

# COMMUNITIES

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June 23, 2020

# AT THE HEART OF UHC

## In this edition of our newsletter:

We announce a date for our all-member campaign call, examine what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us about the role of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), discuss pushing back on the U.S. decision to defund the World Health Organization, and learn about the Rwenzori Center for Research and Advocacy.

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### Next Campaign All-Member Meeting

Please join us for the next Communities at the Heart of UHC all-member virtual meeting tomorrow, June 24, at 9:00 a.m. EST / 3:00 p.m. CET / 4:00 p.m. EAT. The meeting will include updates on campaign activities, efforts to procure personal protective equipment for CHWs, and community health policy updates from multiple countries. Please reach out to Sara Kurtovic at [skurtovic@livinggoods.org](mailto:skurtovic@livinggoods.org) for more information or join us at the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82015005309>

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### Upcoming Event: The Role of CHWs in Achieving UHC: What COVID-19 Taught Us

On July 8, Communities at the Heart of UHC will co-host an interactive online event with UHC 2030's Civil Society Engagement Mechanism. Strong and resilient community health systems are vital for both UHC and health crisis management, which are two sides of the same coin. This event will include voices from frontline CHWs, ministry of health

practices to support the role of CHWs in both the COVID-19 response and efforts to achieve UHC. [Register here.](#)

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## Pushing Back on the U.S. Decision to Defund the WHO

The WHO plays a vital role not only in the current COVID-19 pandemic, but in helping countries around the world prevent, treat and protect their citizens from public health threats. WHO is especially important in low-resource humanitarian settings with limited health infrastructure. Further, it serves as the global coordinator of efforts to develop vaccines, tests and treatments, trains millions of health workers based on the latest evidence and best practices, and has already secured vital supplies to help combat COVID-19.

Withdrawing support harms not only the global response against COVID-19 but will also weaken the response against other major health threats that matter to Americans. The bulk of U.S. funds to the WHO help save lives and give hope to populations around the world facing diseases such as polio, measles, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Global Health Council President and Executive Director Loyce Pace said, “The American people have always understood the benefits of essential investments in global public health, here at home and abroad. The U.S. led the creation of the WHO for a reason. We cannot lose sight of that now.”

The Global Health Council along with its partners developed [a statement concerning the U.S. government's decision to terminate relations with the WHO](#). Hundreds of organizations and individuals have signed the letter to express continued support for the WHO and its important work.

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### Campaign Member Spotlight: The Rwenzori Center for Research and Advocacy



### RCRA pilot clinic

This month, our Member Spotlight is on the Rwenzori Center for Research and Advocacy (RCRA), an indigenous child health nongovernmental organization in Uganda with the mission of empowering communities for improved livelihoods, health care and education through awareness, research, technology and innovation. RCRA has been active in responding to COVID-19 in Uganda. In Kasese District, RCRA has supported the response to the COVID-19 through assistance with personal protective equipment, including sanitizers, a hand wash shop, facemasks and aprons for health workers. RCRA also facilitated the training of 20 village health team leaders and supported risk communications through door-to-door sensitization by village health teams in Busongora North sub-counties. Read the full spotlight on our website [here](#).

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**[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



**Financing Alliance**  
for Health



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