

March 16, 2019

In this edition of our newsletter we provide an update on what the campaign is doing in the context of COVID-19 and talk about our all-member call, International Women's Day and social participation for Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Campaign Update on COVID-19

Communities at the Heart of UHC is closely tracking COVID-19 and its impact on organizations, community health workers (CHWs) and global fora. While elevating community health and raising the voice of community leaders at conferences and policy events remains a priority of the campaign, we recognize that opportunities may be limited in the coming months. We will continue to keep a close eye on the status of the World Health Assembly (WHA) and remain committed to hosting a campaign member working group meeting around WHA, whether it be in-person or through a digital platform. We will continue to keep our members updated as we know more. How is COVID-19 impacting your work with country governments or your community health work? [Please share your feedback with us.](#)



Photo by Living Goods

Community health workers in Iganga, Uganda.

All-Member Call Update

Communities at the Heart of UHC held an all member meeting on March 4, 2020. During the call we praised the success of the adoption of the Political Declaration for UHC. We now want to pivot for 2020 and take the opportunity to leverage this window of support in community health to ensure the declaration is translated into transparent funding commitments. Therefore, the new 2020 goal is to leverage political commitments for UHC by promoting community health and its champions from the global to sub-national levels and to track in-country commitments to UHC and community health with a focus on Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Together, the campaign wants to leverage public statements made by political leaders to hold them accountable and advocate for public disclosures of health expenditures. On the call, we discussed member organizations' advocacy priorities, including UHC, Primary Health Care (PHC) financing, human resources for health and achieving the Astana Declaration on PHC. Campaign members are also working on tools and reports that we can share in the coming year, including a Community Health Budget Tracking Tool being developed by [Financing Alliance for Health \(FAH\)](#), the Essential Health Services Campaign by [CHESTRAD](#) and the [CHIC/FAH](#) report on funding approaches for CHWs. The next steps for the campaign include: continuing to share information and disseminate new tools from partners; work on new advocacy collateral to support regional and country meetings; work on tools to support budget advocacy; update members on planned side events at upcoming meetings and the impact of COVID-19; and hold the next all-member meeting in June.

Community health offers women **qualified employment opportunities, education and autonomy.**

#UHC4Communities



Campaign Celebrates #IWD2020

Women make up more than 70 percent of the global health workforce. Community health can help promote gender equality, offering women qualified employment opportunities, education and autonomy. Not only do female CHWs deliver life-saving care to their communities, but they also provide a powerful engine for women's empowerment. By optimizing CHW programs as well as achieving UHC, we will all move toward a healthier and more gender-equal world.

FAH is a founding member of the Communities at the Heart of UHC Campaign. For International Women's Day, Nelly Wakaba, FAH's Country Engagement and Support director, was asked why financing and equality are important to achieving health for all. She stated that while most CHWs are women, many are unpaid for their services. Therefore, investing in paid CHWs would empower women who could, in turn, empower other women in their communities. As they work to educate young girls about their health or women on family planning, the ripple effect shall be felt and we shall have an equal, enabled world. She repeated the saying: "If you educate a woman, you educate a nation."

Read Nelly's complete IWD blog on our website [here](#).

Share your Voice! UHC2030 Consultation

UHC2030, the World Health Organization and the UHC Partnership have launched a consultation and webinar series to contribute to a Handbook on Social Participation for UHC. This handbook, which contains peer-reviewed literature from nine country case studies, will be used to provide guidance to policymakers on how to best engage with populations, civil society and communities. Social participation is vital to ensure transparency and multi-stakeholder influences on policies for UHC. You can [submit your feedback](#) on the content with regard to whether the topics and messages resonate with your organization and if there are any gaps.

[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.

