



COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Young Researchers and Policy Makers Training Workshop on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for Anglophone African Countries

Key Facts

Type: Anglophone training course on Universal Health Coverage
Course Content: Fundamentals of UHC, Implementation of UHC, M&E

Location: Nairobi Kenya

Date: August 18-29, 2014

Fees: \$150

Background

The concept of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has received considerable global attention in the last couple of years, and it is seen as the key to improving health outcomes through unhindered access to health among the poor and vulnerable populations who ordinarily are hampered by various financial and other barriers. At the 58th World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2005, member states adopted a resolution to "develop their health systems, so that all people have access to services and do not suffer financial hardship paying for them." More recently in 2013, the 66th WHA and the 68th UNGASS reaffirmed support for UHC. Governments across Africa are now implementing programmes and initiatives towards improve access to health in a bid to achieve universal health coverage.

African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA) through the support of IDRC and Rockefeller Foundation is currently implementing a capacity building programme aimed at developing the capacity of policy makers and young researchers within Sub-Saharan African countries in the design, management and implementation of policies and programmes towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the continent. Analysis of a 2013 survey that covered 16 countries within the region had revealed knowledge and capacity gaps in the technical analysis of the various aspects of UHC among staff of Ministries of Health, government health agencies, local, national, and regional health and research organizations within the continent.

The AfHEA UHC Training Project seeks to bridge these capacity gaps in the design, planning, implementation and management of UHC programmes among policy makers and young researchers in Africa. The first training workshop targeting Young Researchers from Francophone countries was held in Dakar Senegal from 27th January – 7th February 2014 and was judged by participants to be highly successfully. This present training workshop is being planned for Young Researchers, Policy Makers and other interested professionals to be selected from Anglophone African countries.

Course Aims and Objectives

The course seeks to build and improve the capacity of health policy and financing professionals and researchers in key areas related to universal health coverage in order to enable them to support their countries' UHC programs more effectively. This is part of the broader objectives of the ongoing AfHEA capacity building project, which seeks among others to:

- Build and reinforce capacities for design, implementation and monitoring & evaluation of country UHC programmes
- Facilitate the dissemination of research findings on health financing issues in Africa, as well as serve as forum for sharing of information and networking among professionals
- Provide a platform for engaging policy makers, while facilitating exchanges and debates between researchers, policy makers, practitioners as well as civil society at the national, sub- and regional levels.

Target Audience

The course participants will broadly include professionals in both the public and private sector, including Ministry of Health and their Agencies, Ministry of Finance, Social Security and Health Insurance Schemes, Health Maintenance Organizations, and other related sectors. The course is designed to meet the needs of young researchers, postgraduate students, early career professionals and policy makers whose interests cover health economics and financing, health systems strengthening, public policy analysis, as well as those directly involved in the design, planning, implementation and M&E of UHC and related programmes or initiatives.

Course Content/Curriculum

The course will cover 4 modules namely:

Module 1: Health Financing Policies and the UHC Agenda

Module 2: Fundamentals of UHC

Module 3: Planning and Implementing of UHC programmes

Module 4: Monitoring and Evaluation of UHC programmes

Some of the topics to covered during the course will include, among others:

- The pillars of health system: social determinants of health
- Governance for health and stewardship roles of governments
- Health financing system goals:
- The policy process: policy cycle, policy triangle etc
- Evidence-based policy making: principles and realities in the African context
- Translating research evidence into policies: challenges and opportunities

- Policy choices in health financing/ health financing policy analysis
- Policy advocacy and reforms: managing the political context, stakeholder analysis/engagement, strategic communication/advocacy plans
- Principles of UHC: components of UHC, mechanisms for health financing, dimensions of UHC, types of insurance etc
- Financing UHC: insurance schemes, taxation, risk pooling, mutual funds etc
- Funding Direct payments
- Resource planning and mobilization: innovative strategies for raising revenues,
- Modelling and Budgeting
- Purchasing healthcare: more health for money, contracting/payments reforms
- Provider payments: fee-for-service, capitation payment, salaries, PBF/RBF
- Incentives: supply and demand components
- Benefit packages: cost analysis, equity etc
- M&E Tools and Methodological approaches
- Strategies for monitoring and evaluation of UHC schemes
- Case Studies from Sub-Saharan African Countries etc

Training Methods

The workshop modules would be delivered using a problem-based approach. Selected participants would be contacted well ahead of time and encouraged to bring along country-specific data and documents related to UHC which would be used for case studies and group discussions during the workshop. Essentially the training programme would include:

- Didactic lectures and presentations
- Interactive workshops and seminars (with policy makers and experts)
- Group discussions and presentations
- Country case studies
- Online discussion forums (AfHEA website/social media)

Participants will be provided access to the course materials during the workshop, as well as online via AfHEA website

Training Outcomes

By the end of the training workshop, it is expected that participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the principles and concepts of UHC
- Demonstrate knowledge of the recent developments and initiatives towards UHC within the Sub-Saharan African region
- Provide more effective technical support for the design, implementation and M&E of their country UHC program(s)
- Show ability to apply tools, techniques and mechanisms for the analysis and evaluation of policies, interventions and initiatives on UHC

Facilitators

As the largest professional network of researchers and practitioners of health economics and policy analysis in sub-Saharan, AfHEA is committed to delivering quality content to the participants. Hence the modules will be delivered by carefully selected and experienced experts from the membership of AfHEA as well as regional and international organizations.

Certification

All participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance at the end of the course as proof of their participation, and would be duly signed and authenticated by AfHEA and its technical partners.

Dates and Location

The course will hold in Nairobi Kenya from August 18 – 29, 2014

Tuition fee and Payment Method

To be eligible to participate in the training workshop, selected candidates will be expected to pay the registration fee of \$150. Payments are to be made to AfHEA through online transfers or by cheque. Cash on arrival may be allowed if discussed and approved by AfHEA in advance.

Note: A few partial funding scholarships may be provided, at AfHEA's discretion, to selected female researchers/professionals and/or full-time postgraduate African students from low income or fragile African countries, in line with AfHEA's commitment to support its priority target groups. This is not however guaranteed and will depend on our overall outlays for the course and available funds.

Travel and Accommodation

Participants are expected to cover the cost of their travels as well as make their own accommodation plans. However, AfHEA would provide necessary information and logistical support to the participants in order to facilitate their travel and accommodation plans, while visa letters would be provided to participants who need visas for travel to Kenya.

Application Procedure

Interested applicants are encouraged to fill and submit the application forms (in MS-Word) by email on or before the **31st of July, 2014**

Contact

For more details, kindly contact us by email via afhea.uhc@afhea.org or visit the AfHEA website, www.afhea.org. The following persons will be available to provide support to the participants.

Course registration: Felix Obi (felixobi@afhea.org)

Travel and accommodation: Grace Njeri (gracenjeri@afhea.org)

Please make sure to copy afhea.uhc@afhea.org for all correspondence