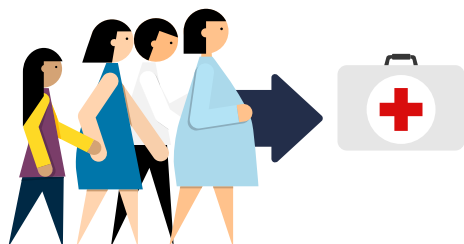
# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

## Provide primary health care (PHC) as the foundation for UHC

### Rationale

Primary health care is the most common entry point for people to the health system and offers the greatest potential to detect high-risk individuals who may be interacting with the health system for other reasons. Integrated primary health care can be an instrumental tool in reducing health inequalities, and, when person-centred, can have better outcomes, equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools to understand, participate, and actively manage their own health. PHC is essential for NCD prevention and control.

It is essential that health systems utilise strong referral networks from primary level through to specialised care, as many diseases require such networks for successful treatment. This will also better support health systems to manage patients' changing needs over time and respond to the increasing burden of multi-morbidities, including the impact of NCDs on mental health and well-being.



### Illustrative Advocacy Asks

Build sustainable and resilient PHC that meets all people's needs across the continuum of care.

Design and implement UHC that addresses the growing burden of multi-morbidities and considers the practical needs of people living with more than one chronic condition.

Ensure strong referral networks from PHC to more specialised care at secondary and tertiary levels.

Invest in the education, training, recruitment, motivation, and retention of a well-resourced and supported health workforce, including nurses, midwives, dentists and community health workers.

Utilise existing platforms for infectious diseases and maternal and child health to deliver integrated health and social services for people-centred care.

Ensure appropriate and adequate social support mechanisms.