



UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

CARE. ACT. SHARE. LIKE CORDAID.

WHY SO IMPORTANT?

Universal Health Coverage is defined as ensuring that all people have access to promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services that are of a high-enough quality to be effective, while ensuring that these people do not suffer financial hardship in order to pay for these services (WHO, 2012).

Each country needs to define what Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means for itself. Expensive health treatment for privileged individuals, for example, must not be provided at the expense of primary healthcare services for marginalized groups. UHC should become an instrument for the “progressive realization of the right to healthcare and access to health services”. This means, that with a view to progressively and fully realizing those rights, governments must employ all appropriate means and do all that they can within the constraints of their available resources. The appropriate means include the adoption of legislative measures (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Some of the relevant steps taken by governments can be identified and monitored country-by-country.

“Good health is essential for sustained economic and social development and the reduction of poverty. Access to the necessary health services is crucial for maintaining and improving health. At the same time, people must be protected against being pushed into poverty because they cannot afford healthcare.”

Margaret Chan,
Director-General WHO, December 2012

CORDAID AND UHC

Building flourishing communities is the quintessence of what Cordaid does as a development organization, operating globally, from north to south. In flourishing communities people share values and interests and a common purpose. They are cushioned against ruinous healthcare costs; they share mutual responsibility (national health insurance, community solidarity or emergency funds) and they care for each other (trained community health workers, trained community midwives). Flourishing communities are communities that can influence decision-making, they are well informed and they have equal access to healthcare and basic services (water, education, etc.).

Cordaid supports Universal Health Coverage on the post-2015 development agenda.



Based on our values and decades of experience with partners all over the world, we strongly support these three objectives.

1. **More and better healthcare staff in remote areas and fragile states:**

it is important to ensure that healthcare workers are optimally distributed throughout the country. This can be achieved with the appropriate incentives, training and living conditions.

2. **Wastage in healthcare systems must be eradicated**

(it can be up to 30 percent in many countries): the application of *Result Based Financing* (RBF) can fundamentally improve a healthcare system. Because it rigorously controls quality, performance and the flow of funds, it improves the quality of healthcare and drugs and makes them more affordable. *Cordaid conducted a seven-country learning process on Results-Based Financing. RBF not only saves money, it enhances both the quality and relevance of services, and can be applied in post-conflict and fragile states.*

"Although I was skeptical at first, RBF ensured the constant flow of supplies and quality of care." (A health worker from Zimbabwe.)

3. **The transition from short-term schemes to coherent national health systems:**

not with a single blueprint or financing tool, but with an intelligent mix of (inter-sectorial) health policies, a combination of finance mechanisms and a health budget allocation of more than 10 percent GDP.

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is the Catholic Organisation for Relief & Development Aid, with its headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands. We have been fighting poverty and exclusion in the world's most fragile societies and conflict-stricken areas for almost a century. Cordaid is founding member of Caritas Internationalis and Cidse. Cordaid is a member of Medicus Mundi Internationalis and of Action for Global Health. Our network consists of 890 partner organizations in 28 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. As social entrepreneurs we jointly work together whoever wants to participate in development

and collaboration like national enterprises, multinationals and local, national and international authorities. Cordaid is one of the largest development organizations in the Netherlands and we are deeply rooted in Dutch society with almost 400,000 private donors.

We strive for a fair and sustainable society in which every individual counts; a society in which people share the Global Common Goods and one that leaves room for diversity. We help disintegrating societies, vulnerable regions and areas of conflict to build flourishing communities. We urge governments to collaborate with partners to develop a long-term sustainable and dependable

mix of funding of health care; combining income from tax, international and national solidarity funds, insurance fees, social protection funds, and where applicable client contributions for elective (non-urgent, non-life saving) healthcare.

On Healthcare we work in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Congo DR, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

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