

## Universal Health Coverage Day 2017 Report for UHC2030

### OVERVIEW

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The fourth Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day exceeded all previous measures of engagement, with more partner events, media coverage and social media activity than ever before. In total, partners organized more than 160 events in 45 countries.

GHS administered funding from UHC2030 to 25 UHC Coalition members in 23 countries. These events were among the most ambitious and successful partner activities, driving significant community participation, policymaker engagement and social and traditional media reach.

Partners used funds to support UHC Day event costs including venue spaces, materials, food and drink, speaker fees and expenses, event promotion and media outreach. See below for detailed summaries of each grantee's activities and outcomes.

### EVENT SUMMARIES

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#### **Afghanistan – Global Innovations and Collaboration Services Organization (GLICSO)**

The Global Innovations and Collaboration Services Organization (GLICSO) partnered with the Health Economics and Finance Directorate (HEFD) of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to organize a UHC forum and awareness campaign in Kabul. The half-day forum emphasized the importance of UHC as cornerstone for development, peace and global security. Participants included the Deputy Minister of Public Health, parliamentarians, civil society leaders and representatives of the World Bank, the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development, the Afghanistan Ministry of Finance and other agencies.

The forum received coverage by the Afghanistan state-run TV network, as well as two national print newspapers – one in Persian, one in Pashto. GLICSO also worked with the MoPH to install billboards in busy areas of Kabul with the message “Universal Health Coverage is a Cornerstone of Sustainable Development.”



#### **Argentina – Chagas Disease Alliance**

The Chagas Disease Alliance, in collaboration with the Iniciar for Global Action Foundation, organized a UHC summit to examine the implementation of UHC policies in Argentina and the ongoing need to

equitably improve service delivery, particularly for vulnerable groups. Co-hosts included the Argentine Committee for Health Education (CAESPO), the Argentina Medical Association (AMA) and the Center of Studies for the Development of the Chemical-Pharmaceutical Industry (CEDIQUIFA).

The summit brought together 97 participants, with speakers including a former Minister of Health of Argentina and the President of Argentina’s Senate Health Commission, who [presented a bill](#) to officially recognize 12 December as UHC Day in Argentina. Participants also signed a [commitment letter](#) urging legislators and other government officials to promote affordable access to comprehensive, quality care.



### Bangladesh – SERAC-Bangladesh

SERAC-Bangladesh organized eight simultaneous rallies across Bangladesh, with 600 youth leaders standing alongside health professionals and policymakers at exactly 12:12 PM on 12 December to demand access to affordable, quality health care for everyone in the country. This “Stand the Clock for Universal Health Coverage” campaign was livestreamed on [social media](#), allowing additional participants to join virtually. Both [The Daily Star](#) and [News Hour](#) covered the rallies.

This event also launched the Bangladesh Youth Health Action Network, which aims to channel growing public awareness of UHC into longer-term advocacy gains. Youth delegates agreed to continue expanding this network, in order to better address UHC issues like access to medicines and sexual and reproductive health and rights.



### **Benin – Centre de Recherche en Reproduction Humaine et en Démographie (CERRHUD)**

CERRHUD hosted a half-day event in Cotonou, bringing together 90 participants for a film screening, panel debate and group discussion. Representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, National Health Insurance Agency and WHO-Benin attended, as well as civil society leaders, health workers, trade unionists, artists and journalists. *Benin Eden TV* [covered the event](#) and ran a 30-minute [UHC segment](#) on 11 December.

The event began with a screening of the feature-length film ‘Félicité’, which showcases the individual strain that out-of-pocket health payments place on one mother. After the screening, panelists gave presentations on the ARCH and RAMU projects, two health insurance models in Benin, and debated the government’s upcoming implementation priorities. Participants then engaged in a floor discussion on the responsibility of various sectors – from civil society to health workers to entrepreneurs to policymakers – to advance universal health coverage in Benin.



### **Cameroon – For Impacts in Social Health (FIS Cameroon)**

FIS Cameroon launched a UHC petition, aiming to collect 782 signatures – representing Cameroon’s maternal mortality rate per 100,000 women. As of 12 December, the petition had garnered more than 800 signatures, which were subsequently presented to officials from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

FIS Cameroon also hosted a press conference in Yaoundé with nearly 20 journalists to discuss the petition, launch a [video produced in collaboration with Oxfam](#) about the human toll of health care user fees, present recommendations from the Syndicate of Doctors (SYMEC) on health financing, and hear policy updates from government officials. The press conference received front-page coverage in *Echos Santé*, and Cameroon’s Vision 4 TV network produced a [program segment](#) on UHC. FIS Cameroon will continue its social media campaign on UHC and will work with SYMEC to further engage policymakers, particularly members of the national parliament and Senate.



