



The World Hepatitis Alliance

[worldhepatitisalliance.org](http://worldhepatitisalliance.org)

Alexandra Smith, Advocacy and Engagement Manager, [alexandra.smith@worldhepatitisalliance.org](mailto:alexandra.smith@worldhepatitisalliance.org)

Chapeau

### **Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development**

- Achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and hepatitis elimination by 2030 as part of UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG) is key to improving access to health care and strengthening health outcomes. Hepatitis elimination is a key component of UHC, as it helps to strengthen health systems, engage underserved communities, enhance vaccination programs, reduce cancer mortalities, and strengthen HIV responses. It is possible to eliminate hepatitis as a public health threat by improving access to testing, vaccination and treatment through UHC. Achieving UHC alongside hepatitis elimination is critical to ensure that no one is left behind and to keep the SDGs on track.
- Civil society is uniquely placed to support their communities and health care systems in hepatitis elimination and UHC responses. It is critical to put people with lived experience at the heart of UHC responses. By taking a person-centered approach to health care, with civil society playing a central role, governments can ensure that UHC policies respond to communities' needs and that no one is left behind.

### **Chapter II. International peace and security**

### **Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

- Increased data, monitoring and surveillance of viral hepatitis, with a particular focus on at-risk populations and children, is needed to lead to early detection of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and other liver diseases. Improved data collection and surveillance will highlight the current gaps in care and services for people living with viral hepatitis and other liver diseases to address inequalities in line with SDG 10 and accelerate shared progress to achieving UHC and hepatitis elimination by 2030.

## Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

- Young people must be engaged as an equitable partner in the development of health and hepatitis-related policies in order to further progress on SDG 16. Health outcomes are improved when young people are put at the center of hepatitis elimination programs. Educating young people about viral hepatitis also empowers them to take care of their own health. Young people also raise awareness within their families and their communities. By educating and empowering youth, it improves the health of whole communities. Hepatitis elimination can only be achieved by 2030 through the meaningful inclusion of youth.
- Systematic barriers to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis must be addressed to reach the 2030 elimination goals as part of SDG 3.3. These barriers include lack of funding, racial inequality, discrimination against women, and gross inequalities of healthcare. The majority of chronic hepatitis B cases result from infections acquired through mother-to-child transmission. Most women living with chronic hepatitis B live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in Africa and the Western Pacific. Due to gender and socioeconomic disparities, women who are most likely to be affected by hepatitis B are often the ones least likely to have access to the health care needed to prevent passing it to their newborns. PMTCT efforts must be scaled up in LMIC to address inequalities within and among countries. Funding and resources must be provided to support the implementation of known, cost-effective triple elimination interventions of HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis. Hepatitis B education must also be provided to pregnant women as a prenatal standard of care, allowing women to be empowered and informed. Through investments in education, women's ability to access healthcare is improved, both for themselves and their children, and empowers them to help others. The care of women living with hepatitis B is an important catalytic investment in families, communities, and future generations. As a global community, triple elimination strategies are an opportunity to alter the lives of poor and underserved women and children and to keep SDG 5 on track. Triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B encourages integrated care, strengthens antenatal settings and overall health care systems. By making antenatal services equitable, accessible, and available to all who need them, future generations will be free of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B.

## Chapter V. Transforming global governance