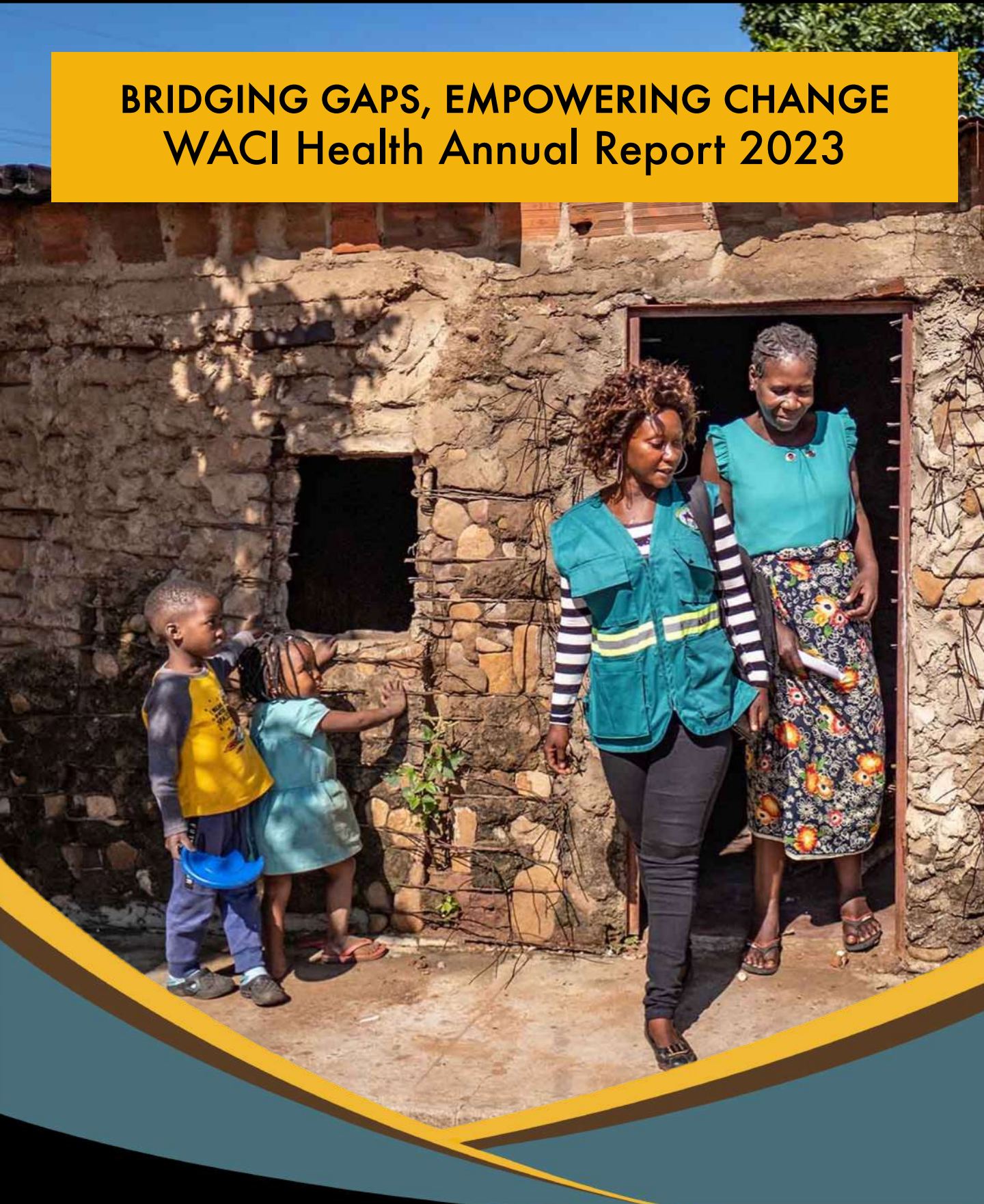



BRIDGING GAPS, EMPOWERING CHANGE
WACI Health Annual Report 2023





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ABOUT WACI HEALTH

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.

