

Catalyzing Change: Toward Health for All in Africa

Annual Report 2022





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Contact us

 www.wacihealth.org

Nairobi, Kenya : rosemary@wacihealth.org

Cape Town, South Africa : tabeth@wacihealth.org

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia : fitsum@wacihealth.org

Tel: +254 711 308 858

Tel: +27 (71) 493 9690

Tel: +251 911 686 246

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Vision

Health for all in Africa

Mission

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

Core Values

- Equity focused
- Human rights orientation
- Participation and Collaborations
- Diversity
- Accountability

USHERING IN A NEW STRATEGIC ERA

Through a consultative process led by the WACI Health Board, the WACI Health Strategic Plan 2022–2027 was launched.

Strategic Goals:

- *Increased resources for health:* by advocating with governments and international agencies to step up their investments in health
- *Adoption of regional and national policies and reforms that improve health and equity:* by defining and advocating for progressive policy change
- *Enhanced accountability in health governance and delivery:* by ensuring that commitments, investments and policies translate into practice, and into equitable health impact
- *Health Systems that are equitable and responsive to people's needs:* by ensuring that health systems work for people

ABBREVIATIONS

AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
AUC	African Union Commission
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CiSPHA	Civil Society Platform on Health in Africa
CSEM	Civil Society Engagement Mechanism
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EML	Essential Medicines List
GBV	Gender-based violence
GFAN	Global Fund Advocates Network
HSC	Heat-stable carbetocin
MoH	Ministry of Health
PHC	Primary Health Care
SRHR	Sexual reproductive health and rights
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
TXA	Tranexamic acid
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Note from the Executive Director

As we navigate the numerous challenges unearthed and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting the health of people worldwide, I am continually inspired by the innovation and dedication demonstrated by the global health community. There has never been a more critical moment to focus on building people-centered, equitable, and responsive health systems.

Amid mounting challenges—and in fact, with the objective of addressing them—WACI Health stands resolute in our commitment to improving health outcomes for all in Africa. Our presence has expanded, and our influence continues to grow. We champion health equity across the region with governments, program implementers, civil society, and communities. We are invested in capacity strengthening, knowledge sharing, community engagement, and empowering youth to become champions of equitable health care systems. Our networks of engagement extend across the global, regional, and national levels.

This year, we launched a new strategic plan in response to our growing and intensifying scope of work. It acknowledges the breadth of advocacy work we have been engaging in, from addressing life-threatening epidemics to tackling



rising concerns brought on by climate change and recognizing the need for concerted advocacy to build solidarity and expand fiscal space for health.

Our goals for the road ahead remain clear: advocate for increased resources for health, define and advocate for progressive policy change, ensure that commitments and policies translate into equitable health impact, and build health systems that are responsive to people's needs.

We extend our deep gratitude to the WACI Health Board, supporters, and partners who contribute to our mission. Your support and collaboration are invaluable as we continue to push forward progress in policies and actions that achieve health for all in Africa.

Rosemary Mburu
Executive Director



Key Moments in 2022

> INCREASED RESOURCES FOR HEALTH > POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR HEALTH EQUITY > ACCOUNTABILITY IN HEALTH GOVERNANCE > RESPONSIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS

Increased resources for health

Highlights of Key Moments, Opportunities and Achievements

LEADING GFAN AFRICA THROUGH THE REPLENISHMENT OF THE GLOBAL FUND

Hosted by WACI Health, the **Global Fund Advocates Network Africa (GFAN Africa)** is a social movement that demands health for all by recruiting, connecting, and mobilizing health advocates to communicate the urgent need for a fully funded Global Fund to defeat HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria as epidemics. GFAN Africa also leads civil society and communities in efforts towards advocacy for Governments in Africa to increase allocation of domestic resources for health.

In 2022, communities and civil society in **over 30 African countries** participated in the GFAN Africa movement for the 7th Replenishment of the Global Fund.¹ There was unprecedented political mobilization by community and civil society in support of the replenishment due to GFAN Africa's work. This mobilization strategy was implemented under two phased-out regional and social mobilization campaigns. **'The Torch Caravan, from Cape to Cairo'** campaign served to amplify twenty years of Global Fund's impact in Africa.

With the launch of the Seventh replenishment and the global campaign to 'Fight for What Counts', GFAN Africa led the **'Meet the Target'** campaign. Civil society was mobilized, held consultations, spoke at key events, wrote letters and media statements, and engaged stakeholders including parliamentarians, the media, and Heads of State.

