

2023 CSEM HIGHLIGHTS

The Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) for UHC2030 exists to raise civil society voices in UHC2030 to ensure universal health coverage (UHC) policies are inclusive and equitable, and that systematic attention is given to the most marginalized and vulnerable populations so that no one is left behind. The CSEM serves as a global platform - connecting more than 1,400 organizations in over 130 countries - to support effective civil society-led and evidence-based advocacy across health issues areas, and is an information sharing and networking hub for civil society working in health-related areas. We mobilize civil society and communities to engage in key global, regional, and national processes to ensure their voices are heard, considered, and included in the final decisions. See some of our annual highlights below.



Key wins from 2023

- ✓ A successful and highly engaged global #UHC Day campaign
- ✓ A comprehensive Political Declaration on UHC reflecting civil society organizations (CSOs) priorities
- ✓ An ambitious Action Agenda with civil society input to accelerate progress on UHC
- ✓ Development of civil society priorities for the World health Assembly (WHA) resolution on social participation
- ✓ Launch of research on social participation in four countries
- ✓ Strong engagement in key global and regional moments
- ✓ Increased CSEM membership

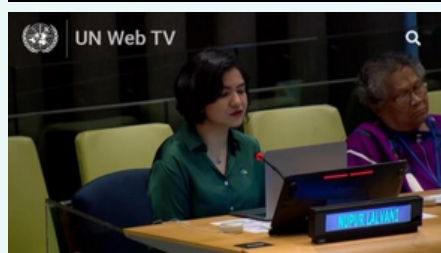
2023 CSEM Key Achievements

Building momentum for the United Nations (UN) high-level meetings (HLMs) on health

In preparation for the HLMs on UHC; tuberculosis (TB); and pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR), the CSEM joined hands with civil society organizations (CSOs) across the three HLMs to mobilize political support at global, regional, and national levels. As member of the HLM Task Force for UHC, which brought together a group of 20 representatives from UHC constituencies and beyond, the CSEM supported the development of the UHC Action Agenda, ensuring civil society voices and perspectives were heard and included. To that end, the CSEM organized a series of webinars in English, French, Spanish, and Russian to solicit civil society feedback into the public online consultations on the Action Agenda that were held between January and February 2023. The consultation gathered 830 responses from 109 countries, including 38 low- and middle-income countries, with strong participation from civil society. Civil society feedback was assessed and integrated into the Action Agenda, which was widely disseminated with relevant stakeholders and used in the negotiations on the Political Declaration on UHC.



The CSEM mobilized CSOs participation in the multi-stakeholder hearings on UHC, TB, and PPPR on May 8-9, 2023. Two CSEM Advisory Group (AG) members spoke in the interactive panels during the multi-stakeholder hearing on UHC (read the interventions of CSEM AG members [here](#)).



We collaborated with civil society networks and coalitions across the three HLMs—such as STOPAIDS, Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) Asia, GFAN Africa, the Global Network of People Living with HIV, Frontline Aids, the Global Health Council, the Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations, the TB Coordination Hub, Stop TB Partnership, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the UN Foundation, Women in Global Health, United for Global Mental Health, and the Community Health Impact Coalition—to provide regular updates and equip CSOs and communities with information and resources needed to meaningfully engage their governments around the HLMs. We facilitated civil society engagement to influence negotiations on the Political Declaration through the launch of a survey to collect feedback from civil society to identify priorities for strengthening the zero draft, and ultimately, the Political Declaration. Over the span of three days, the survey collected over 100 responses from 34 countries across six continents (see the summary [here](#)).



The CSEM AG members and the Secretariat participated in the HLMs on UHC, TB, and PPPR on September 20-23, 2023, during the UN General Assembly, culminating in the adoption of the Political Declarations on [UHC](#), [TB](#), and [PPPR](#). During the interactive panels, the CSEM delivered statements on behalf of civil society which are available [online](#). You can also access the webcasts for the opening, plenary, and closing [here](#), panel 1 [here](#), and panel 2 [here](#).

Sustaining engagement

The HLM on UHC provided a unique opportunity for advocates to reflect and discuss strategies to drive action on UHC commitments at the country level.

