

Civil Society Requests on the National Health Compacts under “Health Works” Initiative and the UHC Knowledge Hub

November 2025

To:

Mr. Ajay Banga, President, World Bank Group

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization

Her Excellency Ms. KATAYAMA Satsuki, the Minister of Finance

His Excellency Mr. UENO Ken'ichiro, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare

We, members of civil society, warmly welcome the launch of an ambitious initiative named “Health Works” by the World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Japan (GoJ) and the establishment of the UHC Knowledge Hub that leads capacity-building efforts for the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC). We express our respect and gratitude for the leadership of the World Bank, WHO and GoJ in advancing the global movement toward UHC. Under the initiative, 21 countries have joined to develop “National Health Compacts” under the Health Works Initiative. And with eight countries participating initially in the year-round capacity development program, the Hub presents a timely and important opportunity to address critical gaps in health financing to accelerate progress toward achieving UHC, ensuring no one is left behind.

The establishment of the UHC Knowledge Hub provides a unique opportunity to drive concrete action toward the implementation of the 2023 Political Declaration on UHC, the resolution on strengthening health financing globally endorsed by Member States at the 76th World Health Assembly, and the resolution on social participation for UHC endorsed by Member States at the 77th World Health Assembly. It is critically important that National Health Compacts for countries – an initiative of the “Health Works Leaders’ Coalition led by WHO, the World Bank and GoJ, which will be announced at the launch of the UHC Knowledge Hub – be aligned with these global commitments. We call on all stakeholders involved in the design and operationalization of the UHC Knowledge Hub and National Health Compacts to strengthen impact by:

- 1. Grounding priorities and activities in the principles of equity and leave no one behind which can best be achieved through a primary health care model of delivery and protection against financial hardship for the most vulnerable due to out of pocket expenditure for health costs\.**
- 2. Embedding social participation in the design and implementation of training programs and national plans to ensure meaningful inclusion of civil society and communities as equal partners in decision-making;**
- 3. Supporting the collection and use of disaggregated data to monitor UHC progress at the country level;**
- 4. Reflecting the needs of the people on the ground, especially people under humanitarian situation and people alienated from public health services**
- 5. Establishing inclusive governance structures that foster strong collaboration between the health and finance sectors and promote transparency and accountability.**

UHC means that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. Investing in primary health care which can deliver 90% of essential health services is the most efficient, equitable and cost-effective path towards UHC. But we must also protect people from financial hardship, especially the poorest and those living with chronic conditions. Achieving this goal requires meaningful engagement with and participation of civil society and communities most impacted by health challenges. The WHO defines social participation as “empowering people, communities and civil society through inclusive participation in decision-making processes that affect health across the policy cycle and at all levels of the system”. Meaningful engagement of civil society and communities contributes to stronger, more resilient, and equitable health systems that respond to the lived experiences, priorities and needs of communities, particularly marginalized and underrepresented populations.

The full potential of National Health Compacts and the UHC Knowledge Hub can only be realized through collaboration and inclusive and transparent governance that ensures accountability across stakeholders. This will not only ensure that communities’ needs are addressed but will also help strengthen national capacities and increase trust.

Therefore, it is critical that social participation be embedded as a core component of the UHC Knowledge Hub and National Health Compacts. We urge that it be centered across all stages of their work -- from design and governance to implementation and monitoring -- so that policies and actions reflect the realities and needs of all people, particularly those from vulnerable and marginalized communities.

To achieve these goals, we respectfully ask that the UHC Knowledge Hub and countries consider taking the following practical steps:

Countries joining Health Works Initiative and National Health Compacts:

- Foster social participation as part of the reforms to be prioritized through the National Health Compacts by ensuring inclusion of civil society and communities from the earliest stages of decision-making, program design, implementation and evaluation -- including through regular consultations -- so that their voices are heard and actions respond to people’s needs.
- Maximize the use of existing monitoring frameworks such as the UHC2030 *Global UHC Action Tracker* and the WHO and World Bank’s *Global Monitoring Report on UHC* to track progress toward UHC.
- Support community-led monitoring to assess implementation and inform decision-making, ensuring that no one is left behind.

