Towards Universal healthcare Coverage in Africa

Achievements, challenges and prospects

Fondation Pierre Fabre Conference - Lavaur, France - 3 October 2017

Drugs delivery at the pharmacy of the Bamako Research Center to combat sickle-cell disease, Mali.
**Fondation Pierre Fabre’s Annual Conference**

LAVAUR, OCTOBER 3RD, 2017

Facilitator–moderator: Élé Asu, journalist. Host of “Réussite”, a current-affairs programme on French television devoted to the African economy/News anchor (Canal+) – Canal+ Afrique

---

**Conference Programme**

Towards Universal Health Coverage in Africa: achievements, challenges and perspectives

10h–10h10

**Opening remarks**

**Introductory Presentation**

• General overview of public health challenges across Africa.
• The importance of progressing toward UHC in this framework.
• The international community’s commitment for UHC.

• Gustavo Gonzalez-Canali, former Head of the Health and Human Development Department in the Global Public Goods Directorate at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

10h10–10h30

1st Plenary

• Improving access to quality health services: major challenges and development perspectives.
• Training and mobilizing human resources for health.
• The challenge of geographic access to health services.
• The social determinants of access to health and their impact on effective service delivery.

• Christophe Paquet, AFD.
• Yannick Jaffré, CNRS and GID.
• Joy Atwine, Management Sciences for Health (MSH).

10h30–12h15

Lunch

12h15–15h

2nd Plenary

• Financing for UHC: key issues at stake and development perspectives.
• State of health financing in the region
• Overview of the main functions of health financing systems (revenue raising, pooling, purchasing).
• The importance of domestic resource mobilization and innovative models of health financing.
• Case studies: Health financing in Gabon and Ghana.

• Diane Muhongerwa, WHO.
• Guy Patrick Obiang, National Health Insurance and Social Welfare Fund (CNAMGS), Gabon.
• Valéry Ridde, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Montreal.
• Chris Atim, African Health Economics and Policy Association(AfHEA) and Research For Development (R4D).

15h–16h30

3rd Plenary

• The role of mutual health insurances in achieving universal health coverage: a critical assessment.
• Case studies: The promotion of mutual health insurances in Senegal, Mali and Ethiopia.

• Issa Sissouma, Union of Malian Mutuality, Mali.
• Atakelti Abreha, Ethiopian Health Insurance Agency.
• Bruno Boidin, Lille University.
• Ndeye Bineta Mbow, Departmental Union of Health Insurance, Foundiougne, Sénégal.

16h30–16h45

Closing remarks

• Béatrice Garrette, Director of Fondation Pierre Fabre.

16h45

Cocktail

17h30

End of the Conference

Domaine D’En Doyse, Route de Saint Sulpice, 81500 LAVAUR
Earlier, in May 2017, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, upon his election as WHO Director-General, declared: “Achieving universal health coverage will be my top priority, because I believe it is the best overall investment in health we can make. Where health systems are strong, we are better able to prevent, monitor, detect, and respond to health emergencies. At the same time, universal health coverage delivers disease prevention, health promotion, and treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases alike, while ensuring individuals are not driven into poverty because of high costs.”

Against this backdrop of diverse commitments made by the international community and the African states themselves, the Fondation Pierre Fabre decided to host a day of dialogue and focused work on this issue at its fourth annual conference to be held on 3 October 2017.

The right to healthcare and social protection are now universally recognised principles, and most societies agree on the importance of creating conditions that facilitate access to healthcare for the public. Significant progress has indeed been made in this area: between 1990 and 2015, child mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and North Africa (NA) decreased by 54% and 67%, respectively. For the same period, maternal mortality was also down by 45% in SSA, and the number of AIDS-related deaths dropped, as well.

Nevertheless, people in Sub-Saharan Africa still suffer from enormous unmet health needs. Critical shortcomings and inequalities – both international and intranational – persist when it comes to access to healthcare and coverage against the risk of illness:

- Between 60% and 70% of health expenditures in Africa are paid directly by households to healthcare professionals, compared to a global average of 46%.
- 100 million people in the world are sinking into poverty due to healthcare costs. 150 million people, including 35 million Africans, are facing financial disaster for the same reason.
- 73% of the world’s population does not have access to comprehensive social protection; 50% has no such protection at all.
- Access to healthcare remains the foremost concern of those living in developing countries.

Patients reception, Bamako, Mali.
On the strength of this observation, members of the international community have devoted substantial energy to promoting universal healthcare coverage (UHC). In fact, UHC is one of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly, with Target 8 of SDG 3 stressing the need to “achieve UHC, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.”

Many countries are therefore building and implementing legislative and institutional frameworks that promote development of strategies for health coverage, particularly those in the informal sector and rural areas.

