

# #LeaveNoOneBehind

*Weak links in a health system are deadly fuel to pandemics. Universal health coverage fills gaps and strengthens our defenses.*

*- Dr. Peter Piot, Director, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK)*

"Leave no one behind" is an important ambition of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and is the theme for our new multi-month #LeaveNoOneBehind campaign. We will be focusing on some of the barriers that prevent people living in poverty from the opportunities they need to thrive.



This month we will be focusing on **health equity** (learn more in our [health equity brief](#)).

As the world collectively strives to respond to the [COVID-19](#) outbreak, weaknesses across our global health systems are being revealed. Infectious diseases know no borders and our best line of defense is our ability to respond in a way that ensures timely access to quality health care for all.

Every year approximately 100 million people are pushed into poverty because of health care associated costs, and half the world's population do not have access to the health care they need. We know that global health emergencies like COVID-19 place an additional strain on countries' capacity to provide adequate health services.

To ensure everyone, everywhere has access to quality health services, we need well trained health workers, affordable and accessible medicines and vaccines, and safe environments for delivering [people-centred care](#).

**The ask:** Canada to support a global and equitable response to COVID-19 by investing in the strengthening of health systems in low-income countries and ensuring that treatment and a vaccine be made available to all.

### about Canada's commitment to universal health coverage

Canada first committed to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) in 2015 through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They reaffirmed that commitment by endorsing the most ambitious and comprehensive [political declaration](#) on health in history at the 2019 United Nations High-Level Meeting entitled "Moving Together to Build a Healthier World". Faced by the COVID-19

crisis, it is crucial that world leaders recognize the interconnectedness of UHC and health emergencies, as well as remember their UHC commitments.

## about how universal health coverage impacts global health work

An enhanced focus on universal health coverage (UHC) is critical for mitigating the direct and secondary impacts of COVID-19. For example, people with tuberculosis (TB) are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 due to lung damage. In order to achieve UHC, adequate resourcing is needed for immunization, adequate nutrition and access to services for preventing and treating diseases.





### Send a **THANK YOU** to frontline health heroes

We know that the COVID-19 crisis presents challenges and risks to frontline health workers. To show our solidarity, it's important that we express gratitude and an interest in understanding their experiences. Take a moment to reach out to a health hero in your life. Thank them and ask them what challenges they are currently facing and what you can do as an advocate to support them. [Email us](#) their response so we can share their story.

## latest campaign wins

- International Development Minister Karina Gould's [announcement](#) to allocate \$159.5 million in funding to support international efforts to fight COVID-19.
- See other [actions taken](#) by volunteers so far this year.





## health equity brief

### key dates

May 26: Results Annual General Meeting

May 28: [Advocacy Bootcamp](#) webinar: Tracking Progress: Best Practices in Monitoring and Evaluating Advocacy

May 28: [Menstrual Hygiene Management Day](#)

June 7: Results Canada National Call

June 21-22: [RESULTS International Conference](#)

### hashtags

#Canada4Results

#MHDAY2020

#ItsTimeForAction

#Canadianaid

#Cdnpoli

#UHC

#healthequity

#HealthForAll

#KeepThePromise

### tags

@ResultsCda

@CanadaDev

@KarinaGould

@JustinTrudeau

### keywords

**KEYWORDS**

Canadian aid

Universal health coverage

Health equity

COVID-19



## Elizabeth Muchoki

### Strengthening Manager at KANCO, Kenya

Elizabeth is a passionate advocate who works vigorously to support efforts to strength health systems in Kenya and is committed to ensuring that all people have access to quality health services. She believes that an integrated approach to health care, which focuses on the whole health of the patient rather than a specific disease, to be the best approach to delivering health services.

*"To fight COVID-19 and protect global health progress made to date, we need an integrated response."*

Meet more of our health equity **champions**.

WHO: Universal Health Coverage - What does it me...



## resources

See all our resources under **your tools** to support you in taking action.