



East African Community

DISSEMINATION OF EAC UNIVERSAL HEALTH AND HIV STRATEGY AND
WORK PLANNING SESSION

13th November- Virtual Dissemination and Planning
In Partnership with UNAIDS RST

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE MEETING
AND
PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Summary

Date: Friday 13th, NOVEMBER, 2020

Time: 11 am – 1.30 pm East African Time (GMT+3)

Venues: This dissemination meeting will be virtual

Conveners: East African Community in partnership with UNAIDS

2. Background

The East African Community (EAC) is an intergovernmental organization of the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Uganda (www.eac.int). Article 118 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community calls for regional cooperation in health among the Partner States. The East African region bears an unequal disease burden, where nearly 1.5 million¹ people die of preventable causes annually, dialogue among and within East African Community (EAC) Partner States has progressed towards ending AIDS and achieving Universal Health and HIV Coverage (UHC).

In 2015, the community successfully developed the Sustainable Financing Analysis report on Universal Health and HIV Coverage for the EAC region and developed an Issue paper on sustainable financing in the region and, based on the paper, finalized the joint Framework of Action (FoA) on sustainable financing. These regional instruments were both adopted during the High-Level Ministerial dialogue on Sustainable financing for universal health and HIV and AIDS coverage held on 23rd June 2016. Building upon these commitments by all Partner States, the EAC developed and adopted a Resource Mobilization Strategy for Universal Health and HIV Coverage, 2018 - 2023.

This strategy outlined financing gaps and sources of this financing, to the tune of an additional \$23 Billion between the Fiscal Years 2018/19 and 2023/24. A rapid review during a meeting of the TWG on health in Dar es Salaam in 2019 revealed that most of the 26 health financing commitments made by partner states were on the course to being met, with many additional inputs. EAC with support from UNAIDS and SIDA also developed the 'Resource Mobilization Strategy for Universal Health and HIV Coverage' in 2019 and the EAC secretariat was asked to disseminate the same and facilitate country level work planning for implementing the strategy. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions the dissemination is now planned to be done virtually.

In addition, COVID-19 has had a major impact not only on public health but also on economies around the world, hence the urgent need to assess its impact on the health and

¹ WHO, World Bank (2016) Global Health Observatory Dataset- Mortality, All ages, by country, from selected common diseases (Respiratory/ Pulmonary, Malaria, TB, AIDS related, neonatal, maternal, NCDs, Stroke and others)

HIV financing landscape and prioritize recommendations to mitigate its effects. This rapid assessment will enable the region reflect on the recommendations in the UHHC resource mobilization strategy in view of the changed context.

3. Rationale

Of the additional \$23 Billion to be raised by Partner States of the East African community, at least \$5 Billion was targeted from national budgets through taxation; and a further \$8 Billion from social development and protection schemes including national health insurance schemes (NHIF, NHIS, MDS, and others). Between the fiscal years beginning July 2018/19 and 2019/20, all Partner States including Burundi, and South Sudan had increased their budgets raising contributions by nearly \$1.5 Billion with Kenya earmarking an additional \$450 Million of her domestic budget to UHHC while Kenya and Tanzania's NHIFs spent more than \$ 1 billion on UHC related spending with Tanzania's recording significant surpluses. Rwanda had gone further and launched payment for results schemes, and a cross-border health insurance scheme among many innovations, while a health impact bond had been planned for launch and taking to market in the Nairobi Securities Exchange by March 2020, through the United Nations SDG partnership and a number of Public and Private Sector players. In brief, all States were on course to collectively meeting targets.

However, the onset of COVID-19 during the first quarter of the 2020 calendar year has affected all economic sectors and may impact implementation of all the strategies that EAC Partner States had adopted towards domestic resource mobilization. It is critical to estimate the effect of COVID-19 on domestic health sector financing in the EAC States and make actionable short and long term recommendations to mitigate further long terms effects and boost Domestic Resource Mobilization for UHHC during the remaining term of the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

4. Objectives of the meetings

- To disseminate the EAC Universal Health and HIV Coverage Resource Mobilization Strategy
- Discuss how COVID-19 will affect the domestic resource mobilization, consider and prioritize recommendations in the rapid impact assessment
- Update Partner State implementation plans for UHHC

5. Convening and design of the meetings

This dissemination and work planning will be done in two sessions; the first being virtual and the second involving

i) A virtual EAC and UHHC strategy dissemination meeting on 13th November which will additionally serve to orient Partner States' implementation plans and provide a template

for country presentations on progress. During this meeting, a Panel Discussion will ensue, on the impact of COVID-19 on domestic resource mobilization, with participants requested to consider and prioritize recommendations.

ii) A physical and virtual meeting thereafter, where Partner States will appraise participants on the progress in implementation of their UHHC resource mobilization workplans

EAC will convene partner states, and in collaboration with UNAIDS, convene partners and experts.

Dissemination of the strategy to be done virtually in plenary.

Work planning to be supported by consultant and other experts through physical meetings; with separate, concurrent meetings in three countries each facilitated by a different expert.

6. Proposed participants and support needs

The participants for this meeting shall be drawn from a cross-section of representation from the Partner States' UHHC committees (including Ministries responsible for finance, Ministries responsible for health, ministries responsible for planning, EAC Secretariat, EAC Expert Working Groups, UNAIDS, the Global Fund, WHO, CHAI, African Union, ECSA Health Community, Health Policy Plus, World Bank/ AFDB, the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, academic institutions, and others.

7. The expected outputs shall be:

- i. The EAC UHHC Resource Mobilization Plan Disseminated
- ii. Prioritized recommendations on DRM post COVID-19
- iii. Updated country workplans

8. Meeting logistics and key considerations

The meetings will be facilitated jointly by EAC and UNAIDS

The meeting will require the following logistics and considerations:

- (i) Videoconferencing facilities for the virtual meetings;
- (ii) A venue for participants from each of the three states to meet either within their own countries, or congregated together

(iii) Translation services

Translation services for English and French may be required if the Republic of Burundi confirms participation in the meetings.

(iv) Travel and safety advisory

In case of travel for sponsored participants, there will be need for air ticket, DSA less the meals and airport pick-up and drop-off. There will be need to provide advance security advisory to all travelling participants to ensure safety.

(v) Printing and printed materials

Documents for review shall be provided in soft copy prior to the meetings. Printing, where required shall be done prior to the meetings.

9. Proposed meeting agenda

Time	Friday Nov,
11.00 – 11.30	Official Opening – Deputy Sec. Gen EAC- Hon. Christophe Bazivamo Opening Remarks – Dr. Aeneas Chuma – Regional Director , UNAIDS Chair Sectoral Council on health / Representative (Republic of Rwanda) Virtual presentation of EAC UHHC Strategy
11.30 pm – 12.30 pm	Presentation and discussion of the EAC UHHC Resource Mobilization Strategy – Dr. Katende and Consultant (Chris)
12.30 pm -1.15 pm	Discussion on the effects of COVID-19 (Panelists – NACs, UNAIDS, Global Fund, World Bank, WHO, EAC Partner State Representatives -CEO NACC Kenya) Names TBC
1.15 pm – 1.30 pm	Highlights and planning for UHHC work planning sessions -

10. Key meeting documents (all to be shared before the meeting)

- i. EAC UHHC Resource Mobilization Strategy
- ii. Report on the Impact of COVID-19 on EAC Domestic Resource Mobilization
- iii. Previous Partner State Workplans
- iv. Template for presentation of Partner State updates
- v. Other documents