

Bangladesh

Centre for Excellence for UHC, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

The Centre for Excellence for UHC at the James P Grant School of Public Health (BRAC University) marked Universal Health Coverage Day 2016 by holding a multi-stakeholder discussion, a public rally, a media awareness campaign and a social media campaign. The Centre focused on advancing discussions around three dimensions of UHC: population (who is covered), services (which services are included) and finances (what proportion of costs are covered).

The 12.12 rally brought together more than 150 participants, including health professionals, advocates and students. The groups, which congregated at the National Museum in Shahbag, wore UHC t-shirts and carried UHC placards with messages including “Health is a right, not a privilege” and “No one should go bankrupt when they get sick.”

In addition to the rally, the organizers also hosted a multi-stakeholder discussion to consolidate efforts and explore how Bangladesh can continue moving toward UHC. The discussion, which was moderated by BRAC Vice-Chairperson Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, engaged representatives from the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, USAID and the Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh. Approximately 100 participants attended the event.



Burundi

CIDEP: Center for Support for Local Initiatives Development and Assistance to Vulnerable Persons

The Center for Support to Local Initiatives Development and Assistance to Vulnerable Persons (CIDEP) organized a two-part event to mark Universal Health Coverage Day 2016.

The first event was a high-level conference on how to advance universal health coverage policies in Burundi. The conference featured representatives the Burundian Parliament, the Ministry of Health, civil society and the media. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and propose recommendations directly to policymakers.

The second event was a celebratory march to raise awareness about universal health coverage among members of the public. The march, which took place in Muramvya Province and was attended by more than 300 people, was themed “No-one should die due to inability to cover health costs” and ended with a dance.



Ghana Universal Access to Healthcare Campaign

The Universal Access to Healthcare Campaign (UAHC) organized a roundtable discussion to mark Universal Health Coverage Day 2016. Representatives from government and civil society shared experiences and expertise in order to coordinate future universal health coverage advocacy.

The organizers used the event as an opportunity to congratulate the new President-Elect, Nana Addo Dankwah Akufo Addo, and the New Patriotic Party (NPP), and to remind them of the multiple health promises made in the party's manifesto. The government was also urged to increase funding to the National Health Insurance Agency (NHIA) so that the authority can pay outstanding debts to service providers.

Participants also called for health indicators to be included in the 2017-2018 mid-term development framework and costing plans, which are created by all metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies in Ghana.



Kenya

The National Empowerment Network of People living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya (NEPHAK)

To commemorate Universal Health Coverage Day 2016, the National Empowerment Network of People (NEPHAK) organized two events to foster relationships among civil society groups, private sector leaders and medical professionals.

NEPHAK's primary event was a panel discussion on universal health coverage. The discussion was attended by 40+ participants and was presided over by a representative from the Ministry of Health. NEPHAK Director Nelson Otwoma opened the forum by reminding participants of past commitments by Kenya's President and Cabinet Secretary on universal health coverage. Representatives from the Ministry of Health's Health NGOs Network, Kenya Medical Association, the Kenya Legal & Ethical Issues Network, AIDS Healthcare Foundation and the World AIDS Campaign then built on his remarks by exploring ways to collaborate to increase health financing, private sector engagement, and pressure on government actors to deliver health for all.



Liberia

Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL)

Citizens United to Promote Peace & Democracy in Liberia's (CUPPADL's) Universal Health Coverage Day activities included a public forum and an accompanying media campaign. Organizers also held bilateral meetings with health officials and legislators in the lead-up to 12.12.

CUPPADL's public forum aimed to foster cross-sector collaboration among health actors in Liberia. Ministry of Health representatives presented on the topic "Liberia Health Financing Approach in the context of Universal Health Coverage," and development partners including Save the Children presented on programs to accelerate universal health coverage in Liberia. A Q&A after the presentations allowed for audience participation.

CUPPADL's media campaign included radio and television talk show appearances, notably live interviews on OK FM 99.5, Fabric Radio 101.1, Prime FM 105.5, Excel Communication Inc. and Radio 5 FM 107.7. Media discussed how to strengthen health care delivery in order to advance universal health coverage in Liberia.

One outcome of the event includes a commitment by the Chief Medical Officer at Liberia's Ministry of Health to develop a UHC framework and to work with civil society organizations to advance health care delivery and financing.

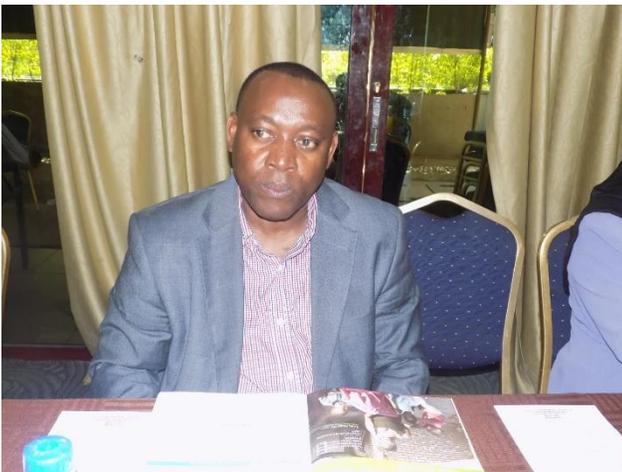


Malawi

Journalists Association Against AIDS

Journalists Association Against AIDS (JournAIDS), a Malawian NGO that works extensively with media, marked Universal Health Coverage Day by hosting a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders to discuss ways to advance health reforms in Malawi.