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.

PILLARS OF WORK



ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------|---|
| ACT | Africa Coalition on Tuberculosis |
| ADI | Addis Declaration on Immunization |
| AfNHi | Africa Free of New HIV Infections |
| AMA | African Medicines Agency |
| AU | African Union |
| AUC | African Union Commission |
| AWPCAB | African Women Prevention Community Accountability Board |
| BHPF | Biomedical HIV Prevention Forum |
| DRM | Domestic resource mobilization |
| CAP-TB | Common Africa Position on Tuberculosis |
| CARMMA | Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa |
| CIDP | County Integrated Development Plan |
| CiSPHA | Civil Society Platform on Health in Africa |
| CPHIA | Conference of Public Health in Africa |
| CSEM | Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 |
| CSO | Civil society organization |
| GBV | Gender-based violence |
| GFAN | Global Fund Advocates Network |
| GFF | Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents |
| HLM | High-Level Meeting |
| JLA | Joint Learning Agenda on Health Financing and Universal Health Coverage |
| MDR TB | Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis |
| MoH | Ministry of Health |
| PHC | Primary health care |
| PPH | Postpartum hemorrhage |
| RMNCAH | Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health |
| Run4TB | Rise Up Now for Tuberculosis |
| SAHTAC | South African Health Technologies Advocacy Coalition |
| SANAC | South African National AIDS Council |
| SRHR | Sexual and reproductive health and rights |
| TB | Tuberculosis |
| UHC | Universal Health Coverage |
| UN | United Nations |
| ZMCC | Zero Malaria Campaign Coalition |



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rosemary Mburu
Executive Director, WACI Health

The world is in a new era of uncertainty, grappling with a confluence of crises: pandemics, wars and conflicts, and climate change. We have not fully recovered from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly impacted health, lives, and livelihoods around the world. In addition to the direct impacts on health and health systems, the deep social and economic wounds have further compounded barriers to achieving health for all and increased challenges in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Through COVID-19 response and the 2023 Africa Climate Summit, African leaders have demonstrated their readiness to engage in collective action. Further, in September 2023, the African Union joined the G20 as a permanent member, a recognition of the continent's pivotal role as a global power, backed by a young and rapidly growing population.

In the context of this need for and new opportunities in political leadership, WACI Health sharpens our resolve to champion improved health outcomes for all in Africa. We are committed to promoting effective, inclusive, and cohesive community and civil society leadership and engagement to ensure that the global community delivers equitable access to medical countermeasures.

As Executive Director, I have the honor of leading a small but dynamic team with a deep commitment to our core values of tolerance, authenticity, leadership, accountability, and learning. This year, our journey together included new and expanded strategic engagements, partnerships, and achievements, including a brand refresh.

In August, we were granted a special consultative status with the United Nations, extending our reach in global health advocacy. This status enables WACI Health to deepen our engagement with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, the Human Rights Council, and the United Nations Secretariat as well as specific meetings of the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies.

In the times ahead, we face formidable challenges and our dedication to equity remains most critical. In 2023, we saw Uganda enact an Anti-Homosexuality Act in a period when several other countries are considering policies and laws threatening the rights and well-being of LGBTQIA+ communities.

Such challenges to achieving health equity reiterate a sharpened focus on our strategic goals: 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. Emphasizing innovation and learning, particularly in the intersection of climate and health, remains at the forefront of our strategy. This year, we are intentionally on a learning journey in these areas.

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. Together, we are committed to building a healthier, more equitable future.

Rosemary Mburu
Executive Director

KEY MOMENTS IN 2023



INCREASED RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

Highlights of Key Moments, Opportunities and Achievements

WACI Health continued to spearhead efforts toward sustainable health financing and equitable health access, fostering multi-stakeholder dialogues and building collaborations in support of increased resources for health both within Kenya and across Africa.