**But what about the reality in the field? What are the main obstacles? Are there success models?**

**The Fondation Pierre Fabre: dedicated to improving access to healthcare to treat the most underprivileged populations of the global south**

The Fondation Pierre Fabre was awarded charitable status in 1999 and has been working in the public interest since that time to give people in the Global South better access to medicines and quality care. It acts as a sponsor and operator, supporting healthcare structures in the Global South and, as of 2017, is operating 23 programmes in 15 countries in Africa, South-East Asia, Lebanon and Haiti. Its four areas of intervention are the training of drug specialists, combating sickle-cell anaemia, access to quality healthcare and tropical dermatology.

« Achieving universal health coverage will be my top priority, because I believe it is the best overall investment in health we can make. »

Docteur Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General WHO.
This event is part of a series initiated by the Foundation three years ago, in which actors and experts in the realm of global health are hosted by the Foundation annually at the En Doyse site in Lavaur (Tarn, France). The themes of the previous conferences were:

- "Medications in Africa and Asia: quality, counterfeiting, risks and concerns" – October 2016
- "The role of territorial authorities in healthcare for Southern countries" – October 2015
- "France’s role in public health in Southern countries" – October 2014

The objective of this year’s conference is to assess available knowledge pools, general awareness, and other diverse issues related to universal health coverage in the African context, such as healthcare quality, financing issues and development of mutual health insurance schemes.

Speakers will include representatives of health insurance funds in African countries, along with academics, economists and anthropologists.

**Date, location, participants**

The conference will take place on 3 October 2017 in Lavaur. Those invited to the event include national public health officials from Africa, academics and researchers, heads of international organisations and NGOs and various Fondation Pierre Fabre partners.

The conference will be videotaped in its entirety, with videos and transcribed content subsequently available on the Foundation’s website: www.fondationpierrefabre.org.

---

1. African Health Ministers commit to attain universal health coverage: http://www.afro.who.int/fr/node/8542
4. Pew Research Center study – September 2015
ÉLÉ ASU (1)
Conference facilitator-moderator

Élé Asu is a French television journalist born in Calabar, Nigeria. She holds a degree in English and is a graduate of the Institute of Political Studies at the University of Strasbourg. She began her career at France’s Ministry of Culture in Paris before joining the Canal+ media group as a news anchor in 2006. She now also presents “REUSSITE”, the first French programme dedicated to African economics, and regularly hosts international and corporate events.

GUSTAVO GONZALEZ-CANALI (2)

Dr Gustavo Gonzalez-Canali has been the Head of the Health and Human Development Department in the Global Public Goods Directorate at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Gonzalez-Canali served as adviser to the former French Minister Delegate for Cooperation, Development and Francophony. He also served as a clinical investigator on AIDS vaccine trials with the French Agency for AIDS and Hepatitis Research (ANRS), the Medical Director of Professor Luc Montaigner’s HIV research Centre in Paris and Head of the outpatient clinic at the Institut Pasteur. He has been a board member representing France /Luxembourg / European Commission / Germany in the GAVI Alliance, member of the board of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and is the alternate member of the board of directors for the France to the Global Fund to fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. He also represented France in the group of experts of the Foreign Policy and Global Health initiative. More recently, Dr. Canali has served as a Senior Advisor at UNWOMEN.

CHRISTOPHE PAQUET (3)

After studying medicine in France and epidemiology in the USA, Dr. Christophe Paquet conducted several humanitarian missions with Doctors without Borders (MSF) in Central America, Thailand and the Sudan. He specialized in communicable and tropical diseases and participated in the creation of Epicentre, an MSF epidemiology research group and WHO Collaborating Centre, which he headed until 1999. Christophe Paquet subsequently joined the National Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS) where he managed the International and Tropical Department, while participating in several missions for WHO during epidemics of international importance, such as SARS in 2003. In 2007, he joined Agence Française de Développement (AFD), where he was Project Manager in the Health and Social Protection Division for 6 years, prior to becoming Director of this division in August 2013.

YANNICK JAFFRÉ (4)

Yannick Jaffré is an anthropologist, Research Director at CNRS (UMI 3189) and GID (Institut de France). He has been working in Western Africa for over 20 years on issues related to the social determinants of access to healthcare. His work currently focuses on maternal and child health.

JOY ATWINE (5)

Joy Atwine has more than 18 years of experience, specializing in health management, quality improvement, service delivery, health strategic planning, and implementing plans and policies. Atwine led and coordinated a team that developed Rwanda’s most recent national treatment guidelines to standardize care for high-risk, high-volume, and common clinical conditions. She coordinated the team that developed health service packages for the new intermediate referral level and reviewed the existing service packages for district, referral, and health centers. She also led the team that developed the first set of Rwanda’s Essential Accreditation Hospital Quality Standards, which are now used by the Ministry of Health, its counterparts, and other partners. Previously, Atwine served as director of administration and deputy CEO at King Faisal Hospital and director of administration at the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali. She holds a Master’s Degree in Health Management from Leeds University in the United Kingdom.
Diane Muhongerwa holds a Master of Public Health and a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and Administration; currently pursuing a PhD in Governance and Leadership; with a vast experience in health, health financing and universal health coverage, financial sustainability planning, policy development and review, health systems development and multisectoral program management including managing partnerships and coordination for developmental policies.

