



WACI Health Narrative Report

Bridge for Better Health

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

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Section 1: Organization Information

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Section 2: Key Achievements

Please provide a brief overview (250–300 words) summarizing key achievements and impacts of the SGA during the reporting period:

Bridging SRHR, HIV, and UHC Workshop:

The "Bridge for better Health" workshop, held from June 18–20, 2024, in Nairobi, convened advocates from nine African countries: Botswana, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Organized by AfNHi, WACI Health, CASPR, WHO, CSEM, and Frontline AIDS, the workshop focused on integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV prevention into universal health coverage (UHC) frameworks. The meeting utilized an open floor model with presentations, group work, and plenary sessions to address the integration of sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) and HIV services into universal health coverage (UHC) frameworks, guided by the WHO Handbook. The meeting fostered discussions to build the capacity of community-led and civil society organizations to advocate for the integration of SRHR and HIV services into UHC, evaluate the prioritization of these services within UHC frameworks during health crises, and prepare advocates to collaborate with government officials and stakeholders on implementing UHC and designing benefit package components. Read more in the [workshop report](#) and among the [workshop resources](#).

WHO and Partner Collaboration:

WACI Health, CSEM and Frontline AIDS facilitated strategic discussions with WHO at global, regional, and country levels, aligning advocacy efforts with the Bridge for better health advocacy priorities. The continued collaboration will enhance the impact of advocacy by leveraging WHO expertise, capacity, data and their advisory role to the Governments on UHC. Read more in the [meeting report](#).

Monthly regional partners Meetings:

WACI Health hosted monthly meetings with the Bridge for health partners, the meetings provided the platform for sharing updates on country-level progress, fostering accountability and synergy across partners. For more information, check out the [October](#) and [November](#) monthly meetings notes.

UHC Day 2024:

Partners collaborated to commemorate UHC Day on December 12, promoting equity and resilience in health systems. Activities included drafting advocacy letters, launching online campaigns, and organizing social media spaces to amplify the UHC message.

The UHC Day Toolkit is available in English and French [here](#).

World AIDS Day 2024

Partners integrated UHC Day tools to highlight the intersection of SRHR, HIV, and UHC during World AIDS Day.

Satellite Session "The Future is Ours: Together We Can Achieve Universal Health Coverage and Sexual and Reproductive Health Inclusion" at HSR2024

WACI Health's executive Director, Rosemary Mburu, was a plenary speaker at a [high-profile satellite session on November 18, 2024, in Nagasaki, Japan](#) convened by WHO. The session brought together multi-stakeholder experts to amplify the role of SRHR in achieving UHC and health justice, disseminating SRH and UHC resources, and fostering dialogue on progress, challenges, and advocacy priorities. The session provided a platform for exchanging guidelines and effective practices to improve access to SRH services and catalyse research and advocacy. Rosemary's participation underscored WACI Health's leadership in shaping global health narratives and advancing integrated health systems.

Small Grants:

Small grants of USD 2,000 were provided to country partners to implement key activities tailored to their national contexts. i. Conducting a situational analysis to assess the current status of essential health packages and identify gaps in SRHR/HIV integration. ii. strengthen national coalitions to serve as platforms for joint advocacy, among CSOs and other stakeholders. iii. Engagement with relevant ministry officials particularly from health,

finance, and planning. These engagements focused on identifying advocacy entry points for integrating SRHR and HIV into essential health packages. The small grants provided the necessary resources for partners to take these foundational steps, laying the groundwork for sustained advocacy and meaningful policy change toward integrated and equitable health services.

Countries	Organization	Amounts disbursed	Report
Botswana	Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA)	\$2,000	Botswana report
Kenya	WACI Health, LVCT Health & ASWA	\$2,000	Partnered with WHO Kenya office for the HBP analysis, report pending from WHO Kenya office side.
Malawi	Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication	\$2,000	Malawi report
Nigeria	Gem Hub	\$2,000	Nigeria report
Uganda	Alive Medical Services	\$2,000	Uganda report
Zambia	The Youth platform	\$2,000	*Pending report
Zimbabwe	Community Working group on Health	\$2,000	Zimbabwe report
Cote D'Ivoire		\$00	*Did not implement
Burundi		\$00	*Did not implement

Section 3: Collaborations

Please provide a brief overview (250–300 words) of any collaborations which were carried out as part of the SGA activities, i.e. working with national governments, UN agencies, other CSO's:

Facilitated capacity strengthening of the Bridge for better health platform to advocate for the inclusion of SRHR into UHC benefit packages. The forum will continue to be a voice for coordinated advocacy, amplifying the collective voice of CSOs on SRHR and UHC.