UHC Knowledge Hub:

- Foster social participation by engaging civil society and communities in the co-design of training programs that build the knowledge and skills needed to advance social participation, in alignment with the Political Declaration on UHC and the World Health Assembly resolution on social participation.
- Tailor training content to national contexts to identify barriers to accessing health services and ensure alignment with national health and UHC strategies, prioritizing reaching the most

vulnerable populations.

- Establish a governance mechanism that serves as a model for promoting collaboration between finance and health sectors in low- and middle-income countries. It should demonstrate best practices in effective collaboration, accountability, and transparency.
- Facilitate the full partnership and collaboration of civil society and communities between countries supported by the UHC Knowledge Hub to promote learning and knowledge exchange and share best practices.

To further accelerate progress toward achieving UHC, we reaffirm our commitment as civil society to work in close collaboration with governments, international partners, and other stakeholders to ensure the success of this important initiative.

We stand ready to provide technical guidance on embedding principles of equity and social participation in the design of training programs for the UHC Knowledge Hub, and to support the mobilization of civil society and communities in countries to implement social participation in line with the 2023 Political Declaration on UHC and the World Health Assembly resolution.

We respectfully request your consideration of our proposal as you develop the detailed scope and design of the UHC Knowledge Hub and provide technical support to the development of National Health Compacts.

We extend our full support for this initiative and look forward to an inclusive process that advances collective efforts to make UHC a reality for everyone, everywhere.

Sincerely,

**Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 (CSEM)
Japan CSO Network on Global Health**

List of Endorsing Organizations (as of November 13, 2025): 141 Organizations from 48 Countries

※Organizations operating at global or regional level are also classified under the country where they registered their endorsement. List in no particular order.

United States of America	
ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership	Partners In Health
Advocacy Initiative for Development (AID)	Seed Global Health
Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma and Anaesthesia Care (G4 Alliance)	UNSPOKEN SMILES
Argentine Republic	
Fundación Huésped	
Republic of Yemen	
International Youth Council-Yemen (IYCY)	Wahg _Alhayah- foundation (WHF.Yemen)
Republic of India	
AIHMS-GLOBAL	Global Coalition of TB Advocates
Association For Promotion Sustainable Development	International Planned Parenthood Federation
Blood Patients Protection Council, Kerala, India	VIKASH-SAMUKHYA
Blue Circle Diabetes Foundation (India)	WORLD PEACE INSTITUTE OF UNITED NATIONS
Empower India	Younite india
Republic of Indonesia	
Jaringan Indonesia Positif	Spiritia Foundation
Rekat Peduli Indonesia	
Republic of Uganda	
Child Way Uganda	KAPOTEC FOUNDATION UG
Ukraine	
Alliance for Public Health, Ukraine	Ukrainian Union of Patient Organizations
Arab Republic of Egypt	
Seha Healthcare Group	
Kingdom of Eswatini	
Youth and Women for Change in Eswatini	
Commonwealth of Australia	
Filipino Nursing Diaspora Network	The George Institute for Global Health
The Fred Hollows Foundation	
Canada	
International Alliance of Dermatology Patient Organizations (GlobalSkin)	
Republic of Cameroon	
Universal Maidens Association Cameroon (UNIMAC)	National Coalition of Local Associations for PBF Health
Kingdom of Cambodia	
Health Action Coordinating Committee (HACC)	KHANA_Cambodia
Republic of Ghana	
Altar Relief Foundation	Muslim Family Counselling Services
Christ Soldiers Foundation CSO	Systems for Community Health
Eden Spring of Hope	