She is currently the World Health Organization (Rwanda) Health Economics Program Advisor (for 12 years), having previously served as Director for Planning and Coordination in Rwanda’s National AIDS Control Commission.

Mrs. Muhongerwa worked in multicultural and multisectoral contexts, especially within the UN community in the context of Delivering as One in the One UN (UNDAP) processes, within national health public institution and other government institutions such as ministries of finance, planning, local administration, social welfare, etc. She participated specifically in different reviews, policy and strategic plans development, for the health sector in general and for the health financing systems in particular, including the community-based health insurance reforms, with focus on universal health coverage principles, especially in the context of high levels of informal sector and high dependency on donor support; both in Rwanda and in other African countries.

Dr. Valéry Ridde is an associate professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Montreal and a researcher with the University of Montreal’s public health research institute (IRSPUM). He holds an MSc in community health from Laval University, a DESS (master’s degree) in public management from the University of Dijon (France), and a doctorate in community health from Laval University. His doctoral thesis was a study of health policy and health equity in Burkina Faso. He received a CIHR New Investigator Salary Award for the years 2010 to 2015.

Dr. Ridde’s research interests include program evaluation, health promotion, community health approaches, health equity, health policy implementation and organization and funding of health systems. He is heavily involved in knowledge-transfer activities and partnerships with international organizations and governments.

Dr. Chris Atim is a Senior Program Director at Results for Development Institute (R4D). In the latter role, he also served for one year as the health systems and equity advisor on USAID’s global flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP). At the same time, he serves as the Executive Director of the African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA), a Pan-African think tank that brings together experts in health economics, financing, policy and systems across the continent. He recently chaired the Ghanaian President’s National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) Technical Review Committee. For about five years to December 2014, he also served as a senior health economist with the World Bank based in Dakar, Senegal, where he led on the Bank’s health financing support to a number of countries in the region.

Dr. Atim received his PhD from the University of Sussex in the UK in 1993, following a thesis on economic development. This was followed by a number of postdoctoral courses in epidemiology, health economics and financing in the UK and Belgium.
ISSA SISOUMA (10)

Health economist, with a Master degree in Health Economics from the Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches en Développement International (CERDI) of Université d’Auvergne, Issa Sissouma has an extensive experience working on health insurance in Mali and across West Africa. Among other functions in this field, he is: Director General of the Technical Union of Malian Mutuality (Union Technique des Mutualités, UTM), Member of the advisory board of the social mutuality within the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Member of the task force for Universal Health Coverage in Mali, Coordinator of the civil society’s expert groups in support to the implementation process of Universal Health Coverage in Mali, Expert of the working group for the implementation of compulsory health insurance (Assurance Maladie Obligatoire) and the Medical Assistance Scheme (Régime d’Assistance Médicale).

BRUNO BOIDIN (12)

Bruno Boidin is professor of economics at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille (Lille 1). He is also a researcher at Centre lillois d’études et de recherches sociologiques et économiques (CLERSE). His research interests include development and health related issues in Africa. He has had work experiences in different African countries and is currently the director of the Institute of Economic Sciences and Management (ISEM) of Université de Lille.

NDEYE BINETA MBOW (13)

Ndeye Bineta Mbow is the Director of the Unité Départementale d’Assurance Maladie (UDAM) of Foundiougne, Senegal. This UDAM is a professional health insurance at the departmental level implanted in two departments of Senegal with the support of the Belgium Development Cooperation. Prior to that role, Mrs. Mbow has been the technical assistant of the Programme d’Appui à la Micro Assurance Santé (PAMAS) in the Fatick region, Senegal.

ATAKELTI ABRAHA (11)

Atakelti Abraha is a senior public health specialist, specializing in health management and economics and a PhD fellow in Umeå University, Sweden. He has more than 20 years of experience in health care and health management and several years of teaching experience. He has worked in his country, Ethiopia, from head of District health system and Region health system. He played a leading role in the Health, hospital quality of care system reform in Ethiopia. Currently Mr Abraha is the General Director of the Ethiopian Health insurance agency with plenty of experience in health insurance in low income countries.
Improving healthcare in the Global South

Officially recognised in France as an institution of public utility since 1999, Fondation Pierre Fabre works to provide the people of the Global South with better access to quality drugs and therapies. Its four action areas are: training of drugs specialists, combating sickle-cell disease, access to quality healthcare, and dermatology in tropical areas.

In 2017, the Foundation conduct 23 programmes in 15 countries of Africa, Asia and Lebanon.

Press:

Guillaume Festivi
Communications Manager
Tél. : +33 (0)1.53.53.20.51 / +33 (0)5.63.83.12.93
Mobile: +33 (0)6.20.88.61.55
guillaume.festivi@fondationpierrefabre.org

www.fondationpierrefabre.org

Domaine d’En Doyse – Route de Saint-Sulpice 81500 Lavaur
Tel +33(0)5 63 83 12 91
Email : contact@fondationpierrefabre.org