



Champions for Health

Annual Report 2020

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Cover photo was taken in Gambia in 2014 by Sarah Hoibak



Our Vision

Health for all in Africa



Our Mission

WACI Health exists to champion the end of life-threatening epidemics and improved health outcomes for all in Africa by influencing political priorities through an effective, evidence-driven Pan-African civil society voice and action



Our Core Strategies

Policy Analysis and Advocacy

Civil Society Capacity Strengthening for Advocacy

Civil Society Mobilization and Engagement



Our Strategic Goals

Increased resources for health: We advocate for investments by urging governments and international agencies to step up their investments in health.

Policies that improve health and achieve equity in health: We use our experience and expertise about political systems, policy options, and proven health interventions to push for policy change.

Improved accountability in health delivery and governance: We strive to ensure that investments and policies translate into practice, and into health impact.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

| | |
|------------|--|
| AfNHi | Africa Free of New HIV Infections |
| AIDS | Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome |
| ALM | Africa Leadership Meeting |
| CISMAT- SL | Civil Society Movement Against Tuberculosis-Sierra Leone |
| CiSPHA | Civil Society Platform for Health in Africa |
| CSEM | Civil Society Engagement Mechanism |
| EAC | East African Community |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| EML | Essential Medicines List |
| GFAN | Global Fund Advocates Network |
| GFF | Global Financing Facility |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| IDA | International Development Association |
| PHC | Primary Health Care |
| PHCPI | Primary Health Care Performance Initiative |
| PPH | Postpartum Hemorrhage |
| R&D | Research and Development |
| UHC | Universal Health Coverage |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNAIDS | The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

Letter from the Executive Director

At WACI Health, we dream of a world where everyone can afford and access health care when they need it. While this is currently not the case, we believe that affected communities and civil society can help change that.

In Africa, for example, the burden of healthcare costs still falls heavily on households, and out-of-pocket expenditures may be higher for families least able to afford them.

According to WHO and the World Bank, 100 million people around the world are being pushed into extreme poverty each year due to health costs.

Our strategic plan (2016-2021) spells out *increased resources for health* as one of the strategic goals that our work contributes to.

This includes advocacy towards increased international funding for health as well as increased domestic resources for health in Africa. We see domestic investments as a critical pathway to sustainable health financing in Africa.

This is why we truly applaud commitments made at the African Leadership Meeting: Investing in Health, held in conjunction with the African Union Summit in February 2019.

Without a doubt, more financial resources for health are needed from domestic



Rosemary Mburu, Executive Director for WACI Health

and international sources. Increasing the availability of financial resources alone will however not lead to an improvement in health outcomes if money is wasted through inefficient processes and corruption.

By some estimates, between 20 and 40 percent of money in the health sector is wasted.

In addition, too often, new resources going into the health system are allocated to high-cost tertiary care while primary healthcare is still weak. This is despite the fact that primary healthcare offers the biggest leverage both on cost effectiveness and impact.

To address these and many other issues, effective civil society and community advocacy is essential. The 6th replenishment of the Global Fund strongly demonstrated the power and value of civil society.

In our region, through GFAN Africa, we saw unprecedented political mobilization by communities and the civil society in support of the replenishment.

In Francophone Africa, communities and the civil society stepped into Global Fund advocacy in a manner not seen before.

Investing towards sustainable and effective civil society advocacy is often disregarded yet it is crucial in making change happen.

Nurturing youth leadership in advocacy is equally important- an area we prioritized in 2019.

Africa Free of New HIV Infections (AfnHi) Youth Cohort is emerging as a leading youth-led advocacy platform in Africa

focusing on HIV prevention research. Youth Leaders for Health, on the other hand, is emerging as a leading youth-led advocacy initiative focusing on health systems strengthening and ending malaria.

We publish this report at a time when COVID-19 is ravaging populations across the world. The World Bank estimates that the global COVID-19 pandemic could push more than 70 million people into extreme poverty.

The economic shocks -- and disruptions to health, nutrition, and education systems -- multiply the devastation of the pandemic well beyond the direct impact of illness from the virus.

We are advocating for a powerful, equitable response to the global pandemic that protects the poorest and most marginalized communities.

We remain committed to our role as a leading civil society health advocacy group in Africa.

We are grateful to all our partners for continued collaboration, support and confidence.

We salute all civil society and community advocates we work with on GFAN Africa, AfNHi and the Civil Society Platform for Health in Africa (CiSPHA).

The splendid work of these platforms is our joint accomplishment and most pointedly the triumph of communities in need of health services.



Introduction

We drive targeted advocacy on key health issues. We focus on areas where political and financial opportunities would be missed without effective advocacy. Our strategies include

1 advocating for investments in effective health services and proven health interventions by governments in their own countries and globally;

2 push for policy change based on policy options, proven interventions, and existing policy gaps;

3 fostering and maintaining accountability at national, regional, and global levels to ensure that investments and policies translate into practice and ultimately into health impact.