ESTABLISHING REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

WACI Health, as host of the Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) Africa, facilitated a high-level **regional dialogue for parliamentarians and civil society** on increasing health financing in Africa — particularly through domestic resource mobilization (DRM) for health. The meeting, held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2023, **established the Regional Parliamentarians Task Force on Domestic Resource Mobilization for Health in Africa**. The Task Force is a pivotal step in driving momentum for DRM in the region and pushing toward sustainable health financing. Countries currently represented in the Task Force are Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Senegal, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The primary goal of the Task Force is to mobilize domestic resources, particularly for programs addressing HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. This includes strengthening community health systems, incorporating universal health coverage in national policies, and bridging gaps in health programs. WACI Health coordinates the Task Force, which will also serve as a platform for sharing best practices and fostering collaboration with civil society organizations. Continued engagement with the Task Force will be a critical avenue to strengthen regional advocacy for domestic health financing.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES FOR HEALTH FINANCING IN KENYA

WACI Health and its civil society partners participated in the **Kenya Country National Dialogue on Health Financing** to improve health financing in Kenya. The program aimed to increase government mobilization of health funds, reduce out-of-pocket health expenses for citizens, and promote equitable distribution of health services.

WACI Health led a platform for civil society to engage in the dialogue in collaboration with the reference group. Civil society developed a position paper focusing on key aspects of health financing — emphasizing health equity and underlining the importance of leadership, good governance, and coordination mechanisms for health financing.

Through concerted efforts and strong engagement, **civil society input was included in national health financing reforms**. Partners included HENNET, NEPHAK, KANCO, the Stop TB Partnership, and the Key Population Consortium of Kenya.



Kenya Country National Dialogue on Health Financing, 26–27 April 2023

BUILDING THE GFF WE WANT

Launched in 2015, the Global Financing Facility (GFF) is a multi-stakeholder partnership to address sexual and reproductive health; maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health; and nutrition through targeted strengthening of primary health care systems.

WACI Health is a key participant in the **"GFF Deliver the Future"** campaign, an initiative led by the governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, and the Netherlands in partnership with the World Bank. This campaign aims to raise US\$800 million by 2023 and US\$20.5 billion by 2025, focusing on **empowering civil society organizations** to improve the health of women, children, and adolescents in vulnerable communities. WACI Health worked with partners including the GFF

CSO Coordinating Group, ACTION Global Health Partnership, and the GFF NGO Host at PAI in this global effort to support the GFF and advance sustainable development goals.

To complement the resource mobilization efforts, WACI Health leads the **GFF We Want Campaign**, which elevates the voice of GFF stakeholders and brings lessons from implementing countries into the global conversation. Through the campaign, WACI Health plays a crucial role in highlighting the importance of GFF contributions to governments; this work was particularly important in cultivating pledges from donors such as Australia, Canada, the European Commission, France, United Kingdom, and the United States.

WACI Health **facilitated the sharing of best practices and knowledge among civil society coalitions**, which further enhanced country-level actions and strengthened global commitments. The GFF We Want campaign also generated active youth engagement through social media and digital platforms, amplifying the campaign's reach and objectives.

A significant milestone was the launch of the **GFF We Want Assessment Report** in 2023, which offered a comprehensive analysis of the GFF's impact in ten countries: Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The release of this report, coupled with the dissemination of assessment findings and targeted social media campaigns,

supported multi-stakeholder mobilization for the campaign. WACI Health also contributed to updating the GFF "Wall of Fame," which features donor pledges and civil society stories, underscoring the campaign's progress and inspiring further contributions. A series of roundtables held throughout 2023, including those leading up to the GFF Resource Mobilization event in Berlin, were instrumental in planning for the pledging event, enhancing media coverage, and engaging influencers to spotlight the campaign.

