



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

11th Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP) Biennial Conference 2024

Monday 26th February to Friday 1st March in Abuja, Nigeria

(Arrival 26th, Pre conferences 27th, Conference 28th and 29th & Departure 1st March)

Theme: The Journey to achieving Universal Health coverage in Africa; Experiences and Lessons from faith communities

Background

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a globally recognized goal that seeks to ensure that all individuals and communities have access to essential healthcare services without suffering financial hardship. It is a cornerstone of sustainable development and is integral to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.

The concept of UHC has gained significant momentum on the global stage in recent years. In 2012, the United Nations unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing UHC as a key objective for international development. This landmark resolution recognized that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental human right and an essential prerequisite for social and economic development.

UHC according to WHO means that **all people** without exception have **access** to the **full range of health services** they need (preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative care) when and where they need them **without financial hardship**.

The contribution of faith actors to UHC:

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to diverse and dynamic healthcare systems, including faith-based organizations, that play a crucial role in delivering essential services to communities, often in resource-constrained settings. The region has shown resilience and innovation in responding to health crises, including pandemics and humanitarian emergencies.

The faith community in Sub-Saharan Africa has a long history of involvement in healthcare delivery, driven by a **deep commitment** to addressing the health needs of their communities. These faith-based organizations (FBOs) have **extensive reach** operating hospitals, clinics, and community health programs, making significant contributions to healthcare service provision especially to underserved and remote communities. FBO services also seek to ensure **holistic care** not only physical but also mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of communities they serve remaining and participating in these communities over time.

Conference Overview:

The Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP) is proud to host its 11th Biennial Conference from February 26 to March 1, 2024, in Abuja, Nigeria (*arrival 26th, pre conferences 27th, conference 28th and 29th then departure 1st March*). This significant event will bring together a diverse audience, including representatives from member Christian Health Associations (CHAs), Drug Supply Organizations (DSOs), development partners, ministries of health from various African countries, government agencies, UN agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and other Faith and Health Actors. The conference serves as a platform for sharing experiences,

insights, and innovations on the journey towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa, with a focus on the contributions of faith communities.

Conference Objectives:

- Share and discuss practical experiences and lessons learned by CHAs, DSOs, and other stakeholders in the pursuit of UHC in Africa.
- Explore innovative strategies and approaches that promote people-centered care, wellness, self-care, and life transitions.
- Highlight the integration of mental health services post-pandemic and address health disparities, including gender and social inclusion, with keen interest in conflict settings.
- Examine health systems innovations, digital solutions, and supply chain improvements to strengthen healthcare delivery.
- Foster effective partnerships and collaborations to advance UHC, including private-public partnerships and localization efforts.
- Address emerging issues in healthcare, including the production of medical technologies, mental health, and gender and social accountability.

Sub Theme One: Re-Thinking Health and Wellness

Every day presents choices as to the extent to which you do what's best to sustain your physical, mental/emotional, and social well-being, and preserve the balance among these aspects of your health. Optimal health comes from wellness, from making decisions and practicing behaviors that are based on sound health knowledge and healthful attitudes.

- How are CHA member facilities, programs and DSOs effectively undertaking client centered care along Wellness, self-care, life transitions?
- What organizational and programmatic strategies are you deploying for Community involvement and participation in health (Patient voice and leveraging community resources towards UHC)?
- How are you tackling health disparities (e.g., leaving no one behind, gender and social accountability, health service delivery in Conflict setting and Addressing UHC in conflict zones.
- How are you leveraging faith as a guiding principle to promote holistic health (scriptural basis to healing and wellness)

Sub Theme two: Health Systems Innovations

Ensuring that quality health services are equally available to all, when and where they need them, demands fresh thinking and continuous adaptation and improvement. Tapping innovations from faith-based actors brings much-needed reach and innovation, especially in fragile and conflict-affected areas where governments are not functioning well.

- Describe how research, education and innovation activities working with students, governments, private sector, multilateral entities, and civil society has promoted policy and practice to accelerate the diffusion of health system innovations.
- In what ways are CHAs implementing innovative health systems strengthening approaches along any of the 6 building blocks of (i) service delivery, (ii) health workforce, (iii) health information systems, (iv) access to essential medicines, (v) financing, and (vi) leadership/governance.



