Universal health coverage ensures everyone has access to the health services they need without suffering financial hardship as a result. In December 2012, a UN resolution was passed encouraging governments to move towards universal access to affordable and quality health care services. As countries move towards it, common challenges are emerging -- challenges to which research can help provide answers.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Margaret Chan, will launch the 2013 World Health Report *Research for universal health coverage* on **15 August 2013** in Beijing, China.

The report focuses on the importance of research in advancing progress towards universal health coverage. In addition, it identifies the benefits of increases in investments on health research by low- and middle-income countries through case studies from around the world, and proposes ways to further strengthen this type of research.

The Director-General will be joined at the launch in Beijing by government ministers from the People's Republic of China and several African countries. Following the launch, there will be a media availability with Dr Chan for journalists present at the Beijing event.

An embargoed briefing will also be held in Geneva on Tuesday, 13 August.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH BEIJING:

10h30 Beijing time (02h30 GMT), Thursday, 15 August 2013
Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO
Beijing Hotel, Interview Hall, 18th Floor, NO.33 East Changan Avenue, Beijin