WACI Health's involvement in the GFF We Want campaign in 2023 was marked by significant achievements and collaborative efforts, playing a key role in advocating for and securing a healthier future for vulnerable populations globally. As the campaign progresses, WACI Health will continue to focus on ensuring civil society voices from implementing countries are heard and amplified, helping to mobilize resources and strengthen the impact of GFF for communities.



ADOPTION OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICIES AND REFORMS THAT IMPROVE HEALTH AND EQUITY

Highlights of Key Moments, Opportunities and Achievements

FURTHERING HEALTH EQUITY AND INNOVATION

In 2023, WACI Health continued to champion health research and development (R&D), in particular underscoring the importance of community engagement for R&D, mobilizing partners, and advocating for equitable access to essential medicines and health innovations.

WACI Health is a member of South African Health Technologies Advocacy Coalition (SAHTAC) and the Coalition to Health Research and Development (CHReaD). Both are multisectoral coalitions that advocate for an enabling environment for research, development, and access to life-saving health technologies and innovations. Notably in 2023, the SAHTAC engaged with the Ministry of Health to push for a price reduction of Bedaquiline and advocate for the use of its generic version under the Global Drug Facility. This effort aimed to increase access to this essential treatment for multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB).

In August 2023, WACI Health with SAHTAC co-hosted a well-received podcast that highlighted policies and programs for women in connection with Women's Month in South Africa.

WACI Health also worked with SAHTAC and CHReaD partners to advocate for the ratification of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) Treaty with sufficient and sustainable investments in health R&D, particularly in South Africa and Kenya. The AMA, established in November 2021, is crucial for sustainable investment in Health R&D across Africa. To date, 27 African Union Member States have ratified the AMA Treaty.

Finally, with partners in SAHTAC's Positioning and Capacity Task Team, WACI Health contributed to enhancing civil society's understanding of the budget process and identifying areas of action; this included developing strategies to engage decision-makers in budget advocacy for health R&D. WACI Health will continue to expand this work to push for increased domestic investments for R&D as well as to ensure equitable access to health innovations.

R&D in the WACI Health Strategic Plan 2022-2027

Pillar 3 in the WACI Health Strategic Plan is focused on "Innovation and Learning." This area specifically includes the need for options and choices that address the diverse needs of people and communities.

STRENGTHENING MULTI STAKEHOLDER ACTIONS TO END MALARIA

WACI Health collaborates with Malaria No More UK to host the Zero Malaria Campaign Coalition (ZMCC) Kenya, which provides a multi-stakeholder platform to elevate the importance of malaria prevention, treatment, and control on the national and sub-national agenda. The ZMCC achieved significant strides in 2023, strengthening communications on malaria, mobilizing resources, and amplifying community voices through a localized communications and branding campaign.



World Malaria Day event in Kenya, 25 April 2023

The coalition engaged key stakeholders, including policymakers, county governments, influencers, journalists, and civil society to raise awareness and build momentum for malaria eradication. ZMCC Kenya collaborated with the Division of National Malaria Programme to include malaria in the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), which marked a strategic step in integrating malaria control into local governance. The coalition also engaged with Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association and the Ministry of Health to spotlight malaria as a crucial national health issue.

ZMCC Kenya's multi-faceted approach through WACI Health's leadership helped elevate malaria as a priority in national and county policymaking and budgeting processes. Partners in this work spanned civil society, government, donor, and media actors, including: End Malaria Council, USAID-PMI, Amref, Dentsu, DNR, Impact Philanthropy Africa, Kenya Editors Guild, Amref Health Africa, Johnson and Johnson Foundation, Standard Media Group, National Division Malaria Programme, Council of Governors, National Government Affirmative Action Fund, and the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association.



ZMCC Kenya onboarded prominent celebrities such as Sauti Sol, Abel Mutua, and Yvonne Okwara as malaria ambassadors. Their influence has been instrumental in raising awareness and contributing to the fight against malaria. Community members were further mobilized through a communications campaign themed “Zero Malaria Starts with Me,” which was adapted for the local context.

