

24 October 2018 COMMUNIQUE

**Update on the development of a
“Community Health Roadmap:
National investment priorities to scale primary care at the community level”**

Summary: A “Community Health Roadmap” is being developed to coordinate, align and increase investments in primary care that include preventative, promotive and curative services at the community level. The roadmap elevates national priorities defined by governments and their partners and creates a common agenda for investments in community health to strengthen primary health care. The development of the roadmap is steered by a group of organizations including USAID, UNICEF, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the World Bank. The Roadmap will be launched in 2019 and funders, governments, and all partners are invited to join the process.

Context and the need for the Roadmap

Community systems are critical foundations of primary health care (PHC), and indispensable for achieving universal health coverage (UHC) as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

For the purposes of this roadmap, community health includes: i) Health promotion and service delivery activities that primarily occur outside of a health facility, ii) both supply of and demand for health care, iii) activities that community members undertake as agents of their own health, iv) delivery channels, including community health workers (CHWs), v) delivery through public, NGO, and private sectors, and vi) linkages to a broader, multi-sectoral community system.

Many countries have shown clear commitment to strengthening community health systems through national policies and domestic funding commitments. In addition, there is growing interest in community health from funders, civil society, private sector actors, and others. Despite national prioritization of community health, countries still experience challenges, including funding gaps and fragmentation. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, there is currently a \$2B annual funding gap to scale and sustain community health programs. Furthermore, funding for community health is fragmented and uncoordinated, and often not aligned with national strategies and priorities. For example, one country recently conducted an assessment of mobile technologies used in its community health program and identified over a dozen different donor-funded initiatives. This proliferation of programs can lead to fragmented delivery approaches, insufficient community ownership, and a weak continuum of care.

In March 2018, funders met to confirm the need for and interest in a common agenda for community health that facilitates more coordinated international support of country governments in institutionalizing, integrating and accelerating progress on community health. A core team of partners launched a process to develop this investment Roadmap, working closely with Ministries of Health across multiple countries. An August 2018 re-convening of funders reiterated appetite for supporting sustainable community health investments, based on country-defined and -driven priorities.

Vision

The outcome this Roadmap aims to achieve: *“Strong, sustainable health systems that promote, protect, and expand access to health at the community level”.*

Key content of the Roadmap

The Roadmap highlights key investment opportunities for all stakeholders and includes:

- *A set of initial countries* primed for partnership on community health, based on systematic analysis of countries' status in delivery at the community-level and assessment of their feasibility and impact potential, taking into account national leadership and financial commitments.
- *A list of prioritized national needs and a landscape of significant current investments* for all initial countries, based on priorities expressed by national ministries of health and engagement with donors, implementers, advocates, and other stakeholders.
- *A list of prioritized cross-country investments* in key areas of system support (i.e., financing, system design and policies, system management and leadership, and political prioritization), informed by country needs in diverse policy and systems contexts.
- *A forward-looking, coherent action plan* including metrics for success, a timeline of key milestones, and clear delineation of suggested roles and responsibilities for different types of stakeholders.

Process and next steps

The roadmap will undergo continued development in the coming months through a highly consultative process with country governments, donors, technical experts, the WHO, and other stakeholders, overseen by a Steering Committee with representatives from UNICEF, the Rockefeller Foundation, USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the World Bank.

The roadmap will be launched in 2019. In the meantime, we invite you to join us in this ongoing process and to commit to supporting community health more effectively. Information about this collaboration, interim results of the Roadmap process, and ways to participate can be found at www.communityhealthroadmap.org