

COMMUNITIES
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May 27, 2020

**AT THE HEART
OF UHC**

In this edition of our newsletter:

We announce a date for the next campaign all-member meeting, talk about changes to our key messages in the context of COVID-19, provide an update on the 73rd World Health Assembly, hear from Dr. Diana Nambatya Nsubuga about COVID-19 and efforts to reach Universal Health Coverage, learn about a new campaign to support efforts by the African Union and its COVID-19 Fund and announce the release of a new position paper by the Community Health Impact Coalition on addressing priorities for the pandemic response.

Next Campaign All-Member Meeting

Save the date! The next Communities at the Heart of UHC all-member virtual meeting will be held on June 24 at 9:00 a.m. EST / 3:00 p.m. CET / 4:00 p.m. EAT. Please RSVP to Sara Kurtovic at skurtovic@livinggoods.org.

COVID and Community Health: Updated Campaign Messaging



Due to COVID-19, the global health landscape has shifted. This pandemic has revealed that community health is as important as ever. Community health programs are the first line of defense for many to prevent, detect and respond to COVID-19. It is critical for community health workers to be integrated in a country's response to fight not only COVID-19, but to continue to provide essential primary health care services to the most vulnerable.

The campaign has updated our [key messages](#) and [social media toolkit](#) to reflect the connections between community health and COVID-19. Use these tools to join us in our advocacy efforts and call for increased investments in community health!

Dr. Tedros Calls for Increased Health Investments at 73rd World Health Assembly

Last week, the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) was held virtually, assembling member states and civil society actors online to discuss an abridged agenda focused on the COVID-19 response.

health must be at the center of development. I will repeat this: *More than ever, the pandemic illustrates why investing in health must be at the center of development.*"

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted that this pandemic highlights the need for strong health systems to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC): “More than ever, the pandemic illustrates why investing in

agenda, including primary health care and follow-up from last year's High-Level meeting on UHC, including a monitoring report on commitments made by member states.

Community Health, Fighting COVID-19 and Achieving Universal Health Coverage

Dr. Diana Nambatya Nsubuga shares a blog, “*Investing in Community Health, Fighting COVID-19 and Achieving UHC*,” providing an update since the adoption of the Political Declaration on UHC in 2019.

COVID-19 has dramatically changed the global health conversation, while revealing just how important prioritizing and accelerating investments in health systems and frontline health workers are to achieving UHC. The blog highlights how vital community health workers (CHWs) are to both the current pandemic, as well as achieving UHC.

Dr. Nsubuga and colleagues at Living Goods have been working with the Ugandan Ministry of Health to integrate CHWs into a coordinated response to COVID-19. This response must equip CHWs and other frontline workers with

appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE), as their safety is a priority. Living Goods has worked with Health Minister Dr. Jane Aceng in obtaining PPE and creating a strategy for CHWs.

In Uganda, Village Health Teams are trusted members of the community, connecting populations to primary health care services. Given the protection they need, they can help frontline health workers prevent, detect and respond to COVID-19.

As the fight continues, innovative partnerships are coming together, new technologies are being leveraged and the need to strengthen CHWs and health systems to prepare for future pandemics is of utmost importance. Read the [full blog post here](#).

One by One: Target COVID-19



The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation and The Access Challenge have launched a new campaign called [One by One: Target COVID-19](#).

The campaign will support efforts by the African Union and its COVID-19 Fund by advocating for increased financing for Africa CDC to boost its capacity for securing essential diagnostics and medical supplies

needed for COVID-19 response in Africa. Please find myth-busting videos, posters and social media content in this link: [#GetTheFacts media toolkit](#).

This is open access content that can be distributed far and wide. To join the Target COVID-19 Coalition and explore collaboration opportunities, please contact Asad Lilani, campaign strategist, at asad.lilani@accesschallenge.org.

Community Health Impact Coalition Releases COVID-19 Position Paper

The Community Health Impact Coalition (CHIC) released a position paper addressing priorities for the global COVID-19 response. The targeted actions CHIC calls for include protecting health care workers, interrupting the virus, maintaining existing health care services while surging their capacity and shielding the most vulnerable from socioeconomic shocks. The paper outlines steps that will be taken during the NOW phase, which includes anticipation, early detection and containment, as well as the NEXT phase, which includes control and mitigation steps. [Read the position paper here](#) and join CHIC members in their call to action requests for radical collaboration to tackle COVID-19 in every country.

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.