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
British Arab Nursing and Midwifery Association	World Vision International
Save the Children International	
Republic of Kenya	
Strategic Poverty Alleviation Systems-SPAS	MUMBO INTERNATIONAL
Confraternity of Patients Kenya (COFPAK)	Namayiana
Good Health Community Programmes	Partnership for Universal Healthcare
KARIKAKENYA	Wote Youth Development Projects CBO
Madhira Institute	Community Initiativev Action Group Kenya
Mothers First	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	
ONGD CEPROPHOT	
Republic of Zambia	
Anti drug abuse association of Zambia	Community Initiative for Tuberculosis Aids and Malaria (CITAM+)
Civil Society Health Partnership	
Republic of Sierra Leone	
Vitality Youth Network	
Georgia	
Eurasian Movement for the Right to Health in Prisons	
Republic of Singapore	
Global Fund Advocates Network Asia Pacific (GFAN AP)	
Republic of Zimbabwe	
TB People Zimbabwe	Masvingo Association of Residential Care Facilities
Swiss Confederation	
NCD Alliance	World Organization of Family Doctos (WONCA)
Kingdom of Spain	
Fundación VISIBLE	
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	
Asia Lanka Social Development Co-operation (ALSDC)	Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization
Kingdom of Thailand	
APCASO	Asia Pacific Network of People living with HIV (APN+)
United Republic of Tanzania	
Women Wake up (WOWAP)	ZITAE women Organization
Togolese Republic	
Association Global Humaniste	
Federal Republic of Nigeria	
African Network of Civil Society Organizations (ANCSO)	Dr Uzo Adirieje Foundation (DUZAFFOUND)
Afrihealth Optonet Association (AHOA) - CSOs Global Network and Think-tank	E-Warehouse Consulting
Amalare Connect & Development Initiative formerly Our Lady of Perpetual Help Initiative	Int'l Center for Women Empowerment & Child Development. (ICWECD)
Centre for Ecological and Community Development	Mainstay Healthcare Development Foundation
Centre for Initiative and Development (CFID) Taraba	Society for Family Health
Children and Young People Living for Peace	The Life Projects

Civil Society Partnership for SDGs in Nigeria (CSP4SDGs)-AHOA	Welfare of the African Vulnerable and Egalitarian Foundation WAVEF
Bekwarra hepatitis B support & advocacy initiative	
Republic of Namibia	
Conscious Millennials Foundation	
Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal	
Paropakar Primary Health Care Centre PPUK	
SAGUN PAUDEL	
Republic of Haiti	
UNASCAD (Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Developpement)	
People's Republic of Bangladesh	
Aid Organization	Ashar Alo Society
BRAC, Bangladesh	
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	
BAHAM Foundation	Rural Infrastructure and Human Resources Development Organization (RIHRDO)
Dopasi Foundation	Sukaar Welfare Organization
Huqooq-ul-Ebad Development Foundation	
Independent State of Papua New Guinea	
Igat Hope Inc	
Republic of Paraguay	
CIES NEPYRU	
Republic of the Philippines	
Action for Health Initiatives, Inc. (ACHIEVE)	
French Republic	
Médecins du Monde International Network	Action contre la faim
Federative Republic of Brazil	
ADB - Aliança Distrofia Brasil	
Republic of Burundi	
Integrated Change Agent (ICA)	
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	
Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI)	Lighthouse Social Enterprise Vietnam
Vietnam Network of People living with HIV (VNP+)	
Republic of Madagascar	
ASOS (Action Socio-sanitaire Organisation Secours)	
Republic of Malawi	
Kasalika Community Development Organization	
Republic of Liberia	
Women For Positive Actions	
Republic of Rwanda	
Barakabaho Foundation	
Republic of Korea	
Korean Advocates for Global Health (KAGH)	

Republic of South Africa	
Ashdown community development	Healers for Change
Cluster of Hope Organization	Innovtech
Defend NHI Campaign	WACI Health
Gamndane Empowerment Npo	
Japan	
JOICFP	Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions
Asia Arsenic Network	Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
Africa Japan Forum	DNDi Japan
WaterAid Japan	Women's Association for a Better Aging Society