On the sidelines of the General Assembly, the CSEM—in collaboration with IFRC and the Global Health Council—convened civil society advocates and other stakeholders for a post-HLM debrief and strategy session. The session aimed to leverage the presence of UHC advocates who were in New York to reflect on the HLM outcomes, and discuss the way forward and how advocates will work together to sustain the global political momentum, drive the implementation of UHC commitments, and hold leaders accountable. The CSEM has since held four online sessions with civil society and communities on the same.



The CSEM undertook a comprehensive analysis of the Political Declaration in comparison to the Action Agenda from the UHC movement as well as the 2019 commitments. This serves as an advocacy tool for advocates to use in engagement with governments to drive the implementation of the HLM on UHC commitments reflected in the Political Declaration. As an additional tool, the CSEM created and designed a civil society briefing note that provides a high-level summary of the detailed analysis of the 2023 Political Declaration on UHC and contains additional advocacy resources. All the resources can be found on the CSEM website here.

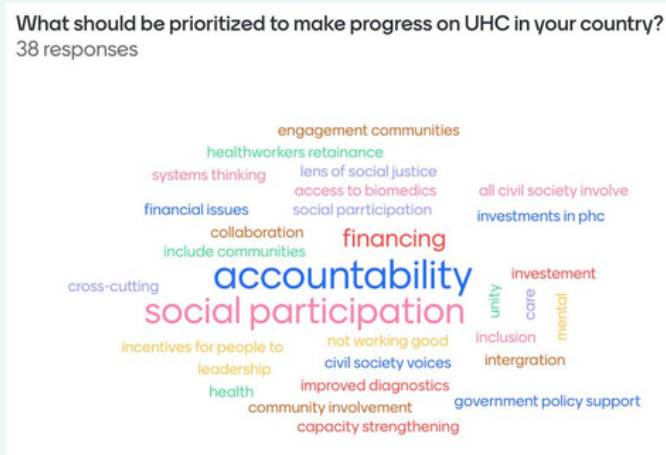
Celebrating #UHC Day



The CSEM co-led the 2023 global UHC Day campaign under the theme “Health for All: Time for Action.” The campaign sought to galvanize global commitment toward ensuring health for all following the outcomes of the UN HLM on UHC. Building upon a decade of UHC Day campaigns, it highlighted the urgency to tackle growing climate-related health threats and the need for robust health systems capable of enduring such challenges. Find more on the global campaign outcome in the UHC Day report here. Learn more on civil society engagement during the campaign with the CSEM 2023 UHC Day website page and a recording of the CSEM side event “From Commitment to Accountability: Tracking Commitments to Accelerate Progress for Universal health Coverage.”

Championing social participation for health

In partnership with The George Institute for Global Health and the World Health Organization (WHO), the CSEM launched the Social Participation for Health: Engagement, Research, and Empowerment (SPHERE) to advance research and generate evidence on how social participation processes between civil society and governments can advance health agendas at the country level. The project is currently being implemented in Vietnam, Kenya, Tunisia, and Argentina. Read more [here](#).



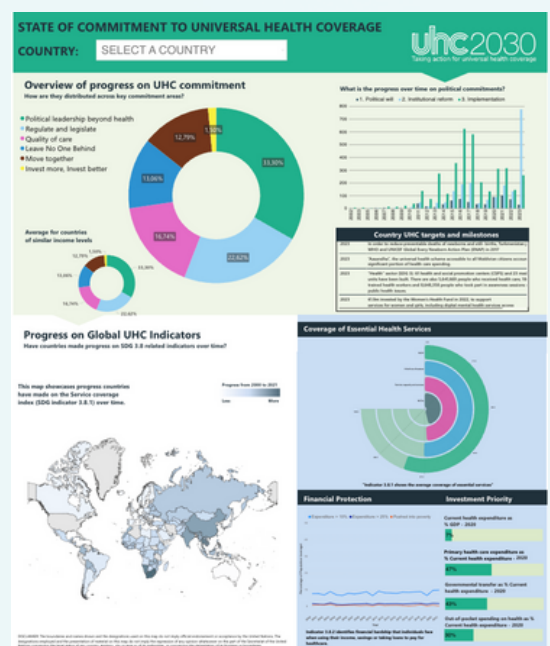
The CSEM and SPHERE led advocacy to mobilize civil society to build political support for the resolution on “Advancing Social Participation for Universal Health Coverage— Building support for a resolution at the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA),” co-led by Thailand and Slovenia. The CSEM and SPHERE developed the “Civil Society and Community Priorities for the WHA Resolution on Social Participation” to influence

negotiations on the draft resolution. Additional resources were developed to support civil society advocacy for the resolution, including an [advocacy brief](#) and [advocacy template letter](#).

