

PHM East and Southern Africa position on Universal Health Coverage, and Call to Action

We, representatives of civil society activists, academics and advocates for health, have met in Nairobi, Kenya, on the 9th of April 2018 for commemoration of the World Health Day and the book launch of *Global Health Watch 5*, and considered the following:

- The focus on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a financial issue ignores the fundamental issues of health equity, quality of health care services and health as a basic human right.
- UHC should enable everyone to access the services that address the most important causes of disease and death and ensure that the quality of those services is good enough to improve the health of the people who receive them.
- Policies for UHC need to clearly highlight the costs, who is covered and the extent of the cover. It will enable us to move from curative to prevention.

Considering the above, we call upon the governments in the global south, especially in East and Southern Africa, to ensure that the idea of UHC is addressed and defined as to focus on the issues of social justice in health rather than just financial mechanisms.

We further call upon the various governments in the global south to recognize, remunerate, and strengthen through capacity building of Community Health Workers as key actors in improving primary health care. Health systems should not be a barrier to health care workers but a motivation towards helping others.


We call upon governments to ensure that health is not treated as security issue but as a fundamental right for the people and hence the responsibility of societies through their governments.

Issued in Nairobi, Kenya on 9 April 2018


Signed:


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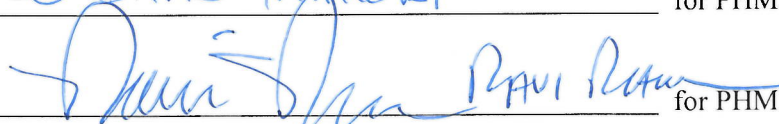
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