FOUR STRATEGIC PILLARS, FIVE PRIORITY TACTICS

WACI Health's work and campaigns for GFAN Africa are organized under four strategies:

- communities and civil society capacity strengthening for advocacy;
- generation of advocacy tools and evidence;
- social and political mobilization;
- partnerships and linkages.

The priority tactics are engagement with communities and civil society, parliamentarians, youth, and media alongside champion building.

¹ Countries covered were Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

WACI Health, through GFAN Africa and with partners, hosted multiple briefings for **over 30 members of parliament** from Africa and from donor countries in order to keep them up to date and engage them on the campaign trail, an essential strategy to build allies for the replenishment. In addition to supporting the replenishment, African MPs through the briefings spoke passionately in support of the domestic resource mobilization agenda.

In partnership with the Global Fund Secretariat, GFAN Africa reached **ten Heads of State in Africa** to stand as champions for the Seventh Replenishment.² The champions were asked to speak publicly in support of the replenishment, to reach out to their counterparts in donor countries, encourage 30% increase in pledges, and motivate for early pledges.



GFAN Africa urged champions to make **solidarity pledges and show leadership in domestic resource mobilization**. In total, 18 African countries – including nine of the GFAN Africa targets – pledged a combined amount of over USD\$62 million. Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe **contributed to the Seventh Replenishment**.

With every replenishment, GFAN Africa's work contributes to **stronger capacity of community and civil society networks** in Africa to engage in and influence Global Fund resource mobilization.

LEADERSHIP AT REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ADVOCACY MOMENTS

While there were many key opportunities and entry points for replenishment advocacy, GFAN Africa prioritized the following: preparatory meeting by five African leaders; Global Week of Action; Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM); Kigali Summit on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases; African Union Summit in Zambia; AIDS 2022 in Montreal; Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8); Africa Regional Week of Action.

² Countries reached included: Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Togo, and Cote d'Ivoire.

Adoption of regional and national policies and reforms that improve health and equity

Highlights of Key Moments, Opportunities and Achievements

BUILDING LEADERSHIP FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

WACI Health **champions primary health care (PHC)**, building on the work of previous years and in collaboration with CSOs in the national, sub-national, and regional levels.

WACI Health has been a member of the Kenyan Ministry of Health (MoH)'s technical working group to drive Primary Health Care (PHC) implementation and roll-out of PHC initiatives at the national and sub-national levels. WACI Health also collaborates with other civil society on PHC advocacy projects in Kenya and provides technical support to the MoH to implement PHC priorities and other initiatives supported through this work.

In 2022, the WACI Health and civil society partners **documented the role of civil society** advocacy in improving PHC in Kenya. The group also **oriented new policymakers** about PHC and the latest guidance for their prioritization in planning.

WACI Health with civil society in Kenya **developed the 'CSO Health Manifesto'**, a position document outlining priorities in health for the elected government. The political manifesto elevated PHC as a priority, signaling a step forward to create the

political will needed for PHC implementation and financing in Kenya.

WACI Health continues to elevate PHC in agenda-setting and health planning at the national and sub-national levels. A **high-level roundtable**, co-convened by WACI Health, brought together the Director General of Health, the head of the department on PHC, the head of the division of PHC, and civil society. Based on this project, a set of **'key asks' for PHC** were developed to ensure PHC implementation is on track while county governments make plans for the next five years.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY MATERNAL LIFESAVING MEDICINE

WACI Health is working toward **policy and health system changes** that ensure access to quality maternal health services, especially for the treatment of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH). PPH is defined as a blood loss of 500ml or more within 24 hours of childbirth. It is the number one direct cause of maternal mortality globally, with 99% of maternal deaths due to obstetric hemorrhage occurring in low-income countries. PPH-related deaths can be prevented through the administration of a quality prophylactic uterotonic immediately after birth. While the WHO recommends oxytocin as the first line of

of uterotonic for the prevention of PPH, oxytocin requires cold chain storage to remain effective, which has proven to be a challenge in low-income countries. In 2019, WHO guidelines were updated to include heat-stable carbetocin (HSC) and tranexamic acid (TXA) for use in the prevention and treatment of PPH. These medicines have also been included in the WHO 2019 essential medicines list (EML) revision.

WACI Health advocacy aimed to close the gap between these global evidence-based recommendations and the implementation of HSC and TXA in priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa by **ensuring national norms and standards are in place and healthcare providers are trained in implementing these interventions.**

With Concept Foundation and other partners, the project made progress in including these PPH recommendations within national guidelines, the Essential Package of Health Services and/or Health Benefit Packages. Six countries in sub-Saharan Africa were prioritized: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Uganda.