COLLABORATING FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

WACI Health continues to champion primary health care (PHC) as a member of the technical working group on PHC under the Kenyan Ministry of Health (MoH). As a critical collaborator, WACI Health worked with CSOs to elevate PHC and drive implementation of PHC initiatives across Kenya.

ELEVATING COMMUNITY VOICES IN THE TB RESPONSE

In 2023, WACI Health's 'Rise Up Now for TB' (Run4TB) program played a pivotal role in catalyzing civil society and community voices for TB advocacy in South Africa and the Africa region, including Ethiopia and Kenya.

WACI Health led a subgroup focused on the United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB within the South African National AIDS Council Civil Society Forum (SANAC CSF) TB Task Team. Through the subgroup's efforts, an advocacy letter was shared on World TB Day with the South African President, the Minister of Health, and the Director-General for Health emphasizing the importance of fulfilling HLM commitments.

The group also prepared civil society and communities to engage with Heads of States and government contacts attending the Multi-Stakeholder Hearing

on TB in New York. Following up on the Hearing, WACI Health collaborated with partners to develop a letter to the Ministry of Health on key asks and representation at the HLM.

Additionally, WACI Health and the task team worked with the SANAC Secretariat, National Health Portfolio Committee, and the Global TB caucus to launch the National TB Caucus in South Africa. Through the work of the task team, three provinces had successfully launched TB caucuses: Eastern Cape, North West, and Western Cape.

At the regional level, WACI Health's engagement with the African Union (AU) played a critical role in raising awareness of TB and advocating for policies that effectively address the epidemic. WACI Health employed a multifaceted approach, combining high-level events and strategic civil society collaborations to strengthen the collective response to TB.

For example, WACI Health worked with the Africa Coalition on TB (ACT) to host the One Africa TB Summit. The event brought together over 40 delegates from various sectors, including CSOs, community-based organizations, key and vulnerable population groups, women's groups, along with regional and global partners. The Summit attendees revisited the 2018 Common African Position on TB (CAP-TB) and articulated key regional advocacy priorities and action plans following up on the UN HLM on TB. There was also a focus on sensitizing

Run4TB's primary objectives in 2023:

1. Sustaining and increasing political support for the UN HLM targets and commitments in South Africa and other influential UN Member States, including AU Member States, G20 countries, and BRICS partners.
2. Boosting political support for investments in community, rights, and gender considerations in TB programming in South Africa.
3. Enhancing the participation and engagement of TB-affected communities in TB planning, advocacy, and accountability in South Africa.

CSOs on the tools and approaches needed to address human rights and gender barriers in accessing quality TB services. A regional communique on TB was released as an output of the event and a drafting team has been formed to develop the new CAP-TB, which will be a critical tool in bringing together African civil society voices for TB.

World TB Day in 2023 was commemorated in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) in The Gambia. Under the theme "Yes! We Can End TB," the event was led by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of The Gambia, alongside Africa CDC, WHO AFRO, the Global Fund, WACI Health, and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. This commemoration focused on the urgent need for increased investments in evidence-based, community-centered approaches to accelerate progress toward ending TB in Africa by 2030.

WACI Health's convening role in the region, especially through the Civil Society Platform on Health in Africa (CiSPHA), remains pivotal to amplify civil society voices and ensure the needs of affected communities are central in the TB response. Looking forward, the CAP-TB will be finalized, validated, and disseminated to support the active engagement of African civil society in global TB policy discussions and to advocate for more robust, coordinated actions by AU Member States to combat TB.

ADVANCING COMMITMENTS TO HIV PREVENTION AND EQUITY

In 2023, the Africa Free of New HIV Infections (AfNHi) network, which includes WACI Health as a key member, made significant strides in HIV prevention research advocacy. A landmark achievement was the development and launch of the Choice Manifesto, in partnership with the African Women Prevention Community Accountability Board (AWPCAB) and other organizations. This manifesto, advocating for diverse HIV prevention options for African women and girls, received an endorsement from the Executive Director of UNAIDS. It represents a collective voice calling for sustained political and financial support for HIV prevention choices, bringing together stakeholders from various countries and securing commitments for its support and implementation. AfNHi serves as the communications lead within the AWPCAB and has been instrumental in amplifying the Manifesto's development and dissemination.



