Community health programs provide a high-impact, low-cost solution to the health systems challenges faced in low- and middle-income communities, alleviating pressure on resource-constricted health facilities and reducing inequities in access to care.

However, community health is underfunded by an estimated $2 billion every year in Sub-Saharan Africa. Living Goods advocates globally and nationally for strong community-based primary health care by partnering with governments, civil society organizations, private sector partners, and academic institutions. Our partnerships help us advance access to high-quality health care, improve the diagnostics and treatments communities can access, and reduce costs—all while enabling more timely and convenient care for pregnant women and sick children, and scaling up access to other critical services such as family planning.

**Priorities**

**Increase Financial Resources by donors and governments** allocated to community health, and community-based primary health care both globally as well as at the national and sub-national level.

**Champion the widespread adoption of effective policies, procedures, and strategies** to improve quality, efficiency, reach, and scope of health at the community level.

**Encourage the uptake of innovative technology** to ensure there is a digitally empowered CHW in every community.

**Amplify call for community health investments and its transparency** as a part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by collaborating with like-minded partners and coalitions.

**Support Community Health Voices** to share the impact of their work and have a voice at the decision-making table.
Living Goods works closely with Ministries of Health (MOHs) to advance the knowledge, resources, and policies to help scale up and sustain strong community health systems. Building solid relationships with the government are essential to achieve lasting impact at scale.

**Uganda**

Living Goods works closely with the Ugandan government to prioritize the support of CHWs in national and district budgets. By providing evidence on the impact of CHWs and results-based financing programs, we encourage buy-in from both MOH and the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development on community health programs that incorporate results-based financing. We also work closely with the government to share data and knowledge for decision-making to ultimately support and help implement more effective CHW programs.

In 2019, we supported Uganda’s MOH in developing its first-ever Roadmap for UHC, which will articulate milestones needed to achieve community health as a core component for PHC. We also supported three districts to use the National Community Health Worker Registry, which enabled the registration of 5,992 CHWs, including both those supported by Living Goods and also those supported by the government directly.

**Kenya**

Living Goods supports both Kenya’s MOH and the country’s decentralized county-level governments to scale and sustain effective community health systems. With our staff directly seconded to MOH at national and county levels, we regularly review and provide input on technical and policy documents, collect data, and advise on the strategic need for the future. At the national level, we share actionable knowledge and data generated through our mobile app tools with MOH to help advocate for increased prioritization of CHWs by multilateral donors.

Additionally, Living Goods is one of just two organizations that has been granted “registration agent” status with the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). Living Goods partners with the government to register households to participate in the health care system, most notably in Isiolo county. In Isiolo county, we launched a pilot in 2019 under the government’s Big Four Agenda to drive economic and social growth, which includes achieving UHC.

**Achieving Health For All**

Strong community-based primary health systems are the key to achieving UHC. To galvanize support in prioritizing community health in the UHC movement, Living Goods joined Amref Health Africa, Aspen Management Partnership for Health, Financing Alliance for Health, the International Rescue Committee, and Last Mile Health to launch the Communities at the Heart of UHC. A global, multi-year campaign, together we’re working to leverage political commitments for UHC by promoting community health and its champions from the global to sub-national level, and to track in-country financial commitments to UHC and community health. The campaign includes more than 70 organizational members, and reached more than 30,000 global stakeholders through strategic events and knowledge-sharing newsletters. Learn more at www.uhc4communities.com.