## Haiti – Action Against Hunger

Action Against Hunger Haiti hosted a media breakfast with the Haitian Network of Journalists in Health (RHJS) on 8 December, in the lead-up to Human Rights Day and UHC Day. The Secretary-General of RHJS delivered a presentation on Haiti’s health worker shortage and low level of domestic health spending, opening a discussion on the role that journalists and civil society can play as advocates. Following the breakfast, both [Le Nouvelliste](#) and [Loop Haiti](#) published articles on universal health coverage.



## India – KIIT University, School of Public Health

KIIT University’s School of Public Health [organized a rally](#) in Bhubaneswar, with nearly 500 participants including medical and public health students, professors, university administrators, NGO representatives and policymakers to mark UHC Day this year.

Speakers called for India to aim for a 5-6% GDP level of health spending, with emphasis given to the needs of the most vulnerable populations. A Member of Parliament from Bhubaneswar delivered a keynote address on the importance of preventive care and health promotion. After the speaking program, participants walked a 2.5 kilometer route across the campus, carrying banners and signs with UHC messages to raise awareness for universal health coverage among members of the public.



## Japan – UHC Youth Japan

This team of 20 Japanese medical professionals and students produced a [video](#) on UHC policies in Japan, which premiered on UHC Day. They also organized a standalone “Youth Dialogue 2017” on the sidelines of the UHC Forum and delivered a Japanese youth statement on UHC as part of the commitments of action ceremony in Tokyo. UHC Youth Japan will continue to engage young leaders and produce content to sensitize Japanese audiences to the concept of universal health coverage.



## Kenya – Kenya Medical Association

The Kenya Medical Association organized a UHC CSO Forum in Nairobi, in collaboration with co-hosts including the National Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya (NEPHAK), the Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV/AIDS (KELIN) and the Health NGOs Network (HENNET). The Forum featured presentations from CSO leaders, as well as representatives from Kenya’s Council of Governors, Makueni County government, UNICEF and WHO.

Topics of discussion included strategies to improve citizen engagement, increase domestic resource mobilization and address the challenges of devolution. Following the high-level forum, 48 CSO representatives met to develop recommendations and further refine a CSO workplan, launching a fuller [roadmap for UHC in Kenya](#). CSOs in attendance agreed to meet at least once each quarter to expand this roadmap and accompanying advocacy strategies, and to develop subcommittees in thematic areas like human resources for health, financing & budget processes, policy, and monitoring scorecards.



### **Liberia – Public Health Initiative Liberia**

Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL) hosted a high-level panel discussion in Monrovia with representatives from the Senate Committee on Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, UN agencies, civil society organizations and student groups. The discussion focused on ways to engage the public and political leaders to commit to UHC, receiving coverage in [AllAfrica](#).



### **Malawi – Outreach Scout Foundation**

The Outreach Scout Foundation hosted a high-level panel discussion in Mzuzu titled “Achieving UHC2030 through Health Financing,” with speakers including a former Presidential Advisor on Health, a leader of the Journalists Association Against AIDS, an Oxfam humanitarian policy lead and a prominent Malawian faith leader. More than 40 people attended, representing CSOs from the UHC Coalition and organizations such as Global Hope Mobilization, the Catholic Health Commission and World Vision International. These stakeholders developed a set of recommendations for the Malawian government as it implements the 2017-2022 Health Sector Strategic Plan, which features UHC as a policy objective. The [Malawi News Agency](#) covered the discussion.



### **Nepal – BHORE and the Nepal Health Economics Association**

BHORE and the Nepal Health Economics Association co-organized a roundtable discussion in Kathmandu about how a new national health insurance bill, recent federal restructuring, and Nepal’s November 2017 elections will create opportunities to drive national progress toward universal health coverage. The discussion engaged municipal leaders, parliamentarians, service providers and representatives from civil society and the Ministry of Health. BHORE livestreamed the entire event, which has been viewed more than 7,000 times on [Facebook](#).