JournAIDS's roundtable welcomed 40+ representatives from media, the private sector, civil society and other health networks, including Malawi Network of People Living with HIV (MANET+), Malawi Health Equity Network and the Malawi Network of AIDS Service Organizations (MANASO). A radio program was recorded and aired by the Development Communication Trust, and a press release was published in Malawi News on December 10.



Nepal Nepal Health Economics Association

The Nepal Health Economics Association (NHEA) organized a high-level workshop that focused on Nepal's social health insurance scheme, which aims to provide Nepalese citizens with basic health services free at the point of service. The workshop was attended by parliamentarians, senior government officials, academics and media and was themed, "Pathways of UHC for Nepal."

NHEA and the Overseas Development Institute presented on two programs under the umbrellas "Leave No one Behind: A Case of Nepal" and "Pathway of UHC for Nepal: Shaping the Health Care Financing Policy in Nepal." The presentations helped shape discussions on health care financing, the use of data to measure health goals and the promotion of gender equity through the universal health coverage agenda.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Gagan Kumar Thapa, stressed the multisectoral nature of universal health coverage and the need to develop tools to pool health-related budgets from all sectors in one place. The Minister also informed the group that a Health Insurance Act was in the final stage of submission to the Parliament and that Health Promotion Centers would be established in Kathmandu Municipality for home-to-home visits by trained personnel to help detect diseases at early stages.

Following the event, the Ministry of Health formally launched the "National Strategy for Reaching the Unreached to Reduce Health & Nutrition Inequalities to Achieve Universal Health Coverage in Nepal (2016-2030)" on 15 December.



Nigeria
Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa

The Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA) hosted a roundtable discussion to outline commitments toward universal health coverage and identify actions to advance health for all in Nigeria. Participants and attendees included civil society leaders, representatives from the Federal Ministry of Health, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, UN agencies, and select embassies and high commissions.

Topics of discussion included primary health care, health security and pandemic preparedness, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

At the event, the Director-General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control Professor Abdulsalam Nasidi noted that Nigeria must accelerate efforts to reach the health goal of the sustainable development agenda, and that primary health care facilities should be expanded to help achieve this goal.



United Kingdom Action for Global Health UK

On 14 December 2016, members of the Action for Global Health network, including Plan International UK, Save the Children Nigeria, Chatham House, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health convened at the British Houses of Parliament to host an interactive panel. The discussion focused on the importance of universal health coverage as it relates to the sustainable development agenda, and the United Kingdom's role in driving universal health coverage policies at the national and global levels.

Securing DFID to speak on the panel was a successful advocacy tactic to engage the department on its commitment to support country progress toward universal health coverage. Additionally, there was strong and visible cross-sector collaboration between civil society organizations, highlighting the importance of relationship-building to achieving UHC.



United States NCD Alliance

The NCD Alliance, together with the New York Academy of Medicine and the International Society for Urban Health, marked Universal Health Coverage Day 2016 by hosting an event titled, “Health for All: Sustainable Systems in an Urbanising World” to explore the challenges and opportunities for health systems in an urbanizing world.

Speakers included Dr. Nata Menabde, Executive Director of the WHO Office at the United Nations, Dr. Lola Adedokun, Director of the African Health Initiative at Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Dr. Oxiris Barbot, First Deputy Commissioner at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Dr. Sue Henshall, Special Advisor to the CEO of the Union for International Cancer Control.

The event underscored the importance of linking work on universal health coverage to governance strategies for cities to create environments that address the broader determinants of health beyond health care alone.



Zambia Treatment Advocacy and Literacy Campaign

The Treatment Advocacy and Literacy Campaign (TALC) marked Universal Health Coverage Day 2016 with various activities aimed at media, including a media breakfast, a radio program and the dissemination of a press release.

The media briefing was attended by the Actor Director-General of the National AIDS Council and a representative from UNAIDS, among other health and development stakeholders. Journalists from ZNBC News, Prime TV, Broadline News, 5FM Radio, Radio Phoenix and the Guardian Weekly were also in attendance.

The radio program, timed to Universal Health Coverage Day, encouraged listeners to dial in with their health-related stories and concerns. Topics discussed included drug stock-outs, substandard medicines, the need for more health workers and how to enhance treatment literacy for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Lastly, TALC issued a press release to call on the Zambian government to act on a speech given by the Minister of Finance to the National Assembly earlier this year, during which he called for universal health coverage as a national priority.

