

June 3, 2019

In this edition of our newsletter we look ahead to Women Deliver, preview our first Global Policy Workstream teleconference, unveil our Call to Action for the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (HLM-UHC) and talk about our participation at the World Health Assembly.

Welcome New Members

Universal Health Development Foundation, Ebonyi State University/ Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki, Nigeria

Click [here](#) to see more of our members!

We Look Forward to Seeing You at Women Deliver

Communities at the Heart of UHC members attending Women Deliver 2019 please come to Living Goods Booth 829 or Amref Health Africa Booth 245 in the Fueling Station Exhibit Hall to get campaign swag and meet us! Throughout the week be sure to use #Uhc4Communities so we can follow and promote your efforts.

Do you have activities and information and share with campaign members? Please send them to info@uhc4communities.com to be included in a future newsletter.

Join the First Global Policy Workstream Meeting

Workstream Goal: Institutionalize community health as a global UHC priority

The Global Policy Workstream will host its first teleconference for members interested in participating in the workstream on Thursday, June 13, at 9 a.m. EST. At this meeting, we will discuss opportunities to advocate for community-based primary health care, upcoming key events and moments, and ways we can collaborate and leverage the work of all campaign members.

Please RSVP to Sarah Lindsay at slindsay@livinggoods.org by June 12 to receive login information.

Calls to Action for High-Level Meeting on UHC

The Communities at the Heart of UHC Campaign is excited to launch our Call to Action for the HLM-UHC. Investing in community health is critical to securing health access for all as it bridges the gap between facilities and a nation's hardest-to-reach populations. It is well documented that community health workers (CHWs) can deliver better maternal, child, reproductive and adult health outcomes when properly integrated into the health system and supported by evidence-based best practices. Therefore, Communities at the Heart of UHC calls for prioritizing financially sustainable and quality community health programs in country health systems.

To ensure that community health programs are prioritized at HLM-UHC:

- We call on Ministers of Health and Government Officials to encourage Heads of State to attend the high-level meeting and declare their commitment to reaching their most vulnerable populations with the care they deserve by including quality community health as a UHC priority in formal statements.
- We call on advocates and civil society to raise their voices to amplify evidence on the value of quality, sustainable community health programs in achieving UHC, particularly holding governments accountable to deliver primary health care for the most vulnerable by including community health within declared UHC priorities.
- We call on multilateral, philanthropic and technical leaders to prioritize funding for strengthening community-based primary health care and to encourage Heads of State to include quality community health in declared UHC priorities and any funded health strategies.

Read, download and share the full Call to Action on our [website](#).

Community Health Worker Guidelines Approved at World Health Assembly



Living Goods photo

Rita Nakakande (L), a CHW in Uganda, Albertha Freeman, a Community Health Services Supervisor in Liberia (C), and Hon. Dr. Jane Aceng, Minister of Health, Uganda, at the World Health Assembly.

Communities at the Heart of UHC applauds the approval of [CHW guidelines](#) at the World Health Assembly (WHA). The World Health Organization guidelines were a part of the "Community Health Workers Delivering Primary Health Care: Opportunities and Challenges" resolution, which recognized the significant role that CHWs play in responding to health emergencies, promoting healthier populations and achieving UHC. The resolution additionally directs countries and partners to allocate sufficient resources for the advancement of CHW programs, under the direction of the CHW guidelines.

Communities at the Heart of UHC has continually worked to support and encourage implementation of the CHW guidelines in order to more broadly support national governments' inclusion of community-based primary health care. The approval of these guidelines marks an important step forward in greater involvement of community-based health care in health systems to ensure affordable and accessible health care for all.

Community Voices in the Spotlight at the World Health Assembly

Last week, Communities at the Heart of UHC was at the 72nd World Health Assembly along with many campaign members, including the Global Health Council, Save the Children and Pathfinder International. Throughout the week, we were able to participate and engage in key discussions with global health policymakers and provide valuable input into the proposed WHA resolutions on community health and UHC, both which were adopted without amendments.

The campaign was also joined in Geneva by two community health leaders Albertha Freeman, a Community Health Services Supervisor in Liberia, and Rita Nakakande, a CHW in Uganda. Both women shared the impact and importance of their work and called on stakeholders to strengthen support to extend community health programs to deliver health for all.



Speakers from *How Communities Can Deliver UHC for Women and Adolescents* (from left): Roopa Dhatt, Women in Global Health; Albertha Freeman, Community Health Services Supervisor, Liberia; Rita Nakakande, CHW, Uganda; Temesgen Ayehu Bele, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia; Annie G. Toro, What to Expect Project; Lois Quam, Pathfinder International; Princess Nothemba (Nono) Simelela, World Health Organization; Anuradha Gupta, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

The campaign co-costed several successful events highlighting the importance of community health.

- *How Communities Can Deliver UHC for Women and Adolescents*, co-hosted with Pathfinder International and the What to Expect Project, highlighted how countries, implementing partners, the private sector, multilateral organizations and civil society can work together to fulfill the commitment of quality primary health care via CHWs. Watch the video [here](#).
- *Financing Sustainable Community Health for All: The Importance of Women Leaders*, co-hosted by the Center for Global Health and Development and the What to Expect Project, discussed the role of CHWs and mechanisms to finance sustainable health systems in low- and middle-income countries.
- *Building Resilience and Strengthening Global Health Security in Crisis-affected Settings through Investing in CHWs* explored the potential offered by investing in robust primary health care systems and supported CHWs for building resilience in fragile and crisis-affected contexts.

[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.