Strengthening UHC accountability

The CSEM worked with UHC2030 and partners to develop the 2023 State of UHC Commitment review, which provides a consolidated multi-stakeholder view of trends on UHC implementation in 153 countries between 2020 and 2023. It contains a synthesis of findings on UHC commitments and actions as well as the UHC data portal with unique data and dashboards that showcase country commitment and progress on UHC for 139 countries.

The CSEM published a commentary in response to the 2023 Global Monitoring report jointly published by the WHO and the World Bank. The report shows a disturbing trend of stagnation in the progress toward UHC, with nearly 4.5 billion people not covered by essential health services and 2 billion people suffering financial hardship due to out-of-pocket health expenditure. The commentary highlighted civil society’s calls to action for governments based on the feedback from consultations with civil society in 44 countries across the globe as part of the State of UHC Commitment review.



Additional Highlights

At the 3rd Conference on Public Health in Africa



On the margins of the 3rd Conference on Public Health in Africa that took place on November 27-30, 2023, in Lusaka, Zambia, the CSEM—in partnership with the Youth Platform—and the Community Initiative For TB, HIV/AIDS & Malaria hosted a side event entitled “From Commitment to Implementation: Accelerating Progress on Universal Health Coverage in Africa.” The event brought together civil society advocates, parliamentarians, government officials, and

representatives from Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a discussion on how they will work together to translate the HLM commitments into concrete actions at the country level to increase access to essential health services and protection of vulnerable populations. [Read more here.](#)

At the Women Deliver Conference

In partnership with Success Capital, NCD Alliance, and United for Global Mental Health, the CSEM organized a moderated panel session at Women Deliver entitled “Universal Health Coverage for Gender Equality: Lessons from Civil Society and Communities.”



The Alliance for Gender Equality and UHC, along with UHC2030, held an in-person multi-stakeholder consultation on gender responsive health systems to dissect the key issues that are undermining the delivery of quality care to girls, women, and marginalized groups, as well as offering examples of promising practices for the future. The event included remarks from the CSEM’s Amy Boldosser-Boesch and from UHC2030 co-chair, Gabriela Cuevas Barron.

The CSEM, in partnership with Success Capital, NCD Alliance, and United for Global Mental Health, co-hosted a moderated panel session at Women Deliver entitled “Universal Health Coverage for Gender Equality: Lessons from Civil Society and Communities.” The session featured civil society advocates who discussed gender-related barriers to accessing quality health care and opportunities for advancing gender equity within UHC in the lead-up to the HLM on UHC in September 2023. Panelists shared experiences and key findings from the SoUHCC review country consultations 22 in 43 countries.

Join the CSEM membership:

As a member of the CSEM, you will have instant access to all UHC-related civil society updates, resources, events, and other information.



The CSEM Secretariat is co-hosted by Management Sciences for Health and WACI Health.

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At the 2023 WHO Executive Board

The CSEM contributed to the development and submission of two constituent statements on UHC to the WHO Executive Board in January. The statements were submitted in relation to agenda item five on “Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on universal health coverage” and can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).

At the WHO Civil Society Commission

In August 2023, WHO launched the Civil Society Commission and selected several current and former CSEM AG members to serve in its Steering Committee. You can find more information on the CSEM website [here](#).

Resources and updates

- [A comprehensive analysis of the 2023 Political Declaration on UHC, CSEM](#)
- [The civil society briefing note on the 2023 Political Declaration on UHC, CSEM](#)
- [The civil society commentary of the 2023 Global Monitoring Report on UHC \(2023 GMR\), CSEM](#)
- [The Advocacy Brief toward a WHA Resolution on Social Participation for Universal Health Coverage, CSEM, SPHERE, Save the Children](#)
- [“Getting health back on the highest political agenda—the UN High-level Meetings on health in 2023,” the Lancet Global Health Commentary, the Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health](#)
- [Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2023 Global monitoring report, WHO and World Bank](#)

[Watch more of the CSEM webinars on our E-Library and YouTube channel.](#)