

Ministries of Health, Gender to support CHI



The State Minister for Primary Healthcare, Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, officially opening the conference. On the left are Mr. Zakaria Kasirye Muwanga, Chairman Board Directors, Save for Health Uganda and Dr. Olaro Charles, Director clinical Services in Ministry of Health. On the right are Dr. Specioza Wandira Kazibwe, Senior Presidential Advisor on Population and Health, and Mr. Makaire Fredrick, Executive Director, Save for Health Uganda.



L-R: Prof. Francis Omaswa, Dr. Specioza Kazibwe and Dr. Wilberforce Kisamba Mugerwa.



Mr. James Ebitu, Director Social Protection in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development closed the conference.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development are committed to providing full support towards implementation of community health insurance (CHI) in Uganda to enable majority of the population access healthcare services without falling into poverty due to expenditure on medical bills.

While opening the second National Community Health Financing Conference at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala on 1st November, 2017, the State Minister for Primary Healthcare, Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, said health insurance will be the next safety net accessible to the informal sector in order to save people's lives.

"This is something that needs collective responsibility from all sectors, individuals, and all well wishers so that together, we can put resources, we can put ideas and scale up this scheme for the good of our people, for the good of our country," she said.

The Minister informed participants that the government had made progress with plans to introduce health insurance for all, and the cabinet would soon discuss the National Health Insurance Scheme Bill.

The Senior Presidential Advisor on Health and Population and former Vice President, Dr. Specioza Wandira Kazibwe, said health insurance is very important because it addresses the welfare of the people. She pledged to take lead in promoting CHI using evidence from existing initiatives which have improved people's welfare.

Prof. Francis Omaswa, the Executive Director of African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation, and Mr. Michael McCord, President of the MicroInsurance Centre in the United States of America, delivered the keynote addresses which were discussed by Dr. Wilberforce Kisamba-Mugerwa, the Chairman of the National Planning Authority. They emphasized the need for citizens to take charge of their health with leadership from the government in order to improve the undesirable state of healthcare in the country.

... To page 2

Mr. Denis Nkunda, a Community Health Specialist in the Ministry of Health in Rwanda, shared about success factors for the health insurance scheme in his country which included political will, consistent government support and continuous community sensitization and mobilization.

The conference attracted 160 participants including members of Parliament, senior officials from various government ministries and agencies, local government leaders, healthcare providers, the civil society and academia, among others.

The objective of the conference was to mobilize support for community health financing (CHF) initiatives to enhance their capacity, and contribute to achieving a fair national health insurance scheme for Uganda, while the theme was 'building informal sector capacity to access the National Health Insurance Scheme for inclusive growth'.

The key resolutions made included piloting a district-wide CHI scheme in Luwero district, and involving the ministries of Local Government, Finance Planning and Economic Development, and Information and Communication Technology in CHI implementation.

In his closing remarks, the Director of Social Protection in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Mr. James Ebitu, reiterated the ministry's commitment to support CHI in line with the National Social Protection Policy.

Save for Health Uganda hosted the conference with support from Bread for the World, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, PATH/Advocacy for Better Health Program, Smart Applications International, Uganda Community Based Health Financing Association, and Uganda Healthcare Federation.



R-L: Ms. Leticia Nakimuli, SHU Board member and Hon. Lillian Nakate, Luwero District Woman Member of Parliament and other conference participants.



Mr. Basil Muhanguzi from Bushenyi District, Dr. Patrick Kadama from ACHEST and Ms. Judy Mugoya, Country Manager Smart Applications International (U) Limited.



Mr. Denis Nkunda, Community Health Specialist in the Ministry of Health Rwanda, Mr. Tom Aliti, Assistant Commissioner Ministry of Health and Mr. Arnold Kwesiga, Program Manager, Initiative for Social and Economic Rights.



L-R: Dr. Aloysius Ssenyonjo from Makerere University School of Public Health, Ms. Christine Namayanja, Chief of Party USAID Voucher Plus Activity, Mr. William Kidega, Deputy Chief of Party PATH/Advocacy for Better Health Project, Mr. Makire Fredrick, and Mr. Zephaniah Ogen from Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development during a panel discussion.



A section of conference participants with the Chief Guest Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu (centre in red suit)

Follow the links below for press stories about the conference

https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1464915/educate-masses-about-health-insurance-experts

https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1464916/health-insurance-contributions-affordable

https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1464863/-vp-kazibwe-blasts-health-ministry-calls-revolution