

September 23, 2019

United Nations General Assembly Special Edition

Happening Now! UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage

The [UN High-Level Meeting](#) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is taking place today, September 23, in New York. This meeting is a significant opportunity to secure political commitment from Heads of State and Government to prioritize UHC. The meeting is being live streamed and you can keep up with the plenary and panel sessions [here](#).

This is a critical moment in global progress toward UHC and it is expected that Heads of State will endorse the [Political Declaration on UHC](#) today. Since April, Member States have been negotiating the Political Declaration with the final version released on September 13. The Communities at the Heart of UHC Campaign applauds the Political Declaration's call to scale up efforts to promote the recruitment and retention of competent, skilled and motivated health workers, including community health workers, and encourage incentives to secure the equitable distribution of qualified health workers in rural, hard-to-reach and underserved areas with high demands for services. Additionally, we support the commitment to invest in evidence-based and user-friendly technologies, including digital technologies, and innovation to increase access to quality health services, improve the cost-effectiveness of health systems and efficiency in the provision and delivery of quality care.

You can join the conversation today and throughout **#UNGA74** using the [campaign key messages](#) and a [social media toolkit](#). Together, we can amplify the messages highlighting the value of community health in achieving UHC!

Not going to be at UNGA? Campaign partner Seed Global Health is live streaming multiple events on UHC and health workforce. Learn more about those events and how to view them [here](#).



Living Goods photo

Join the Campaign at #UNGA74

Are you in New York for UNGA? Join us on Thursday, September 26, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the American Heart Association to celebrate our accomplishments and discuss our plans for the upcoming year to ensure that the work is carried out to meet our goals beyond the High-Level Meeting. The discussion will feature remarks from:

- **Dr. Boluwatife (Lola) Oluwafunmilola**, Chief Executive Officer, the Centre for Health Sciences Training, Research and Development (CHESTRAD)
- **Dr. Michael Bukenya**, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Parliamentary Health Committee, Uganda
- **Ruth Ngechu**, Deputy Director, Living Goods Kenya
- **Robert Yates**, Head, Centre on Global Health Security, Chatham House

Following the remarks, the Campaign will facilitate an engaging discussion covering the following topics:

- **Country Governments:** How do we best support governments reaching the UHC goals while holding them accountable?
- **Targets, Performance, Measurement:** What specific health outcomes should we seek to achieve through UHC? How do these align with those of large bilateral efforts, the Global Fund and Gavi, among others?
- **Coordination at the Global, Regional, National and Subnational Levels:** How do we better coordinate or does it matter?

[Please RSVP to attend.](#)

New Blog! Universal Health Coverage Begins in the Community

As the global community prepares for the High-Level Meeting on UHC, world leaders and health experts have the opportunity to come together to renew commitments for primary health care to deliver UHC and the Sustainable Development Goals. Following the October 2018 Primary Health Care Conference in Astana and the recent 72nd World Health Assembly, the momentum heading into the High-Level Meeting is indeed historic. However, in order to spark real and lasting change, this momentum needs to be translated into country commitments that will impact the lives of health workers themselves.

Community members and health workers—most of whom are women—will be responsible for translating declarations into frontline service delivery. As Professor Miriam Were, Kenya's goodwill ambassador of Community Health Strategy, said, "If change doesn't happen in the community, nothing changes and we keep talking. If change happens in the community—in the household—a nation changes!"

Read the rest of the blog post by Katey Linksey [here](#).



Photo by Jeroen van Loon for Amref

New Documentary Illustrates Power of Digitally Empowered Community Health Workers

Freethink, in partnership with the Skoll Foundation and campaign members Living Goods and Last Mile Health, released a new documentary on September 19 highlighting the power of community health workers. Empowered with supervision, compensation and digital tools, these workers bring basic health care to their neighbors and have been proven to dramatically reduce mortality rates in communities in the hundreds of thousands. The documentary can be viewed [here](#). Please share it with your networks far and wide using this [social media toolkit](#).



Bringing Health Care to the People

[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.

