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

Chandleine 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. 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.

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Some of our partners

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
HEALTH FOR ALL - UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

The Global Fund
Medicus Mundi International – Network Health for All (MMI), a network of organizations working in the field of international health cooperation and global health to promote access to health.

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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 273,000 private donors in the Netherlands and by a worldwide partner network.

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.

ABOUT CORDAID

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Why is universal health coverage important?

CARE. ACT. SHARE. LIKE 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 agenda (2015) and through the adoption of the first unanimous United Nations Resolution (2012), 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 do not push them into financial hardship.1

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

4 100 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/10665/174636/1/9789241564977_eng.pdf?ua=1

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.

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 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 that they 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 systems strengthening to improve health outcomes of poor and vulnerable people and their communities.

CORDAID IMPACTS ON UHC

- FACT 1: In 2016, Cordaid helped 8 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.

More information: www.cordaid.org/en/campaigns/health-for-all

1 World Health Organization: http://www.who.int/healthsystems/about/en/