World Health Organization (WHO) collaboration at multiple levels, including the country offices, the regional office for Africa, and the Geneva headquarters. This leverage will continue to offer essential technical support, including access to data and evidence-based materials, to strengthen our advocacy.

Country partners engaged Ministries of Health in five countries, advocating for the inclusion of comprehensive SRHR services within UHC benefit packages. These efforts are geared towards opening policy doors for continued work and alignment of advocacy efforts with national health priorities, fostering a stronger commitment to SRHR and UHC integration.

Collaboration with Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) to drive key campaigns around Universal Health Coverage and Domestic Resource Mobilization. These efforts included significant participation in UHC-related activities and the commemoration of World AIDS Day, ensuring the issues of equity, inclusivity, and sustainable funding remained central to the global health agenda.

Section 4: Challenges and Lessons Learned

Please provide a brief overview (250–300 words) of any significant challenges faced during implementation, and any lessons learned that could improve future program implementation:

Capacity gaps

Partner organizations initially struggled to understand the project's goals and objectives. To address this, a three-day capacity-building workshop was organized to ensure that CSO partners fully grasped the project's vision and could engage effectively. Another significant hurdle was the lack of knowledge among partners about country-specific processes for updating UHC benefit packages. This required conducting detailed analyses in each country to map the processes and identify key stakeholders essential for driving updates.

National coalition building

Strengthening national coalitions for joint advocacy efforts was essential to ensure alignment and endorsement of advocacy priorities. Engaging relevant Ministries such as health, finance, and planning proved challenging due to competing priorities and overwhelmed government schedules, limiting opportunities for collective discussions. Countries also needed foundational work to assess their progress with UHC benefit packages, this involved conducting situational analyses to identify gaps in SRHR and HIV integration, followed by developing 2–3 advocacy ASKs.

Policy engagement gaps

Lack of transparency in government policy formulation processes has been a significant barrier for CSOs. Access to information and policy forums was not straightforward for CSOs, leveraging allies like WHO country partners to gain insights into policy reforms and improve CSO participation is crucial. The project emphasized the critical need for greater CSO involvement in policy development and advocacy to drive meaningful SRHR and HIV integration. Sustained coalition-building, strategic engagement with government actors, and capacity-strengthening initiatives is needed to achieve the project's advocacy objectives.

Resource constraints

The small grants were not adequate for in-depth work at the country level as well as time frame for implementation of the project. For better outcomes, the project needed more time for engagement with stakeholders and measuring the impact.

Section 5: Next Steps and Future Plans

Please provide a brief overview (250–300 words) of any potential next steps or related initiatives building on the SGA:

Sustainability and scalability of the project

A robust resource mobilization outreach to funders and partners is a critical next step. The proposed work plans developed by partners in 2024, require adequate resources for implementation, making fundraising efforts a priority. We aim to identify and engage potential funders who align with the project's objectives of integrating SRHR with UHC for support of the country advocacy plans.

Leverage key moments and global health events

Advocacy efforts will also be amplified by leveraging strategic opportunities during key global health events. These include Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day, Human Rights Day, World AIDS Day, the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), and the International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference. These platforms provide significant opportunities to highlight the importance of SRHR-UHC integration, disseminate key messages, and engage global stakeholders. Participation in these events will help build momentum and visibility for the project's advocacy agenda.

Build and nurture the bridge for better health partnership

Continue with the monthly meetings with country partners to refine and solidify key advocacy activities. These forums will serve as a space for collaboration, progress tracking, and collective strategizing to ensure alignment with the advocacy goals. Strengthening this partnership will enhance the project's technical and advocacy capacity, providing a foundation for sustained efforts. Consider an annual meeting to bring the country partners and WHO and other stakeholders together to review progress and continue to strengthen the capacity of country partners.