Choice Manifesto Launch, 8 September 2023



A key highlight of the year was the 6th Biomedical HIV Prevention Forum (BHPF) in Zimbabwe, organized by AfNHi with support from a committee of global HIV prevention organizations. The BHPF discussed the latest advancements in biomedical HIV prevention, emphasizing the significance of choice in these efforts. The forum facilitated conversations on how interventions can be more accessible and preferable by those who need them.

A panel discussion at the BHPF focused on the Choice Manifesto, examining its implications for the future of HIV prevention. Additionally, collaborative roundtables with WHO and other partners explored the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) with universal health coverage (UHC).

AfNHi also commemorated HIV Vaccine Awareness Day with initiatives to debunk myths surrounding HIV vaccines. Digital media campaigns commemorating International Women's Day and World AIDS Day raised awareness about HIV prevention options for women and girls. Additionally, AfNHi reaffirmed the commitment to equity through a strong advocacy campaign against anti-homosexuality laws in Uganda, issuing a statement to African leaders advocating for the promotion of human rights.

The onboarding of a new cohort in the AfNHi's Youth Leadership and Advocacy Program highlights the network's continued commitment to nurturing future leaders in HIV advocacy. AfNHi plans to maintain its mentorship program in the coming years, as well as lead the ongoing dissemination of the Choice Manifesto to galvanize HIV prevention in Africa.

PROMOTING REGIONAL REFORMS FOR MATERNAL HEALTH

WACI Health has been engaging with the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA Plus). This initiative, endorsed by the AU Policy Organs, aims to support AU Member States with efforts to end preventable deaths, ensure health and well-being, and expand enabling environments for women, children and adolescents. Its focus aligns with key strategies from the Africa Health Strategy and the Maputo Plan of Action, emphasizing sustained advocacy for maternal health and the implementation of SRHR frameworks.

The CARMMA Plus Partners' Workshop held in South Africa in 2023 convened stakeholders, including WACI Health, and outlined joint efforts, particularly in broadening accountability and

partnership for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) and improving SRHR outcomes for adolescents. WACI Health presented on work conducted with AU Member States in facilitating the update of national guidelines and Essential Medicines Lists to include Heat Stable Carbetocin (HSC) for prevention, and tranexamic acid (TXA) for management of postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) and supporting countries to update Essential Packages of Health Services to prioritize the financing of PPH interventions.

This work was done in partnership with the Concept Foundation, building on WACI Health's previous advocacy experience on PPH and RMNCAH. Future engagement with CARMMA Plus and partners will continue to strengthen the regional response to maternal health challenges.

WACI Health and Concept Foundation are hosting the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the WHO PPH treatment trials in five countries (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and India) to ensure that the views of communities, civil society organizations, women, and other stakeholders are centered in the clinical trials. Among other duties, the CAB will monitor progress, ensure that project outputs and outcomes are shared with community networks and organizations, especially communities of women, and provide the project team with the views of the community on the adoption of WHO recommendations for PPH prevention and treatment, including those related to HSC.



ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHT TO HEALTH FOR ALL

In its role as the GFAN Africa Secretariat and member of the AfNHi network, WACI Health centers a commitment to equity and inclusivity. Guided by this principle, the Africa Unite Solidarity Forum brought together partners in East Africa and South Africa to provide technical support, create a safe space, and lead on advocacy that promote the rights of LGBTQI+ community and repeal anti-LGBTQI+ laws in Africa.

