

# CALL TO ACTION:

## FAITH ACTORS ADVANCING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN AFRICA



**AFRICA CHA PLATFORM**

We, the members of the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP) and affiliated partners, convened at Reiz Continental Hotel in Abuja, Nigeria from February 26th to 29th, 2024, to take stock of our contribution towards achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa. Recognizing healthcare as a fundamental human right and essential for the well-being of all individuals, we hereby unite in our commitment to action.

### **Acknowledging:**

That Universal Health Coverage serves as a cornerstone in ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all individuals, without exception;

UHC entails providing access to the full spectrum of health services - preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative care - to every person, irrespective of their socio-economic status, geographical location, or other defining factors.

### **Recognizing:**

The invaluable contribution of faith-based health actors in delivering affordable and quality healthcare services to hard-to-reach populations across Africa.

Through innovative approaches and strategic partnerships, faith-based actors have made significant strides towards the attainment of Universal Health Coverage.





### Resolving to:

1. Establish a structured engagement with Governments to ensure political leadership in achieving Universal Health Coverage, evidenced by goodwill, concrete commitments and partnership agreements.
2. Leave no one behind by building resilient, responsive, and inclusive health systems accessible to all, irrespective of socio-economic, gender, age, or geographical and disability factors.
3. Incorporate the health needs of vulnerable populations, particularly those in fragile settings, into our implementation plans, with a heightened focus on primary healthcare and disease prevention.
4. Uphold quality of care by strengthening health systems that earn trust among individuals and communities, and implement inclusive social accountability mechanisms for all parts of the health system so that the responsibility of making progress towards Universal Health Coverage is shared by everyone.
5. Continue to invest in the training and development of a competent health workforce, with special emphasis on front-line primary health care workers.
6. Maintain strategic partnerships among organizations to sustain programs reaching non-prioritized areas and groups, fostering south to south, north south and other bilateral and multi-lateral partnerships.
7. Challenge faith leaders to embrace their role as health champions and document our collective contribution for effective advocacy at all levels.

### Advocating for:

1. Increased global solidarity and cooperation in advancing Universal Health Coverage beyond national boundaries.
2. Institutionalization of the inclusion of faith-based health actors in national Technical Working Groups to ensure their active participation in healthcare policy formulation.
3. Alignment of Universal Health Coverage efforts with principles of social justice and equity, ensuring fair distribution of resources and healthcare services.
4. Increased inclusion of, and government financing to faith-based health systems, and public health insurance for Primary Health Care to strengthen healthcare delivery at the grassroots level.

5. Active participation of faith-based actors in localization processes to expand healthcare services to fragile settings.
6. Comprehensive health service coverage, including addressing silent epidemics such as Non-Communicable Diseases Neglected Tropical Diseases, Eye health, Antimicrobial Resistance, mental health, SGBV, and reproductive health services.
7. Increased engagement of faith-based actors in climate change, health, and global health security initiatives.
8. Research and documentation of faith community work for effective advocacy and program implementation.



**In conclusion, we urge all stakeholders - governments, faith-based organizations, development partners, and communities - to join hands in implementing these resolutions and advocating for transformative change towards achieving Universal Health Coverage in Africa.**