



COMMONWEALTH HEALTH PROFESSIONS ALLIANCE
<http://www.chpa.co>
secretary@chpa.co

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE – HOLDING COUNTRIES TO ACCOUNT

Recommendations from the 2018 Commonwealth People’s Forum and the 2018 Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum

On Saturday 19 May 2018, on the eve of the 30th Commonwealth Health Ministers’ meeting, the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance, in partnership with Oxfam and the Commonwealth Foundation, hosted a civil society policy forum titled: *Universal health coverage - holding countries to account*. The civil society forum built on presentations and discussion on the same topic at the 2018 Commonwealth People’s Forum held in April which generated recommendations on three UHC themes: financing, health workforce and access. These recommendations were shared with civil society across the Commonwealth using an online survey and comments sought. The final recommendations are outlined below. Civil society organisations across the Commonwealth are encouraged to share these recommendations within nationally and regionally.

UHC AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

Recommendation 1

By 2022, and in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals particularly SDG 3.8, all Commonwealth governments have developed, or are implementing, national country specific UHC plans, with cross Ministry, community-inclusive, and multi-stakeholder input. UHC plans should include clearly defined and communicated public financing strategies so all people have access to quality essential cost-effective health care services without experiencing financial hardship.

Recommendation 2

By 2022, all Commonwealth governments have developed mechanisms to monitor their UHC plans in line with UHC goals and targets outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals particularly SDG 3 including, but not limited to, the following measures:

- usage of ‘high priority’ health services by income group
- household expenditure on health as % total household expenditure and income
- % GDP spent on health (public/private)
- measures of financial risk such as out of pocket expenditures on both inpatient and outpatient care by income group.

UHC AND ACCESS TO SAFE, EFFECTIVE AND AFFORDABLE MEDICINES AND VACCINES

Recommendation 3

That Commonwealth governments include in their UHC plans strategies for:

- access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for their populations,
- building capacity through education and training for a sufficient pharmacy workforce,
- developing public procurement policies using public financing including regional or other pooled procurement mechanisms.

UHC AND A SUFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTH WORKFORCE

Recommendation 4

By 2022, in order to build on commitments made in the *WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030*, all Commonwealth countries have established a national health workforce unit that has the capacity to develop and monitor forward workforce projections including funding requirements, and an implementation plan, to meet projected intakes to workforce education, recruitment, distribution, and retention.

Recommendation 5

By 2022, in order to build on commitments made in the *WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030*, all Commonwealth governments have developed a national electronic data base or registry to track total health workforce stock, education, distribution, flows, demand, capacity and remuneration.

A HEALTHY COMMONWEALTH: A CALL TO ACTION

Recommendation 6

That all Commonwealth countries table their UHC plans, monitoring mechanisms, and progress in advancing UHC at each annual Commonwealth Health Ministers meeting.

Recommendation 6

That Commonwealth Health Ministers request the Commonwealth Secretary General and the Commonwealth Secretariat to give greater priority to health and education programs and to strengthen Secretariat capacity in these areas in order to assist in the implementation and monitoring of these recommendations, and to reflect the priority given to health and education by Commonwealth leaders during the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the importance of health and education to healthy populations, democracy, and sustainable development.