



## **Finding Opportunity in Crisis: How to Use COVID-19 to Build Better UHC Systems in Africa**

**UHC Webinar on Zoom  
June 5, 2020 | 10:00AM - 11:30 AM EST**

In partnership with the African Union, the Africa CDC, and Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation, The Access Challenge and Harvard Global Health Institute will co-host a virtual meeting to discuss the importance of Universal Health Coverage during COVID-19 in Africa. While African countries are in the midst of shifting focus on measures to contain this pandemic, it is important to highlight how COVID-19 investments can actually be used to build long term health system capacity with a view towards achieving UHC by 2030. This pandemic might be used as a wake up call and an opportunity to harness multi-sectoral cooperation and investment in comprehensive UHC systems.

Current estimates project that anywhere between 300,000 and 3.3 million Africans could end up losing their lives because of COVID-19. With limited access to clean water, unstable income to afford food, high dependency on imports, and already overstressed health systems, it's not difficult to see that in this global pandemic, Africa is likely to bear one of the heaviest burdens.

Amidst the crisis, there lies an opportunity to use COVID investments and harness multi-sectoral cooperation to increase the health of communities and build long term health system capacity. In recognizing how such pandemic investments in health systems and basic infrastructure, such as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, can actually be used to lead to healthier populations and sustainable health systems, African nations can achieve UHC by 2030. This opportunistic vision calls upon the global, regional and national communities to respond to both the immediate threats of the pandemic with a view towards building sustainable universally accessible health systems.

During this virtual meeting, The Access Challenge and Harvard Global Health Institute will launch "Africa Leads the Way: Harnessing Multi-sectoral Collaboration to Achieve Universal Health Coverage" a UHC Report from the 2019 One by One UHC Conference. This Report is intended to continue the discussions about the role that multi-sectoral cooperation can play in improving health access and quality. It introduces a "Multi-Sectoral UHC Services Framework," which starts a conversation about how the various activities, services and sectors interact in order to cost effectively achieve UHC.



Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete  
FOUNDATION



## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this virtual meeting is to bring together a diverse group of African leaders, policy makers and global stakeholders to discuss the importance of UHC as a pathway to preventing and addressing future pandemics. As COVID-19 has demonstrated: poor health outcomes for one person jeopardizes the health of everyone.

## **Meeting Objectives:**

The Conference will bring together policy leaders in order to:

1. Highlight the ways that emergency investments in COVID-19 can be used to build long term health system capacity.
2. With the COVID-19 reality as a backdrop, focus on the need to broaden the narrative and focus our collective UHC goals to include health promotion and disease prevention in addition to curing disease.
3. Underscore the importance of developing and investing in UHC systems that are comprehensive, resilient, and affordable for all.
4. Highlight the role of public-private sector collaboration and innovation in response to COVID-19 and UHC.
5. In collaboration with Harvard Global Health Institute, launch the 2019 One by One UHC Conference Report.

## **Audience:**

This event will include African government leaders, donors and private sector and global development leaders.

## **Format:**

The event will be broadcasted live on Zoom.

**Invited Speakers:**

Welcome Address:

- **Kate Campana**, President & CEO, The Access Challenge

*Opening Keynotes:*

- **H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete**, *Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania*
- **Dr. Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti**, *Regional Director, Africa, World Health Organization*

Panel Session:

- **H.E. Amira El Fadil**, *African Union Commissioner of Social Affairs*
- **Dr. Naveen Rao**, *Senior Vice President of the Health Initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation*
- **Achim Steiner**, *Administrator, United Nations Development Programme UNDP*
- **Dr. Agnes Binagwaho**, *Vice Chancellor of the University of Global Health Equity*

Report Launch:

- **Stefanie Friedhoff**, *Director of Content & Strategy, Harvard Global Health Institute - Report launch*
- **Mayor, Yvonne Aki-Sawyer OBE**, *Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone - Transform Freetown Case Study as an example of multi-sectoral collaboration for UHC*

Moderated by **Dr. Mary-Ann Etiebet**, *Lead and Executive Director, Merck for Mothers*