

Recap on the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage

On September 23, United Nations Member States adopted the [Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage \(UHC\)](#). This is a significant landmark for global health advocates as the most comprehensive set of health commitments ever adopted at this level.

In the lead-up to the High-Level Meeting on UHC and adoption of the Political Declaration, the Communities at the Heart of UHC Campaign actively advocated at both the global and country level for the prioritization of community health as critical to achieving UHC. To deliver optimal outcomes, community health programming must be integrated into national health systems, be financially sustainable and rooted in quality. Our vision is recognition and commitment to community health programs across the UHC agenda.

At the High-Level Meeting on UHC, UN Member State delegations were given the chance to deliver remarks on UHC and their plans for implementation in-country. Of the country officials that spoke, 31 across six continents included and referred to community health and/or primary health care in their remarks, recognizing their importance to UHC.

Next Steps

The campaign will work with our members to organize and support networks to track progress on the commitments to community health and primary health care. Political will is important but developing implementation strategies and funding plans to achieve UHC are equally so. If you are working on advocacy in any of the following countries please contact us at info@UHC4Communities.com. We would like to connect advocates and networks working in the same countries to ensure collective advocacy efforts.

Delegation Remarks:

**The full agenda and list of speakers at the HLM-UHC can be [found here](#).*

Member State	Statement include Primary Health Care (PHC) or/and Community Health (CH)?	Overall Comments
Angola	CH	It is promoting community participation in response to population needs.
Antigua & Barbuda	PHC	PHC is the way to move forward with UHC.
Austria	PHC	In Austria, primary health care is the standard for everyone. As a global community we must strive to make this a standard for all citizens.
Burkina Faso	CH	It is going to focus on high-impact initiatives, including community care, improving the quality of care, strengthening emergency response and providing free health care for vulnerable groups.

Brazil	CH	No community will be left behind because communities are a key part of reaching UHC2030.
Côte d'Ivoire	CH	The government has developed community-based health services as the framework for its UHC strategy, "community level is the key."
Eswatini	PHC	Eswatini has free health services at the primary level and that is the key pillar of the country's UHC strategy. It is invested in expanding coverage of primary health care facilities.
Eritrea	PHC	It is accelerating policies to achieve UHC through primary health care. "PHC is the main strategy for delivery health service countrywide."
Ethiopia	PHC	Plans to reform its health system with primary health care at the core.
France	CH	Community-based health workers are a central part of the health system and needed to deliver a package of essential services. Expansion of health coverage was only made possible by making services financially accessible.
Fiji	PHC	Committed to achieving universal access to primary health care to all its residents.
Kenya	CH	Committed to mobilizing community and citizen ownership, emphasizing the goal of leaving no one behind.
Latvia	CH	No country can build its health system without health workers, funding and willingness to constantly learn and improve. Emphasized value of health workers.
Lesotho	PHC	Committed to health personnel training at all levels. The government has embarked on a campaign to establish new health clinics in impoverished areas and primary health care services are provided at no cost to

		individuals. It has revised its village worker health policy to be included in its UHC strategy.
Mali	PHC	Investing in PHC is the key way to reach UHC.
Nigeria	PHC	The government is setting policies to include PHC at the center. Will prioritize the creation of a PHC network to use as a platform to promote and deliver a range of services.
Pakistan	PHC	It will be implementing PHC as part of its UHC initiative.
Palau	CH	Committed to providing primary care to all citizens and is working to make sure every citizen lives within 30 minutes of a health center. It's important to meet and serve communities where they are.
Philippines	PHC	Health is a fundamental right and it has passed a UHC law recognizing that PHC is the foundation of its health system.
Rwanda	CH	Advocated for the importance of community-based health care because it is central to the health system and needed to deliver a package of essential services. It has expanded coverage and couldn't have done this without making it financially accessible. (Their remarks were strong on the value of community health and community health workers.)
Spain	PHC	PHC is crucial for equity, and it committed to ensuring access to medicines. UHC has to be financed by taxes based on progressivity and solidarity as this is the best way to attain citizen loyalty.
Samoa	PHC/CH	It has changed its health system to deliver PHC to marginalized populations. Following the HLM, communities will be prioritized in the country's PHC initiative with the goal to help reduce the burden of communicable and noncommunicable diseases.
Republic of Suriname	PHC	PHC is a priority of UHC: "It is important to prioritize those that are marginalized by the health care system, and the key to this is through primary health care."
Republic of Vanuatu	PHC	Committed to strengthening PHC as the pillar of sustainable health systems for UHC: "It is the most inclusive, the most economic, and the most effective approach to UHC."

Tanzania	CH	Committed to investing in a community health fund.
Thailand	PHC	Investing in health care is an investment in people. IUT plans to start its UHC strategies with PHC, emphasizing the importance of primary health care to UHC.
The President of Nauru, Pacific Island	PHC	To effectively provide the coverage UHC requires, there needs to be an essential package of services available at the PHC level. It called on the UN to scale up investments to reach UHC.
Uganda	CH	Committed to expanding community health services, addressing social determinants through multisector programs; addressing gaps in quality; enhancing special services, including those for noncommunicable diseases; and legislating for affordable health services.
Vietnam	PHC	Achieving UHC and the Strategic Development Goals on health can only be achieved through PHC.
Zimbabwe	PHC	In Zimbabwe, some communities still lack access to health centers. It called on the UN to assist with modernizing PHC.
Zambia	PHC	The government has made significant changes in its system, especially at the PHC level, to assure that health policies prioritize PHC. Also emphasized the need to make sure resources trickle down to PHC.

Other notable references from the High-Level Meeting

Other officials	Statement include Primary Health Care (PHC) or/and Community Health (CH)?	Comments
Helen Clark, former prime minister of New Zealand	CHW/PHC	Made strong remarks that PHC is the key to attaining health for all. "There is a growing evidence base that shows that integrating maternal, newborn, child and adolescent services into primary health care, which is often delivered by community health workers, is a highly effective strategy." This can decrease maternal and newborn mortality
Stéphanie Seydoux, Ambassador for Global Health, France	CH/PHC	Community-based health workers are central to the health system and progress to deliver a package of essential services. France expanded coverage and couldn't have done this without making it financially accessible.

World Bank Group	PHC	It is important to ramp up investments in affordable, quality PHC. It makes sense from a moral and economic standpoint.
World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians	CH/PHC	Strongly recommended the education and training of PHC workers.