- Show-case experiences and best practices of utilizing electronic systems in health service delivery (E-learning, Electronic Medical Records Systems (EMR), Mobile Data collections and Reporting, and Innovations in Digital last mile health service delivery (e.g., drones for health service delivery in far to reach and Conflict settings)

Sub Theme three: Effective Partnerships in advancing Universal Health Coverage

Global health partnerships are increasing in number, and importance, within the ongoing effort to achieve universal health coverage in low- and middle-income countries. For instance, many FBO facilities have offered quality, affordable specialized health care to communities as a result of these partnerships. We seek to learn from your experiences on the following:

- Showcase successful partnership models aimed at advancing UHC that you have engaged in. [(a) Private-Public Partnerships, (b) North-South partnerships, (c) South-South partnerships, (d) North-North partnerships}
- Examining strategies for sustainable partnerships towards advancing UHC (policy framework/governance structures/sustainable financing models/equity & inclusion issues etc)
- Analyzing local capacity strengthening/localization efforts/impact of global health initiatives & international organisations for programs and activities you have participated in.

Sub Theme Four: Research and Other Emerging Issues

The paramount objective of global health research is to eliminate disparities in health outcomes. Research is critical to improving patient outcomes and the quality of healthcare. It helps us to understand what works, what doesn't work, and why.

- Share results of research that you have conducted aimed at advancing UHC.
- Describe opportunities that exist in research and other emerging issues with reference to your research work.
- Discuss the challenges and approaches to health research capacity strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Provide key recommendations in key target areas required to support the pathway for successful capacity building in Africa.

Call for Abstracts

ACHAP is delighted to announce the **Call for Abstracts** and selected presenters will be invited to share their experiences under the different conference tracks in the form of oral presentations or poster displays at the conference. This is an opportunity to showcase your work to a wide audience of global health professionals across different sectors, including health service delivery, companies and not for profits, and make meaningful connections for stronger collaboration. The conference theme is ***The Journey to achieving Universal Health coverage in Africa: Experiences and Lessons from faith communities.***

Who can submit an abstract?

We welcome all ACHAP members, Faith Leaders and other participants who bring information, ideas, and views that are global, practical, and will stimulate discussion. We want to hear from program managers, Program Officers medical professionals, health care chaplains, clergy and laity in congregational health projects, theologians and other academics, Christian healing agencies, and senior church leaders,



evaluation experts, faith leaders and other believers: all who have a story to share, a lesson learned, findings to disseminate from their evidence-based practice.

Why should I present?

The ACHAP Biennial Conference is an excellent way to share your story, make new resources available, and learn from one another. It also provides opportunities to network and build new connections and collaborations.

How do I apply to present?

Select from the subthemes and things to consider as you draft your abstract, then [Complete the Abstract Submission Form](#) by **October 31, 2023** and our reviewers will contact you by the end of November 2023 to let you know whether your abstract was accepted. Before you begin filling out the abstract form, please consider how you will address the following ideas, which are subthemes and suggested topics for the conference. These are possible questions to answer, but you are not limited to these in submitting your abstract:

By presenting your abstract, you will highlight best practices and share innovative ideas and knowledge in health management with leading experts in the field. Your presentations and discussions will be fundamental to identifying, discussing, and addressing current and future needs of health management in Africa and worldwide.

Submit your abstract by **Tuesday, 31st October 2023 at 17.00 EAT through this google form**. Please do read the following **submission guidelines** thoroughly. For any additional questions, please contact the technical lead, Dr Alex Muhereza at amuhereza@afriachap.org. All submissions must be made online on the **abstract online submission platform** ([Click Here to Complete the Abstract Submission Form](#)). Abstracts submitted in any other way will not be accepted. For any issues with the online platform, please email conference@afriachap.org. The final decision on the acceptance of your abstract, as well as the type of presentation, will be communicated after review by the ACHAP Abstract Review Committee.