

Introduction

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Communities at the Heart of UHC Campaign! We're delighted to share this monthly update of the campaign's achievements as well as related articles and resources. In this edition, we'll talk about the campaign's Theory of Change, our letter to Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), how to sign up for campaign workstreams and how to feed into the call for inputs ahead of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (HLM-UHC) next September.

Fulfilling a Promise - Our Theory of Change

First, a refresher on the big picture.

Why Communities at the Heart of UHC?

When the global community renewed its commitment to achieve UHC, we made a promise to secure health access for all and to prioritize hard-to-reach populations. Community health programs are critical for achieving this goal. 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.

Now is the time to translate global momentum on UHC into local change and continue momentum on commitments around community health. Our country engagement workstream calls upon governments to include community health as a priority in their country reports to be delivered at the HLM-UHC. Furthermore, we will track progress made related to integrating community health in national health strategies and policies as well as in national UHC strategies.

Our objectives for the campaign at the country level will begin with collecting baseline information on the status of community health across domains. We will develop country-specific long-term objectives for each target country. Additional countries will be added based on campaign membership interest.



Living Goods photo

Campaign Receives a Nod from the World Health Organization



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization

The campaign wishes to thank Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Director of the WHO, for recently noting the importance of empowering communities within primary health care. His words spoke directly to the campaign's efforts.

Speaking at the WHO Executive Board meeting in January, Dr. Tedros said, "Primary health care is not just about the facility. It is from the facility to the community. It will not be successful without ownership of our communities."

In response, the campaign wrote a letter to Dr. Tedros, stating:

"We believe that community health workers (CHWs) make community health accessible for everyone, everywhere, every day. They save lives, contain health crises and keep health care affordable, all while delivering a positive economic return, reducing unemployment and empowering women. To support the efforts of CHWs around the world, this campaign focuses on generating political will and commitment to ensure that integrated community health programs are included in national UHC strategies.

"We are eager to advance this movement together. We would be deeply honored if you would consider supporting the Communities at the Heart of UHC Campaign to further the momentum on increasing access to health services aligned with community needs. Additionally, we would be thrilled to join you in your efforts to move UHC forward—please let us know how we can continue to advance your vision, as we firmly believe that together we can secure health access for all."

Campaign Workstreams

By joining the campaign, you automatically become a member—we encourage you to engage more deeply by joining one of our two workstreams: Country Engagement and Global Policy Influencing. Workstreams are led by steering committee members, require a few hours a month to participate and have clear deliverables outlined by the campaign.

The Country Engagement workstream identifies core teams and a coalition of country actors to support ministries of health and heads of state to include progress in community health toward achieving UHC in their respective countries during the HLM-UHC. The objective is to track country-level progress and achievements in community health across three core domains (financing, strategy and UHC reports) and promote country advocacy via a coalition of key partner organizations and institutions.

The Global Policy Influencing workstream creates leverage at the global level to include community health as a priority in UHC-focused and other relevant global health strategies and policies. At the global level, we coordinate the implementation of the campaign activities through engagement in global events and conferences as well as by actively participating in relevant global-level online consultations and discussions related to our campaign objectives.

Call for High-Level Meeting Inputs

On September 23, 2019, the United Nations General Assembly will hold the HLM-UHC under the theme of "Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World." At the meeting, national governments will come together to report on progress and identify challenges in achieving UHC.

The president of the UN General Assembly will organize a multistakeholder hearing before the end of July 2019 to allow non-state actors to formally contribute to the preparation of HLM-UHC. UHC2030 is currently gathering input from partners to feed into "asks" to inform a political statement to be used for hearings and negotiations during the HLM-UHC. The Communities at the Heart of UHC Campaign will engage in formal and informal activities to shape the meeting throughout the year. One such opportunity you can support right now.

Communities at the Heart of UHC will be contributing a survey to ensure community-based primary health care is formally included in the political agenda to be reviewed by all countries. This is an excellent chance to amplify our mutual voice, and to make sure that community health programs are the focal point of the UHC movement and hard-to-reach populations are not left behind. We encourage you to contribute your viewpoint by filling out this survey by March 10, 2019. You can find the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CR8CY8G>.

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.