

On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, members of the Communities at the Heart of UHC Campaign came together to discuss next steps following the adoption of the Political Declaration on UHC. The meeting included an engaging dialogue with featured panelists:

Dr. Michael Bukenya, Member of Parliament, Uganda

Dr. Lola Dare, CHESTRAD

Angela Gichaga, Financing Alliance for Health

Ruth Ngechu, Living Goods

Rob Yates, Chatham House

The conversation covered many topics involving supporting countries to reach UHC and coordinating advocacy efforts. The main takeaways and themes from the meeting included:

Prioritizing community voices: While we all recognize the need to listen to community voices, participants discussed how the global health community can amplify and elevate authentic community voices to ensure they are truly heard. For UHC to be successful, communities must actively define what services they need and how they want them delivered. As countries move forward in making the Political Declaration actionable, communities need to be included in setting priorities and policies.

Utilizing budget tracking to hold decision-makers accountable: As governments move forward in implementing the Political Declaration for UHC, civil society organizations have an important role to play in holding decision-makers accountable in delivering on their promises. One key way to do this is to track budget line items to ensure funds are being committed and released to expand access to health services.

Collaborating and advocating across sectors: Delivering health for all isn't just a decision made and implemented by ministries of health. Ministries of finance are equally important and need to be engaged. Budgeting is competitive and advocates need to demonstrate the value of investments in the health sector. As post-HLM meetings are hosted, both ministries of health and finance need to be in the room with civil society organizations and advocates.

As the campaign enters its second year, we will focus on ensuring that the commitments made in New York turn into action on the ground around the world. Together, we can show decision-makers and stakeholders that strong community health systems are necessary for achieving UHC.

Participant list:

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Country
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Adler	Alicia	International Rescue Committee	USA
Allen	Darcy	Women Deliver	USA
Ballard	Madeleine	Community Health Impact Coalition	USA
Bukenya	Michael	MP, Uganda	Uganda
Campana	Kate	The Access Challenge	USA
Chauvet	Hubert	CORDAID	Democratic Republic of Congo
Che	Reddy	Harvard Medical School	USA
Chen	Nan	Last Mile Health	USA
Clerisme	Jasmine	Chemonics International	USA
Dare	Lola	CHESTRAD Global	Nigeria
Gichaga	Angela	Financing Alliance for Health	Kenya
Haynes	Collin	Development Associates LLC	Guyana
Hilmi	Lisa	CORE Group	USA
Kirk	Karen	Population Council	USA

Kutlesic	Vesna	NICHD/NIH	USA
Lander	Crystal	Living Goods	USA
Lindsay	Sarah	Living Goods	USA
Marcazzan	Chiara	Nutrition International	Canada
McGhie	Diana	American Heart Association	USA
Msengi	George	NCD child	Nigeria
Ngechu	Ruth	Living Goods	Kenya
Nguyen	Victoria	Lwala Community Alliance	Kenya
Palazuelos	Daniel	Partners In Health	Mexico/USA
Patwardhan	Asmita	Possible	Nepal/USA
Pollack	Gary	GoMo Health	USA
Porter	Jeannie	Universal Health Development Foundation	USA
Raghavan	Mallika	Last Mile Health	USA
Rick	Samantha	IntraHealth	USA
Vilosio	Javier Óscar	CADIME	Argentina

West	Melissa	Village Reach	USA
Yates	Robert	Chatham House	United Kingdom
Zorigtbaatar	Anudari	Program in Global Surgery and Social Change- Harvard Medical School	Mongolia