Towards increased resources for health: key moments, opportunities and achievements

The 6th replenishment of the Global Fund:

As the host of GFAN Africa, WACI Health took the lead in supporting effective regional community and civil society engagement and advocacy for the 6th replenishment of the Global Fund. This included convening and coordinating mobilization and advocacy efforts by civil society and communities in Africa including Francophone region, in partnership with [Impact Sante Afrique](#). From coordinating common messaging across the region to supporting letter writing and coordinated embassy visits among other efforts documented [here](#), this led to unprecedented social and political mobilization in our region.

Our coordinated outreach to donor countries targeted Netherlands, Finland, European Union, Japan and Canada among others. The nature of the outreach is as shared in this [blog](#) with reference to the Day of Action for Canada. The coordinated outreach targeting implementing countries included sending letters such as [this](#) to heads of state in Africa asking them to allocate more domestic resources for health and contribute to the 6th replenishment of the Global Fund.

In total, we mobilized communities and civil society in 27 African countries and contacted 14 heads of state. These efforts, as documented in [GFAN Africa's report on the 6th replenishment](#) were instrumental in realizing unprecedented social and political mobilization in our region, which contributed to the realization of USD14 billion for life-saving Global Fund programs.

Pan African Summit on HIV and Health Financing:

WACI Health joined other panelists at the high-level Pan African Summit on HIV and Health Financing held in Brazzaville, Congo in July. Addressing parliamentarians and other stakeholders present, we called for an increase in domestic resources for health in Africa and towards HIV Research and Development (R&D). The Pan African Parliament, at the end of the summit, released a [communiqué](#) calling for increased domestic resources for HIV and health.

The 12th Extraordinary Summit of the African Union:

At the 12th Extraordinary Summit of the African Union in Niger, WACI Health, as convener of CiSPHA, GFAN Africa and AfNHi engaged African Union member states and reminded their leaders of their commitments to increase investments in health. A civil society [declaration](#) with key tasks including on strengthening health systems was unveiled at the Niamey gathering.

Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM) on Investing in Health and the African Union Summit:

We supported a civil society convening, through various networks including CiSPHA, AfNHi and [GFAN Africa](#) on the side lines of the African Leadership meeting (ALM) and the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in early 2019. Through this dialogue, an appreciation among civil society on the need to strengthen advocacy for domestic resources for health was felt. Further, a call to action was issued urging African Union member states to increased resources for health R&D.

[Further details of AfNHi's work are here](#)



Budget advocacy training:

WACI Health organized a three day regional budget advocacy training for civil society. The training aimed at imparting knowledge and skills to strengthen civil society and community advocacy on health financing.



Civil society dialogue with decision makers and technical partners:

In collaboration with GFAN Africa, CiSPHA, AfNHi, and Rwanda NGOs Forum on HIV Prevention and Health Promotion, we hosted a civil society dialogue with government representatives from the Rwanda Ministry of Health, Uganda's Office of the President special program on HIV, the African Union Commission, The Global Fund and UNAIDS. The forum focused on "Domestic Resource Mobilization as a Pathway to Sustainable HIV and Health Financing in Africa" as cited in this [blog](#).



Towards policies that improve health and facilitate health equity: key moments, opportunities and achievements

Primary Health Care Strategy Group:

Our work on making progress towards Universal Health Care (UHC) is framed on the premise that UHC requires a strong primary health care as foundation of the healthcare system. As a member of the primary healthcare strategy-working group in Kenya, we advocate for stronger health systems as a pathway to better health outcomes and health equity.

Strategic input into the Primary Health Care Performance Initiative (PHCPI):

WACI Health has continued to engage and provide strategic input into discussions on Primary Health Care Performance Initiative (PHCPI). Kenya is a PHCPI trailblazer since the Global Conference on Primary Health Care in Kazakhstan in 2018. We continue to work closely with Kenya's Ministry of Health's Primary Health Care team including providing input to the PHC strategy.

Improving access to life-saving medicines for postpartum hemorrhage:

This initiative aims to raise awareness of the current challenges with, and importance of quality medicines for maternal health. Through this work, we are supporting EAC and ECOWAS member states to update their national postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) prevention and treatment guidelines and National Essential Medicines Lists to reflect the 2018 WHO Recommendations: Uterotonics for Prevention of PPH and 2019 WHO Essential Medicines List (EML) introducing amendments that will ensure greater access to quality uterotonics.

Influencing the World Bank:

We participate at World Bank Spring meetings to engage with the global organization. Beyond the spring meetings, we leverage ACTION partnership's experience with the Bank structures to engage its Africa vice presidents and other senior leadership; executive directors and country directors towards (i) increasing awareness and engagement in the region to help prioritize increased IDA and domestic investments (ii) encouraging Bank policies that are supportive of stronger and more meaningful civil society participation.

Towards improved accountability on health delivery and governance: key moments, opportunities and achievements

GFF accountability:

[The GFF We Want](#) is a campaign led by WACI Health. It aims to elevate the voice of GFF stakeholders and lessons learned by GFF implementing countries by leveraging the opportunity of the GFF replenishment to ensure that progress is made, and our voices are heard. The framework for the GFF We Want includes a tool for civil society consultation. Once the civil society provides input through the consultation tool, a report is compiled and key messages developed to facilitate engagement with key decision makers.