CHAMPIONING HIV PREVENTION OPTIONS FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Over the years, WACI Health has been a leading voice to promote and expand HIV prevention services for adolescent girls and young women at risk of HIV

infection. WACI Health and LVCT Health — together with youth organizations in Kenya such as the Ambassador for Youth and Adolescent Reproductive Health Program (AYARHEP) and Positive Women's Voices — founded the **'With Me, In Me' campaign to support improved sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for adolescent girls and young women.**

The campaign demands: i) Expanded choice for HIV prevention interventions for young women, ii) combination HIV prevention that addresses community needs, iii) protection against gender-based violence and the inclusion of women in all their diversities.

The campaign has continued to grow throughout 2022. Plans are currently underway to grow into a national campaign that will be instrumental to mobilize adolescent girls and young women to advocate for and demand the introduction of the dapivirine ring, which is an important additional HIV prevention option for women.

WACI Health supported the African Union Commission (AUC) to celebrate **World AIDS Day** in December 2022 through agenda-setting and promotion materials. WACI Health Executive Director Rosemary Mburu made a presentation on HIV prevention choices, including the dapivirine ring, highlighting its regulatory approval and introduction to the member states.

GALVANIZING ACTION TO END MALARIA

WACI Health, in collaboration with Malaria No More UK, hosts the **Zero Malaria Campaign Coalition (ZMCC) Kenya**. The ZMCC provides a multi-stakeholder platform to elevate the importance of malaria prevention, treatment, and control on the national and sub-national agenda.

The coalition engages key stakeholders, including policymakers, county governments, media, and civil society, and implemented creative communication strategies to achieve its objectives of increasing political commitment, mobilizing resources, and strengthening community ownership to combat malaria.

The ZMCC secretariat worked with the Council of Governors and county

governments to embed malaria within the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). This inclusion ensures that **malaria initiatives are prioritized and budgeted for at the county level.**

Additionally, the coalition has collaborated with the Ministry of Youth and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) to **integrate malaria into county youth policy documents.** The ZMCC has also led efforts to **increase resources** for malaria prevention, treatment, and control.

The coalition's engagement of Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association has generated visibility and leadership for the control and elimination of malaria in Kenya. Association members, including parliamentarians and women's representatives, have joined the Malaria Working Group and will advocate for malaria elimination in their legislative



Photo: ZMCC Campaign balloon at SolFest (Malaria No More UK)

platforms. Their leadership, facilitated by ZMCC, helps **prioritize malaria in national and county policy making and budgeting processes.**

The ZMCC is continuing its focus on **strengthening community ownership and spearheading communications strategies** on the path to end malaria. County community stakeholder workshops have been conducted to gather local insights for campaign messaging contextualization and to develop community accountability action plans. The ZMCC partnered with media houses and journalists to raise awareness through social behavior change communication strategies and media stories at the national and county levels.

The ZMCC has leveraged creative communication strategies to raise awareness about the Zero Malaria Campaign and amplify its impact. Through the Ambassador Relations Program, key talent, such as the popular music group Sauti Sol, has been recruited to engage with the public and shape public perception about malaria. A fundraising event for malaria at the music festival SolFest, featuring Sauti Sol, attracted 15,000 attendees.

The ZMCC plans to continue its efforts in the next period, including sustaining stakeholder engagement, expanding the Ambassador Relations Program, developing campaign assets, and strengthening media engagement.

Enhanced accountability in health governance and delivery

Highlights of Key Moments, Opportunities and Achievements

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY FOR ADVOCACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The **Joint Learning Agenda (JLA) on Health Financing and Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** is a capacity building programme for civil society on advocacy and accountability in favor of health financing for UHC. It is led by WACI Health and Impact Santé Afrique (ISA) with a consortium of global health initiatives including the Global Financing Facility (GFF), The Global Fund, The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, Gavi, and UHC2030.

Under WACI Health's leadership, 292 civil society representatives undertook the JLA training to **strengthen national level community and civil society advocacy capabilities.** The training provided critical knowledge and understanding of the

health financing landscape and budget making processes. A cohort of highly knowledgeable trainees with the ability to impact health financing policy at the national and county level now understand sustainable ways to finance UHC in a resource-constrained setting. Beyond these numbers, there would be a ripple effect across civil society coalitions, networks, and organizations towards more effective advocacy.

These trainings also served as an opportunity for participants in each country **to expand and grow their network of allies in health financing advocacy**. This ranged from engaging and partnering with members of parliament to media to other players in the health financing advocacy space. In most countries, the trainings also **brought together more public sector partners** to the advocacy space in partnership with civil society.