### **Nigeria – Africa Health Budget Network**

The Africa Health Budget Network (AHBN) collaborated with the Community Health and Research Initiative and the Track Health National Accountability Coalition to host a press conference and capacity-building exercise in Abuja for TV, radio and print journalists from 15 media outlets. AHBN called for increases in the overall health budget, as well as the establishment of the Nigerian Immunization Trust Fund and improved oversight functions. The event generated coverage in [The Press](#), [Metro Daily Nigeria](#), [Newsday Nigeria](#), [Voice of Nigeria](#), [Daily Times](#), [Nigerian Pilot](#), [PM News](#), [The Sketch](#), [The News Nigeria](#) and [Nigeria Health Online](#), as well as [Silverbird TV](#) and Vision FM 92.1 radio.



### **Nigeria – Legislative Network for Universal Health Coverage**

The Legislative Network for Universal Health Coverage organized a UHC Day advocacy walk in Abuja, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria Health Watch, Health Systems Consult Limited, ONE Nigeria, the Health Finance & Governance Project and Results for Development. Participants were greeted by a [video address](#) from the Minister of Health.

These partners also hosted a policy dialogue and press conference in the National Assembly, helping to generate coverage in [This Day Live](#), [The Sun](#) and the [Nigeria Health Watch blog](#).



### **Pakistan – Health, Education and Literacy Program**

The Health, Education and Literacy Program (HELP) led a consultation in Karachi with parliamentarians and other policymakers of various political parties to brief them on challenges facing Pakistan's health sector and the benefits of UHC reforms. Speakers included Dr. Rozina Mistry, a public health specialist, Dr. Abdul Gaffar Billoo, a child health expert, and a representative of the Sindh Planning and Development Department.



HELP also delivered a UHC petition with more than 1000 signatures, calling on parliamentarians to make equitable health systems a priority in their 2018 election campaigns. HELP will continue to engage policymakers through email and other communication channels throughout the coming months.



### **Philippines – Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes**

The Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes (AIHO) hosted a UHC summit in Manila on 9 December, bringing together frontline health workers, medical students, [social media influencers](#), CSO representatives and public health officials to sensitize these communities to the benefits of UHC and the importance of strong primary care and equitable health financing. The summit included presentations from the Department of Health, WHO-Philippines and the University of the Philippines about the implications of the recently-passed UHC bill and the need for citizens to engage political leaders at all levels throughout the implementation of the six-year Philippine Health Agenda.



### **Tanzania – People’s Health Movement Tanzania**

People's Health Movement Tanzania (PHM Tanzania) organized a public walk through Dar es Salaam, bringing together 500 participants including local politicians, community leaders, health workers, NGO representatives and Tanzanian citizens. The walk began with remarks from a National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) representative on the importance of NHIF enrollment and citizen advocacy for UHC. Marchers walked from Mwananyamala Hospital to the Biafra Public Ground, using banners, performances and social media to publicize their UHC messages. The march concluded with remarks

from the District Health Commissioner, calls to action from CSO leaders and an opportunity to donate blood. E-FM Radio covered the event, and *The Citizen* wrote an article that was picked up by [AllAfrica](#).



### Uganda – Foundation for Integrated Rural Development

The Foundation for Integrated Rural Development (FIRD) organized a UHC Day campaign in the Lira District of northern Uganda – which included radio programs, social media engagement and a performance featuring a local drama group and musicians – to raise awareness about the need for and feasibility of universal health coverage in Uganda. FIRD also convened several district leaders around UHC Day for a dialogue about delivering quality care to rural communities. Following the dialogue, the district health department held a health camp with screenings and consultations. FIRD will continue to work with these stakeholders to strengthen a Ugandan grassroots advocacy network for UHC.



### Uganda – Samasha Medical Foundation

The Samasha Medical Foundation organized a high-level breakfast consultation in Kampala with 18 influential health stakeholders, including Members of Parliament. Hon. Bukenya Micheal, the chairperson of the parliamentary sessional committee on health, chaired the meeting, which featured a keynote by the Director-General of the National Population Council and remarks from Ministry of Health officials. At the end of the meeting, MPs agreed to prioritize two key recommendations: advocating for supplementary funding for the National Health Insurance Scheme in 2018/19 budget negotiations; and lobbying for additional allocations to the National Medical Stores for key commodity procurement.