Commission on the Status of Women:

WACI Health, as a secretariat of GFAN Africa supports adolescent girls and young women to engage on the CSW process. In 2019, prior to the main CSW Conference in New York, WACI Health with national and local partners in South Africa worked with different stakeholders including national governments to influence country reports to UN and UN Women. The reports highlighted the challenges, progress and recommendations by South Africa to ensure that the rights of women and girls are protected. Normally, we facilitate submission of a position paper to the country delegation ahead of travel to New York.

At the main conference in New York, we support a few of the country representatives to directly engage decision makers through embassy visits, side meetings, and submissions requesting to speak from the floor at the plenary.

Accountability on ending Gender-Based Violence in South Africa:

As a member of the Task Team for the Stop Gender Violence campaign in South Africa, we provide strategic input and oversight into the implementation of the National Strategic Plan to end GBV in the country. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to ensure SA has an adequately funded National Strategic Plan and that all community members access health and justice services.



Civil society leadership

For twenty-three (23) years now, our expertise in supporting and coordinating civil society for effective advocacy remains a prime underpinning for the work we do. Through the years, we have facilitated national, regional, and global civil society coordination that help with strategic input into key decision-making processes and effective advocacy for policy change. Here, we highlight some of the platforms that help drive this kind of organizing:

1



Africa Free of New HIV Infections:

[Africa Free of New HIV Infections](#) (AfNHi) is an Africa regional advocacy network that exists to unite African Civil Society voices and action on regional advocacy for HIV prevention research. AfNHi is committed to influencing Africa regional policies in order to accelerate ethical development and delivery of HIV prevention tools towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The network seeks to fast-track the biomedical HIV prevention research agenda in the continent through local ownership, using indigenous strategies to enhance Africa's contribution to global goals.

2



Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN Africa):

[GFAN Africa](#) aims at uniting African civil society voices and action for a fully funded Global Fund. This includes domestic resource mobilization as a component for sustainable financing. GFAN Africa, hosted by WACI Health, is the Africa regional hub for GFAN. GFAN Africa's specific objectives are: (1) mobilize Africa civil society to support and engage in Global Fund resource mobilization (2) mobilize African leaders to speak in support of Global Fund resource mobilization (3) mobilize world leaders to contribute to the Global Fund (4) Urge African leaders to mobilize domestic resources and invest directly in their health programs (5) Amplify community, rights and gender considerations in Global Fund investments.

3



Civil Society Platform for Health in Africa (CiSPHA):

CiSPHA is a Pan-African advocacy platform of Civil Society working towards improved health outcomes in Africa.

4



Youth Leaders for Health:

[Youth Leaders for Health](#) is a joint program by WACI Health, RESULTS UK, Health Promotion Tanzania-HDT, Hope for Future Generations, and CISMAT-SL with support from Comic Relief. The platform facilitates and connects 25 Youth Leaders passionate about health and healthcare systems to advocate for policy change at key national, regional and global advocacy moments.

The aim is to influence decision-makers during a range of pivotal moments such as national elections, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and World Malaria Day towards ending the malaria epidemic, achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and creating lasting impact.

5



UHC2030 Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM):

[CSEM](#) is the civil society constituency of the International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030), the global movement to strengthen health systems for universal health coverage. As an Africa regional advocacy organization, WACI Health brings to this partnership over two decades of experience and expertise in civil society convening and organizing for health advocacy and accountability.

Appreciation

We appreciate our board members who continue to provide immense leadership and guidance in support of our work towards desired health outcomes.



Dudu Simelane

Dudu is the Director of Social and Human Development at the SADC Secretariat. She has been the Head of Strategy, Performance and Organizational Development at the IPPF Africa Regional Office. She has also served as Team Leader for East and Southern Africa at the IPPF Africa Regional office. Prior to that, Dudu was Regional Manager for East and Southern Africa (ESA) at the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.



Ida Jooste

Is a South African journalist, the recipient of some twenty international and South African media awards. Her journalistic work across Africa has focused on science, governance and human rights issues with a particular emphasis on HIV related and analytical storytelling.



Itai Rusike

Executive Director, Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) –Zimbabwe: Itai is a Public Health Activist with almost 20 years' experience organizing involvement of communities in health actions in Zimbabwe. He is the immediate past Deputy-Chairperson of the Public Health Advisory.



Evaline Kibuchi

Is the Chief National Coordinator, Stop TB Partnership - Kenya. She is the Africa TB Caucus Regional Director. Evaline has over a decade of experience in advocacy in public health with demonstrated commitment to reducing the burden of public.



Mike Podmore

Mike Podmore is the Executive Director of STOPAIDS. He is also a board member for the developed country NGO delegation on the board of the Global Fund.



Rosemary W. Mburu

Has been a champion for healthy communities for over fifteen years and currently serves as the Executive Director for WACI Health. Mburu is a civil society leader in Africa and has extensively worked on supporting civil society.



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