

NIGERIA UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE ADVOCACY GROUP

PRESS RELEASE

NIGERIA 'UHC' ADVOCACY GROUP MEETS, ENDORSES 'CAM', APPOINTS ADIRIEJE AS ITS LEADER

TITLE OF REPORT:

PRE-EVENT SESSION OF THE NIGERIA 'UHC' ADVOCACY GROUP FOR THE COUNTRY ADVOCACY MEETING TOWARDS THE 'UN HLM' ON 'UHC' 2019

SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Akaninyene Obot (Ukana West 2 Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI), Primary Health Centre, Ikot Ideh, Essien Udim Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

DATE OF ACTIVITY: 24th June, 2019

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

The Nigeria UHC Advocacy Group (NUHCAG) and pre-Country Advocacy Meeting (CAM) session/meeting were convened by Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje, CEO of Afrihealth Optonet Association.

GOAL: To achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Nigeria by 2030

OBJECTIVES:

1. To get Nigeria listed on the UN CSEM as the host country for CAM by Q3 of 2019
2. To develop implementable strategies/approaches for organizing the Country Advocacy Meeting for UHC in Nigeria in Q3 of 2019
3. To ensure that the Nigeria UHC Advocacy Group [NUHCAG] is officially represented and its voice heard/makes a statement at the UN HLM on UHC in September 2019
4. To vigorously advocate for the achievement of UHC in Nigeria by 2030

DETAILS DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

1. To get Nigeria listed for the UHC2030 CSEM meeting, members agreed to have Country Advocacy Meeting (CAM) where health stakeholders will be part for inclusive and elaborate meeting that will result in the country's commitment towards achieving UHC. In the CAM meeting, lessons learnt were to be taken from Panama and Georgia meeting. A date was set for the CAM pending approval from UN CSEM.
2. Four Committees was set to oversee the successful hosting of the first national CAM. The committees are planning, resource mobilization, contact and advocacy. The following persons were to head each of the committee:
 - i) CAM Planning Committee - Mrs. Laretta Ahuokpeme
 - ii) CAM Advocacy Committee - Mrs. Bisi Bright
 - iii) CAM Budget and Resource Mobilization Committee - Mrs. Lizzy Igbine
 - iv) CAM Contacts Comiittee - Dr. Mike Omotosho

3. In order to involve members on the UHC2030 advocacy, Nigeria members on CSEM list should be contacted.
4. Participants agreed for a draft advocacy message for CAM and UHC in Nigeria. The draft message should be guided by the CSEM messages viz:
 - i) Leave no one behind
 - ii) Increase public financing for health,
 - iii) Improve involvement of CSOs and citizens, transparency and accountability at all levels, and
 - iv) Invest in health workers
[examples from Panama and Georgia meeting and it should target getting political commitment from Nigeria government on UHC2030].
5. The budget and resource committee were saddled to solicit funds for the CAM as soon as possible
6. To get the 6 months workplan for the group, it was agreed that questionnaire should be sent to the state for their input.
7. CAM will make Nigeria voice to be heard at the UNHLM on UHC on 23rd Sept, 2019.

OUTPUT:

1. Setting up of NUHCAG committees
2. Selection of CAM date
3. Maintain status quo of Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje as the Nigeria UHC Advocacy Group Leader/Coordinator (Focal Person)
4. Mobilization/sensitization of CSOs and communities on UN HLM on UHC

ACHIEVEMENTS:

1. Members got to know each other
2. Extensive deliberations on CAM and how to get Nigeria government involved in attaining the UHC 2030
3. Committees were formed and duties were assigned

CHALLENGES: There were complains from members of poor network

IMPLICATION OF CHALLENGES: Due to poor network challenge, few members joined the zoom online meeting

SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Information on UHC should be gathered by administering questionnaires to states and lessons learnt from state will be used by the national for its advocacy.
- 2) Nigeria CSEM members list should be followed for their involvement in the Nigeria UHC

NEXT STEPS:

- 1) Draft advocacy messages using the CSEM guideline was to be developed.
- 3) Four committees were formed (NHUCAG Advocacy Committee, NUHCAG Resource Mobilization Committee, NUHCAG CAM Planning Committee and NUHCAG Contacts Committee) and persons were assigned to head the committee with secretaries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The Meeting acknowledges and appreciates the contributions of the CSEM towards appropriate outcomes at the HLM, and Afrihealth Optonet Association (CSOs Network) for bringing forth the NUHCAG.