## Zimbabwe – Community Working Group on Health

The Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) hosted a day-long celebration in Harare, Zimbabwe, with the theme of “Celebrating and Recognizing the Inclusion of the Right to Health in Zimbabwe’s 2013 Constitution.” Participants included government officials, parliamentarians, civil society leaders, community advocates and [media](#). The program featured presentations by the Ministry of Health and Child Care and WHO Zimbabwe, as well as discussions, drama performances, solidarity messages and UHC Day video screenings.

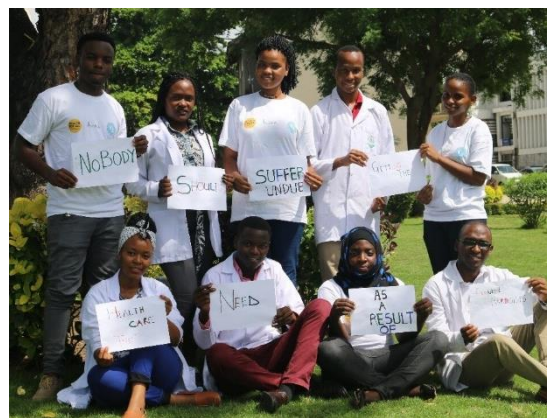
Participants came to a consensus about key issues, including the need to transition away from donor funding, take a multi-sectoral approach to UHC progress, and encourage a CSO watch-dog role to promote transparency and accountability.



## Multiple Locations – International Student Surgical Network (InciSioN)

Two of InciSioN’s national working groups held UHC Day events, creating opportunities for medical students and health practitioners to discuss ways for the future health workforce to contribute to UHC and safe surgery advocacy. InciSioN-Rwanda held a half-day event at the Remera Campus of the University of Rwanda, and InciSioN-Tanzania organized a discussion and mini-campaign at the Muhimbili University Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

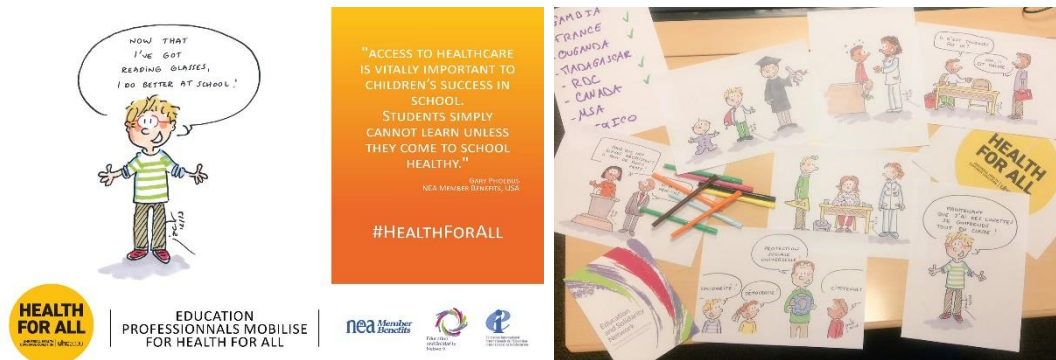
InciSioN also led a #SurgeryUHC social media campaign, using Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and a [Medium blog post](#) to share messages and personalized videos from InciSioN members about safe surgery and anesthesia as essential components of UHC.



### Online Campaign – Education and Solidarity Network

The Education and Solidarity Network, based in Belgium, organized a participatory campaign among its member organizations – associations of teachers, students and parents around the world – to gather stories about the impact of UHC policies on educational outcomes and quality of life. Their team gathered testimonies from 11 education professionals representing Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Gambia, Madagascar, Mexico, Niger and the United States, then used these quotes to create a set of 15 illustrations to share in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

The Education and Solidarity Network will continue to highlight the interdependency between access to quality health care and children’s academic potential, encouraging each interviewee to use the illustrations in national-level campaigns.



### Online Campaign – International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) launched an ongoing UHC campaign to educate and energize its 1.3 million members. This campaign features social media engagement, including custom profile picture frames, an online UHC quiz and a shared directory of UHC resources. IFMSA also hosted a webinar on UHC, with a focus on how medical students can serve as advocates, how primary health care investments can benefit rural populations, and how global surgery access fits into UHC priorities. IFMSA will build on this campaign in 2018 to host UHC sessions during its Regional and General Assembly meetings, to be hosted in Paraguay, Morocco, Egypt, Austria, South Korea and Canada.