The general **objective of the JLA** is to enhance civil society's voice on health financing for UHC.

The specific objectives are to:

- Increase CSOs' capacity to perform their role as independent and credible actors;
- Promote a meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in health financing, through advocacy and accountability activities;
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Government representatives joined as guest speakers; this involvement of the ministries of health, finance, and others added value and enhanced dialogue between CSOs and government.

For practitioners in the health financing and budgeting processes in the African region, a two-part **training on domestic resource mobilization (DRM)** was also organized. The sessions aimed at building capacity for advocates across health issue areas to increase levels of domestic funding and accountability for evidence-informed HIV prevention, research and development in Africa. Nearly 60 advocates working on HIV prevention and SRHR attended the sessions.

In addition, WACI Health pushed to **build mentorship and leadership opportunities for young advocates** in the region. Twelve young people between the ages of 18 and 24 participated in a structured mentorship program designed to enhance youth leadership and engagement in health advocacy and policy. The program brought mentors and mentees together to discuss both theoretical and practical aspects of advocacy and policy. Mentees developed and implemented advocacy plans with support from the program. Joint activities were also organized with other youth engagement initiatives, including the WACI Youth Leadership Program.

Health systems that are equitable and responsive to people's needs

Highlights of Key Moments, Opportunities and Achievements

PARTNERING FOR PEOPLE-CENTERED HEALTH SYSTEMS

Strong, equitable health systems require strong political leadership and collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders. While there is no one-size-fits-all solution to gaps and challenges faced by health systems, WACI Health's approach is **convene multi-stakeholder partnerships, foster knowledge exchange across stakeholders and countries, and support the political leadership needed** to reform health systems and ensure they are people-centered.

One key partnership is with the Africa Centers for Disease Control (Africa CDC), where WACI Health's convening role has brought together a diverse range of stakeholders to share research findings through the **Civil Society Platform on Health in Africa (CiSPHA)**.

WACI Health focused efforts on fostering knowledge-sharing and building connections in the region, including through a civil society speaking role on nutrition at the African Union event in Botswana and by facilitating civil society consultations. A first-of-its-kind event was organized to bring together the Africa CDC with Africa civil society to exchange

knowledge and insights through a webinar consultation.

In addition, WACI Health works closely with Aidsfonds, which is the African Union Commission Focal Organization. In collaboration with Aidsfonds, an **analysis of the state of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in ten African countries**, using an HIV service lens, was completed.

This included conducting extensive research to understand the impact of health policies, particularly for key and vulnerable populations, and the accessibility of essential medical services. The analysis also highlighted the role and participation of CSOs in policy and program discussions on UHC.

At the global level, WACI Health continues this leadership in convening stakeholders and advocating for strong health systems for UHC as the co-host of the **Civil Society Mechanism for UHC2030 (CSEM)**. In 2021 and 2022, the CSEM and partners led 37 civil society consultations to capture the stories, experiences and perspectives of civil society and communities that show the real progress made toward UHC on the ground. Participants highlighted

recommendations that shaped a joint advocacy strategy to hold leaders accountable at the UN High-Level Meeting on UHC.

WACI Health is a part of the **ACTION Global Health Partnership**, a network of locally rooted organizations that advocate for life-saving care for preventable diseases led by a secretariat at RESULTS Educational Fund. As part of the network, WACI Health engaged at the World Bank meetings in Marrakech, and hosted a series of webinars to explore CSO and community participation.

The list of partnerships continues to grow as WACI Health's scope of work and leadership at the regional and global levels intensify. In 2022, WACI Health's engagement with the GFAN Side meeting, participation in the Tokyo International Conference on African

Development (TICAD 8) focusing on malaria response, and ongoing engagements with African Union civil society, UNDP, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have all been pivotal in advancing the mission.

The significant milestones of the last year – including strategic advocacy supporting the Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund and targeted work for key issue areas such as primary healthcare, maternal health, HIV prevention, and malaria control – demonstrate some areas of WACI Health's broader scope of work advancing health equity and accountability for health. With the support and collaboration of our partners and stakeholders, we are poised to continue driving positive change and improving health outcomes across the region, moving towards our vision of a healthier and more just world.





www.wacihealth.org
infodesk@wacihealth.org

Nairobi, Kenya
rosemary@wacihealth.org
Tel: +254 711 308 858

Cape Town, South Africa
tabeth@wacihealth.org
Tel: +27 (71) 4939690

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
fitsum@wacihealth.org
Tel: +251 912 623 935