PARTICIPANTS: In the meeting were 21 participants

9, 2019

The Program in Global Surgery and Social Change input for UHC2030 “Key Asks” survey

Dear Madam/Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important declaration.

If the aim of UHC is “health for all”, and the HLM on UHC is a way to re-intensify the global commitment to achieving UHC, the declaration has to be much more than a rehashing of what has been already accepted. It should not be constrained to the language of status quo but rather challenge the duty-bearers i.e. the Members of the UN, to be accountable for ensuring their citizens with essential set of medical and surgical care.

The current framework fails to name key indispensable components of UHC and therefore risks releasing the Members from investing in a resilient health system and again leaving the most vulnerable from having access to affordable, safe, and timely medical and surgical care. Surgical care is needed in 30% of the global burden of disease. As an advocate for the inclusion of surgical care in the UHC discourse, we insist that emergency and essential surgical, obstetric, and anesthesia care is explicitly included in the declaration. Similarly, we support inclusion of all the other key components of UHC such as comprehensive NCD management and treatment, emergency care, injury care, cancer detection and treatment, sexual and reproductive health, palliative care, mental health, etc.

To be sure, we are not advocating minimizing primary health care as the cornerstone of UHC but rather calling for a robust primary health care system that is able to deliver the comprehensive care that is reflective of the disease burden of the poorest at the district health system level. UHC is a concept which needs a clear delivery strategy to implement in order to have tangible and sustainable benefit to the sick and injured who currently lack medical and surgical services when needed. The declaration must be specific for it to have impact. We, as the guardians of global public health, should be bold and ambitious and speak loudly for health equity.

NIGERIA COUNTRY ADVOCACY MEETING: REQUEST FOR HOSTING LISTING

Recall that the setting up of the Nigeria UHC Advocacy Group (NUHCAG) was undertaken/initiated by Afrihealth Optonet Association and communicated to you via the

uhc2030-csem-group+managers@googlegroups.com on 9 June 2019. NUHCAG currently has 247 members representing various CSOs and UHC Stakeholders in Nigeria.

On 24 June 2019, Afrihealth Optonet Association coordinated the first meeting of NUHCAG which was held via zoom (web based), during which participants unanimously resolved to promote the organization of the Nigeria UHC Country Advocacy Meeting (CAM) and to apply to the CSEM Secretariat/leadership for the listing of the Nigeria UHC CAM in preparation for the up coming UN HLM on UHC in September 2019.

Kindly accept this letter as our formal application for the listing of the Nigeria UHC CAM for your consideration and approval.

In preparation to the hosting of the CAM, our meeting of 24 June 2019 unanimously appointed Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje of Afrihealth Optonet Association as the Group Leader (Focal Person) and set up the following committees to support our Country hosting arrangements:

	COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON
1	Steering Committee	Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje
2	Country Advocacy Meeting Planning Committee	Ms Laretta Ahuokpeme
3	Resource Mobilization Committee	Ms Lizzy Igbine
4	UHC Questionnaires Collation and Analyses Committee	Mr. OlatayoFaleye
5	Contacts Committee	Dr. Mike Omotosho/ Ms Hauwa Abbas
6	Advocacy Messages Committee	Ms Bisi Bright

The Steering Committee is made up of the chairpersons of the all the above committees. We have also set up the channels of discussions with our Country Leadership and Development Partners who will work with us in actualizing this goal.

We invite the CSEM Sectariat to support us with any available resources, training and mobilization of partners to achieve this goal. We are resolved to work with you in all aspects to achieve the targets of UHC in Nigeria.

We look forward to your approval and robust collaboration with your office.

Warmly,



Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje

Group Leader/Focal Person

Nigeria UHC Advocacy Group (NUHCAG)

Afrihealth Optonet Association (CSOs Network)

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