In 2023, a joint statement from partners under this collaboration calling for the repeal of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in Uganda was submitted to the Uganda Commission and its offices in Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Members of the AfNHi network and GFAN Africa joined hands in solidarity with civil society in Uganda, recording cases of human rights violations against the LGBTQI+ community and submitting petitions to the court. The networks also led an Africa-centric action during the UN HLM on UHC in New York, emphasizing the principle of "leaving no one behind" and advocating for the right to health for all.

GFAN Africa and AfNHi continue to provide a critical safe space for communities, civil society, and activists to reflect on a harsh and shrinking space for key populations. Moving forward, this collaboration will continue to expand, particularly in assessing the situation in Uganda and advocating for equitable policies in the region.



Africa Regional Day of Action, 26 July 2023

ENHANCED ACCOUNTABILITY IN HEALTH GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY

Highlights of Key Moments, Opportunities and Achievements

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2023, the Joint Learning Agenda (JLA) on Health Financing and UHC spearheaded by WACI Health and Impact Santé Afrique continued to make substantial strides in enhancing civil society's role in health financing advocacy. The JLA is a capacity-building program for civil society on advocacy and accountability to support health financing for UHC. It was implemented with a consortium of global health initiatives including the GFF, the Global Fund, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Gavi, and UHC2030.

In total, the JLA program successfully developed a cadre of 40 trainers in health financing advocacy and accountability. These advocates are now equipped to deliver trainings to country level actors from civil society, media and governments as well as to provide in-country support to budget advocacy and accountability activities undertaken by CSOs. This effort created a pool of experts supporting local, national, and regional initiatives and expanded understanding of health financing among civil society.

The program's second phase aimed to translate knowledge into action through

tailored capacity-building, technical assistance, mentoring, and grants. Sixteen action plans on advocacy and accountability were developed.

Additionally, high-level engagements such as participation in the UN HLM on UHC and effective media outreach amplified the program's impact. An innovative Community of Practice led by WACI Health enhanced visibility and coordination among partners. Noteworthy achievements include the development of health financing advocacy and accountability tools tailored to specific contexts, such as the adaptation of the WHO Health Budget Literacy Toolkit in Ghana.

A lasting legacy of the JLA program is the establishment and strengthening of CSO coalitions in all 20 participating countries, enhancing collective efforts to shape and track health financing.

The JLA program supported trainers in 20 African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda.

As a result, over 400 CSOs have been trained in health financing advocacy and accountability.

ASSESSING THE STATE OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN AFRICA

WACI Health collaborated with Aidsfonds and the Love Alliance partnership on an analysis of the state of UHC in ten countries with a focus on HIV services. The Love Alliance partnership's global advocacy leads, Aidsfonds and GNP+, commissioned WACI Health to develop a report, "State of UHC in the 10 Love Alliance countries." The analysis was conducted in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

The report aimed to critically examine the status of UHC, accessibility of essential health services for key and vulnerable populations, and the extent of civil society participation in UHC implementation. It also delves into the HIV/AIDS strategy within UHC frameworks. The report's findings are crucial for informing policy and program discussions on UHC, especially regarding the participation of CSOs and the importance of inclusive governance.

In the coming year, the partnership's focus will be on disseminating the report to the AUC and CSOs to further action toward achieving equitable UHC in Africa. This initiative is part of WACI Health's ongoing efforts to ensure that UHC policies are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all communities, particularly key and vulnerable populations.

STRENGTHENING FINANCING FOR IMMUNIZATION IN AFRICA

In 2023, WACI Health worked with PATH on a study of how Goal 2 of the Addis Declaration on Immunization (ADI), or financing for immunization, is being implemented in ten countries. As a result of this collaboration, ten country profiles with findings and recommendations on immunization financing were developed.

WACI Health and PATH highlighted this work at a side event at the 3rd International Conference of Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2023), which spotlighted the need for robust financing mechanisms for immunization programs. This analysis represents a crucial step toward enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of immunization initiatives in the region.



