



HEALTH FOR ALL WHY IS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IMPORTANT?

CARE. ACT. SHARE. LIKE CORDAID.

Photo South Sudan. 2017. Cordaid

Do you believe health is a human right, and that all human beings should be able to fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment? Do you believe women should not die while giving birth? Do you believe children should not die from preventable deaths? Do you believe people should not be pushed into poverty for accessing health services? Do you believe in a world in which everyone can live, healthy, productive lives regardless of who they are and where they live? Then you believe in Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The world has learned its lesson during the Millennium Development Goals era, where health priorities took a siloed approach and consequently created vertical health systems. These systems certainly contributed to the effective treatment of specific diseases e.g. HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria etc. However at most times they were unable to respond to the other needs of the community. Thus, in the new Sustainable Development Goals agenda¹ (2015) and through the adoption of the first unanimous United Nations Resolution (2012),² the world agreed on UHC, calling for countries to provide affordable, quality health care to every person, everywhere. With a special emphasis to reach the poorest and most vulnerable first, ensuring that no one is left behind.

WHAT IS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)?

UHC guarantees that all people and communities have access to quality health services, while ensuring that accessing these services does not push them into financial hardship.³ By achieving UHC, it focuses on the common good, human dignity and social justice.

Common good: Health for all, benefits all.

Human dignity: UHC in low-income and fragile countries safeguards the life and dignity of every person by protecting their right to health and from financial hardship.

Social Justice: UHC challenges the present model of distribution and aims to protect people from falling into financial hardships while trying to access a basic benefit/service in society.

WHY IS UHC IMPORTANT?

UHC objectives:

- **Equity in access to health services** - everyone who needs services should get them, which means that provision and demand of health services by the poor and most vulnerable are secured;
- **The quality of health services** should be good enough to improve the health of those receiving services; and
- People should be **protected against financial risk**, ensuring that the cost of using services does not put people at risk of financial harm.

¹ Sustainable Development Goals

² UN General Assembly Resolution: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/81

³ World Health Organization: http://www.who.int/health_financing/universal_coverage_definition/en/

FACTS AND FIGURES

400 million

people currently lack access to one or more essential health services.

100 million

people, every year, are pushed into poverty and 150 million people suffer financial catastrophe because of out-of-pocket expenditure on health services.

6 million

women and children could be saved by 2017 if they had access to simple, essential and affordable medicines, medical devices and health supplies.

16 times

more than the original costs of medicines, people are forced to pay in the private sector due to the scarcity of medicines in the public sector

Source : World Health Organization. Tracking Universal Health Coverage Report. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/174536/1/9789241564977_eng.pdf?ua=1



Photo Afghanistan, 2016, Cordaid

Cordaid and the local Civil Society Organisation, Association of Health Organisations (AHO), advocate for sustainable healthcare financing policies through tax based funding that will reduce the dependency of foreign aid in Afghanistan.

HEALTH IS A HUMAN RIGHT



FAMILY PLANNING ANTENATAL VISITS SKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANTS VACCINES ANTI-RETROVIRAL TREATMENT TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT INSECTICIDE-TREATED BED NETS

THAT 400 MILLION ARE WAITING FOR

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION / WORLD BANK GROUP (2015)

HEALTHFORALL.ORG ACT WITH **AMBITION**

UHC AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

A critical component to achieving Universal Health Coverage is strong, resilient health systems, specifically in low-income and fragile settings. To strengthen a health system, the focus should be on the 6 building blocks that make a health system⁴ work:



By focusing on the 6 building blocks, it will ensure that maternal and child mortality is lowered. It will ensure that quality services are accessible to everyone, regardless of who they are and where they live.

CORDAID'S UHC POSITION

Access to quality healthcare services that are responsive to the needs of the community and that reach the most vulnerable and marginalized first, should be the priority of every country, especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings. To achieve this, a shift in focus from disease-specific to a systems wide approach is required. Without a basic healthcare system in place, even achieving the Sustainable Development Goal on Health, and all its related targets are in jeopardy.

For Cordaid Health, there are two overarching objectives for building resilient health systems under Universal Health Coverage:

- **Reduce the vulnerability** of people in fragile and conflict-affected settings by ensuring all people have access to essential quality (reproductive) health services
- Focus on a **systems approach** in fragile and conflict-affected settings that delivers basic health services and promotes inclusivity and equity in the healthcare system

Cordaid recognized the need to concentrate efforts to strengthen the link between the formal healthcare system and the communities. By providing and/or strengthening an existing mechanism through which communities can engage with health facilities and voice their concerns, it empowers the community to play a role in the decision-making of a health system that works for them. Cordaid has continuously demonstrated the importance of focusing on health system strengthening to improve health outcomes of poor and vulnerable people and their communities.

Cordaid's approach: Results Based Financing (RBF)

By utilizing the Results Based Financing (RBF) approach, Cordaid contributes to the progressive realization of UHC. All three primary objectives of UHC (equity, quality and protection against financial risk) are addressed by RBF.

What is RBF?

- Direct link between funding and results: contrary to a traditional input financing system, healthcare providers receive their payments only after their output has been verified.
- Health systems reform and strengthening strategy: introduces checks and balances, motivates staff, promotes entrepreneurship and involves communities.
- Aims to improve health services for the poorest and most vulnerable people, especially those in isolated, rural areas.

CORDAID IMPACTS ON UHC

- **FACT 1:** In 2017, Cordaid helped 6,4 million people worldwide to get access to basic healthcare
- **FACT 2:** When in 2013-14 the health system collapsed in Central African Republic, facilities supported by RBF kept functioning and receiving patients
- **FACT 3:** In Southern Ethiopia (Borana Zone), health centers participating in a RBF pilot saw their patient flow more than tripling between 2015 and 2017



A pregnant woman is getting a check-up in a Cordaid health clinic in Diida Yabello, Ethiopia. Over the last 5 years this clinic has received financial support via the RBF-system, leading to a significant increase in the quality of health care.

⁴ World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/healthsystems/about/en/>

THE WALK : ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN ONE OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD



Chaneline is a pregnant woman living in the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the least developed countries in the world. For just a simple check-up, she has to walk 27 km and back again. The film **The Walk** came from the recognition that there is a need in urging greater action and progress on delivering UHC. It also wants to raise awareness on the discrepancy of health service delivery around the world. The most effective way to

demonstrate the importance of UHC is to show what it meant for a pregnant woman in the countries where Cordaid works in. Not only is it to show the importance but also show how far countries are from achieving this goal. We still have work to do. This becomes incredibly confronting by filming a pregnant woman walking 5 hours for a health check up and showing the entire walk. “This story is a powerful reminder of why we must keep working to deliver universal health coverage—quality, affordable care for everyone, leaving no one behind”, underlined Michael Myers, Managing Director The Rockefeller Foundation. Join her “crippling”, “agonizing” and “arduous” journey as described by the international press, <https://www.cordaid.org/en/health-for-all/>.

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid works to end poverty and exclusion. We do this in the world’s most fragile and conflict-affected areas as well as in the Netherlands. We engage local communities to rebuild trust and resilience and increase people’s self-reliance. Our professionals provide humanitarian assistance and create opportunities to improve security, healthcare and education and stimulate inclusive economic growth. We are supported by 270,000 private donors in the Netherlands and by a worldwide partner network.

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Cordaid and the local Civil Society Organisation, Action Humanitaire Pour La Santé et Le Développement Communautaire (AHUSADEC), advocate for practical measures such as to establish a functioning health insurance system after the adoption of the new law on health insurance in Republic Democratic of Congo.

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