

COMMUNITIES

AT THE HEART OF UHC

July 21, 2020

In this edition of our newsletter:

We talk about the need for greater commitment to community health, what the COVID-19 has taught us about achieving UHC, celebrating Bump Day, COVID-19 country updates and the quarterly campaign all-member call.

New Article Highlights Need for Commitment to Community Health

Ruth Ngechu-Kigara, deputy director of strategic partnerships and advocacy at Living Goods Kenya, authored a new op-ed titled “We Need a Greater Commitment to Community Health” where she highlights the need for community health care to be institutionalized in national and country legislatures and their associated budgets, similar to education and other mainstream health expenditures. The spread of COVID-19 in Kenya has presented a public health challenge that requires support from community health

Due to the rise in positive cases, the number of people visiting health facilities has decreased significantly. People are now increasingly seeking primary health care from community health workers (CHWs) who visit clients at home. A failure to sustain the community health workforce in Kenya and in other countries with fragile health systems could cause far more preventable deaths than COVID-19. It is time to give community health volunteers the resources and support they need.

[Read the full op-ed here.](#)



(Living Goods photo)

Campaign Events Stress the Need for Community Health Investments in COVID-19 Response

On July 8th, Communities at the Heart of UHC co-hosted *The Role of Community Health Workers in Achieving UHC: What COVID-19 Taught Us*, an online discussion forum with UHC 2030 CSEM. More than 170 people registered for the event, including advocates, implementers, nurses,

affordable and doable investment; and innovative advocacy tactics can increase investments in community health.

Additionally, on July 14th, Communities at the Heart of UHC co-hosted a side event at the High-Level Political Forum

community health leaders around the world. Everyone can now view these videos using the below links.

[Jose Maria Lloyd Nunah](#), Nurse and Community Organizer, CESM Representative

[Namanda Proscovia](#), Community Health Worker, Masaka District, Uganda

[Rachel Saykpah](#), Quality Assurance Officer, Last Mile Health, Liberia

[Toomas Palu](#), Advisor, Health, Nutrition, Population Global Practice, World Bank

[Ruth Ngechu](#), Deputy Director, Living Goods Kenya

[Estherlyn M. Peters](#), Digital Health Operator, Last Mile Health, Liberia

[Dr. Prasitchai Mangjit](#), Director Kang Khoi Hospital and National Health Assembly Organizing Committee

A couple of important themes discussed in the forum included: CHWs must have a formal role in the health system; investing in community health is an

Investments in Community-based Primary Health Care for Long-Term SDG Gains included many campaign members as featured speakers, including:

- Desta Lakew, Global Director of Partnerships and External Affairs, Amref Health Africa
- Dr. Salim Hussein, Head of the Department of Primary Health Care, Ministry of Health, Kenya
- Vicky T. Okine, Executive Director, Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights, Ghana
- Maziko Matemba, Community Health Ambassador, Malawi
- Dr. Raji Tajudeen, Head of Public Health Institutes and Research at Africa CDC
- Dr. Diana Nsubuga Nambatya, Africa UHC Co-Chair, Deputy Director, Living Goods Uganda

Join Us in Celebrating Bump Day

Join campaign member the [What to Expect Project](#) in celebrating its 5th Annual BumpDay on July 22nd. BumpDay is a social awareness advocacy campaign to celebrate beautiful bumps and healthy pregnancies, and to raise urgently needed awareness and support to ensure every mom receives the help she needs to deliver. This year, the campaign's theme will be on maternal

Black moms are dying at three to four times the rate of their white counterparts due to pregnancy-related complications. To support the campaign, on July 22nd, post a photo of your bump (current or past) on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook and tag it #BumpDay to help spread the word. As partners in the shared mission to educate and empower moms in need so they can expect healthier pregnancies, safer deliveries, healthier babies and healthier futures, please [visit](#)

women dying during or after pregnancy
are black American women.

COVID-19 Country Updates



(Amref Health Africa photo)

Amref Health Africa is a founding member of the Communities at the Heart of UHC Campaign and on the frontline of COVID-19 response in sub-Saharan Africa. Across countries, it is supporting CHWs to get the resources, training and support to fight the pandemic and continue to provide essential health services.

Tanzania

In Tanzania, Amref, in partnership with the CDC has donated an assorted list of essential materials to health facilities in Tanga and Zanzibar. The items include portable and large sanitizers, plastic buckets with taps, large sized buckets, gloves, disposable white medical coats, liquid hand washing soap, antiseptics and COVID-19 awareness information, education and communication materials.

Amref has also trained 669 CHWs in the Arusha region on detecting and reporting diseases, including COVID-19, in informal settlement areas. Additionally, in partnership

tapped buckets and their receivers, liquid soap, hand sanitizers, personal protective equipment and thermal scanners.

Malawi

In Malawi, Amref is supporting the Ministry of Health in community awareness efforts through mHealth. It is working towards renovating the Ministry of Health studio for Interactive Voice Response recordings on COVID-19, which will be shared with CHWs to be used during sensitization.

Zambia

In Zambia, Amref is a member of the National Task Force's sub-committee on community response to support the involvement of CHWs in COVID-19 response. It is also supporting the government to develop and print information, education and communication materials in braille for those with impaired vision, and providing personal protective equipment and training to CHWs on COVID-19 in the Copperbelt region.



call. If you were unable to make the meeting, you can find the [notes here](#). Be on the look-out for the next all-member call invitation in September.

Join the campaign and share with others!

About Us

We are a coalition of six organizations—Amref Health Africa, Aspen Management Partnership for Health, Financing Alliance for Health, the International Rescue Committee, Last Mile Health and Living Goods—leading this effort but working with many other organizations to elevate the visibility of community health within the UHC space. We are a part of the larger movement of key organizations, including UHC2030, donors and country leaders working to increase the dialogue on community health programs globally and advocate for funding through domestic resources and foreign assistance.