HEALTH SYSTEMS THAT ARE EQUITABLE AND RESPONSIVE TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS

Highlights of Key Moments, Opportunities and Achievements

BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE HEALTH SYSTEMS

WACI Health and Management Sciences for Health (MSH) co-host the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 (CSEM), which elevates civil society and community voices within UHC2030, the global movement to build stronger health systems for UHC. In 2023, the CSEM prepared for a critical milestone at the UN HLM on UHC and continued its focus on building a strong civil society movement to advance progress on UHC.

The CSEM supported the development of an ambitious UHC Action Agenda, which significantly influenced the 2023 Political Declaration on UHC. Ahead of the HLM, the CSEM engaged civil society in the negotiation processes for the HLM outcome document, including organizing regional consultations and collaborating with various engagement groups to mobilize support. The mechanism also mobilized civil society participation and engagement in the Multi-Stakeholder Hearing ahead of the HLM and continued to play a crucial role in disseminating the outcome document.

In its commitment to strengthening participatory governance in health, CSEM co-organized events on social participation with the WHO, collaborated with partners like the SPHERE Project to support country partners, and created advocacy tools to support engagement and knowledge-sharing on institutionalizing social participation for health. In addition, the platform organized civil society partners around the world to commemorate UHC Day on December 12 through a comprehensive global communications and advocacy campaign.



World Health Assembly, 21–30 May 2023



The CSEM convened advocates throughout the year and sustained momentum for UHC, including through publications, online engagements, and side events at global moments such as the World Health Assembly, CPHIA, Women Deliver, and the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA).

WACI Health, through its leadership and convening role on the CSEM Secretariat, will continue to raise civil society voices in health decision-making processes and build support for UHC on global and regional political agendas.

GALVANIZING POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL COMMITMENTS

In 2023, WACI Health participated in the World Bank Group (WBG) - International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings in Morocco.

WACI Health, with GFAN Africa partners, hosted an event with the Pan-African Parliamentarian Taskforce on Domestic Resource Mobilization for Health about the Africa Human Capital Plan (AHCP). The AHCP was launched by the World Bank in 2019 to help African countries invest in their human capital through more and better investments in education, health, nutrition, and social protection. GFAN Africa convenes the Parliamentarian

Taskforce with the recognition that parliamentarians in the region are critical partners in building political will and achieving the objectives of the AHCP.

The event reflected on the contributions of the AHCP toward strengthening PHC, UHC, pandemic response, and Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) as well as shared critical recommendations to further improve its impact. A joint communique from the Parliamentarian Taskforce was released at the event and will be further disseminated to support advocacy efforts on the AHCP.

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE HEALTH FOR ALL

WACI Health's breadth of program areas as well as its strategic roles within various sub-national, national, regional, and global partnerships facilitated an active participation in critical global health governance moments in 2023, including the three UN HLMs on TB, UHC, and Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPPR).

For the UN HLM on TB, WACI Health and ACT worked with the Stop TB Partnership and other partners in deliberating the One Africa TB Summit to sensitize civil society on the status of the Political Declaration on TB development process and plan ways of engaging with this critical outcome document. WACI Health participated in side events organized by the Stop TB Partnership at the UN HLM on TB focused on advocacy, experience sharing, and knowledge transfer on the implications of the Political Declaration at the country level.

As co-host of the CSEM, WACI Health played a pivotal role in convening civil

society and community for the UN HLM on UHC and the inclusion of key action areas in the Political Declaration on UHC. Similarly, as a member of the Coalition of Advocates for Global Health and PPPR, WACI Health participated in negotiations on the Political Declaration on PPPR ahead of the HLM, especially to highlight points on equity and community participation.

WACI Health is working with partners in the region to share outcomes of the HLMs and sensitize stakeholders on the process. In March 2023, WACI Health addressed the Pan African Parliament's Committee on Health, Labour, and Social Affairs on areas of overlap among the three HLMs and their implications, particularly from a community lens.

This community-focused approach to the 2023 HLMs underscores WACI Health's commitment to ensuring inclusive health policies and decisions that respond to people's needs.





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