AIP Network
Value Proposition
Achieving universal health coverage (UHC) in Africa is critical to ensuring the health, well-being, and prosperity of countries and citizens on the continent.

The challenges to achieving UHC are uniquely African, and the most effective solutions are as well. Solutions are best identified and developed by African policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations, and communities.

The African Institutional Partner (AIP) Network is a coalition of diverse organizations representing countries in East and West Africa that applies a wealth of UHC experience and a participatory and demand-driven approach to advancing UHC.

We work with stakeholders to tailor and apply regional knowledge to country challenges in order to bring about tangible and meaningful improvement in the health of people across the continent.
The Unique Value of the AIP Network in Advancing Progress Toward UHC

- We are a network led by AFRICANS for AFRICA.
- We take GLOBAL lessons and use a REGIONAL learning approach to tailor solutions to COUNTRY problems.
- We are a coalition of partners with DIVERSE and COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS and longstanding experience WORKING TOGETHER FOR UHC.
- We have built a DEMAND-DRIVEN and PARTICIPATORY APPROACH to advancing UHC—and we have evidence that it works.

We do not import solutions from other regions. As African partners, we understand the challenges our communities and leaders face, how the continent can help lead the rest of the world, and how culture and context contribute to the success or failure of approaches taken by countries.

Africa has the experts and the skills to develop, test, and implement our own solutions to make progress on UHC, and our network has the constant presence in countries and in the region to partner with and pressure policymakers every day to implement those solutions.

Examples: We have helped realize improvements in accountability for UHC in Benin and Burkina Faso, and we have pushed forward a UHC roadmap in Uganda, which until recently had little momentum for the UHC agenda. With country experts pushing for these changes from within their own communities, we have achieved sustainable progress toward UHC.
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We know that leaders look to their neighboring countries for solutions and lessons, and we facilitate that cross-country learning. African countries share borders and cultures—as well as problems and challenges. While no two countries are identical, we understand that the experiences of one country could be the key to helping neighboring policymakers and civil society organizations design and implement better UHC solutions. We are regional by design so we can facilitate these opportunities and broker engagement. Our network proactively cultivates and curates lessons across the region as well as from global partners and shares actionable recommendations and support to those seeking to learn from the successes and mistakes of colleagues across the region and the world.

Examples: Our work to improve accountability for UHC in Burkina Faso has led to engagements in Benin, Togo, and Uganda, where we have helped partners adapt and implement approaches from other countries.
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The most effective solutions are multisectoral; the network pushing forward those solutions should be too.

We are a diverse network of partners that includes researchers, advocates and movement builders, and policy advisors. We unite theory with field experience. The institutions that make up our network have been effective and influential collaborators for many years, and we have honed our ability to capitalize on our complementary strengths to provide the tailored support that country change agents need to make progress toward UHC. We are comfortable working with heads of state and with citizen activists, and we advocate for bringing all voices to the table and amplifying those that are not always heard. This is what is needed to make UHC the norm across Africa.

Examples: Our partners in West Africa have developed a learning loop to share lessons and experiences among Burkina Faso, Benin, and Togo, with the forthcoming addition of Guinea. These engagements have extended to collaboration on accountability and social movements for UHC across East and West Africa.
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Traditional models of technical assistance from external consultants do not lead to sustainable, country-led change; our model does. We start by listening to countries, identifying specific gaps and bottlenecks, and tailoring our support to address those gaps and bottlenecks within the country context. We understand that the first solution is not always the right one, so we prioritize learning, participation, and adaptation. We bring together diverse actors, and we amplify and support voices that are not always heard—including citizens and communities. We learn together, and we adapt when things are not working.

Examples: We have spent five years developing, testing, and refining our model, and the results speak for themselves. From supporting the creation of an interministerial committee for UHC and a people’s version of the UHC roadmap in Uganda to facilitating the development of a new social movement for accountability for UHC in Burkina, our approach has led to unique and beneficial steps along the journey to UHC, proving what a participatory approach like ours has the potential to achieve.
AIP Network
Theory of Change
**Internal Activities**

- Develop formal network structure
- Develop network work plan
- Do fundraising

**Outputs**

- Finalized collaboration principles and guidelines
- Plan for Year 1 network governance, including roles of partners and individuals
- Y1 work plan, including roles and timelines for activities
- Learning and adaptation strategy and plan to assess progress and support adaptation for network activities
- Fundraising strategy, including names of potential funders and pitch materials

**Immediate Outcomes (12 months)**

- Meetings and communication structures for network in place
- All partners engaged in network activities and coordination
- Y1 work plan activities and deliverables completed
- Learning and adaptation strategy embedded into work
- Funding secured for network coordination activities

**Intermediate Outcomes (beyond 12 months)**

- Partners empowered and engaged to participate in network
- Agreed-upon strategy and shared vision underlie all network activities
- Sustainable financial or financing model established that supports the network’s activities
- Diverse actors across the region see the value of working with the network on UHC.
- Network can adapt quickly and effectively to progress and changing needs

**Learning and adaptation strategy** and plan to assess progress and support adaptation for network activities
Immediate Outcomes (12 months)

- Previously unengaged actors in X countries see the value of working together on UHC
- Previously unengaged actors in X countries actively working together on UHC
- Country actors in X countries have a better understanding of country-level gaps in UHC
- Country actors in X countries have developed actionable plans to address country-level gaps in UHC
- Country actors in X countries report progress on addressing country-level gaps in UHC

Intermediate Outcomes (beyond 12 months)

- Country-level actors proactively reach out to diverse stakeholders in their country to address UHC bottlenecks
- Diverse actors in country have a role in UHC processes design and implementation
- Countries implement policies and programs that advance UHC
- National and global actors actively seek support from the AIP Network on UHC issues, including specific technical topics
Immediate Outcomes (12 months)

- Previously unengaged actors in X countries see the value of working across countries for regional UHC progress
- Previously unengaged actors in X countries actively work across countries for regional UHC progress
- Country actors in X countries learn from other country actors to help advance UHC progress in their country
- Actors build capacity to undertake regional advocacy for UHC
- Country actors in X countries tap African UHC experts from the roster for cross-country support

Regional Activities

- Facilitate cross-country learning and collaboration on UHC
- Facilitate regional evidence building and dissemination
- Advocate for UHC across the region
- Develop a pool of African UHC experts who can provide technical assistance

Outputs

- Materials (developed or adapted) on how the network facilitates regional learning and collaboration on UHC
- Plan for Year 1 regional evidence building and advocacy activities
- Resource materials and briefs from regional evidence building and advocacy activities
- Dissemination of resource materials and briefs
- Roster of African UHC experts developed

Intermediate Outcomes (beyond 12 months)

- Regional actors proactively reach out to actors in other countries for support on UHC progress
- Regional actors have the evidence needed to design and implement UHC policies and programs
- Network-facilitated advocacy promotes UHC progress across the region
- Diverse voices are included in advocacy that promotes UHC progress across the region
- Regional and global actors actively seek support from the network on UHC issues, including evidence building and advocacy
Ultimate Outcomes
(resulting from all intermediate outcomes)

UHC efforts and discussions integrated into all areas of health in countries and at the regional level

Accountability for UHC mainstreamed in countries across the region, with governments accountable for UHC and communities participating in accountability

Actionable and ambitious government commitments for UHC

Governments delivering on commitments for UHC

Improved population health outcomes as more people gain access to affordable, high-quality health care