Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator —opportunities for CSO engagement

Presenter biographies
Rosemary W. Mburu, Moderator

Rosemary has been a champion for healthy communities for over 15 years and currently serves as the Executive Director for WACI Health. She is a civil society leader in Africa and has extensively worked on supporting civil society to engage with decision-makers at community, national, regional and global levels.

Rosemary has served in various capacities within the global health architecture including on the UHC2030 Steering Committee and Unitaid Communities Advisory Group. Currently, she serves as an advisor of the Lancet Commission on a synergistic approach to universal health coverage, health security, and health promotion. She also serves on the World Health Organization Advisory Group for SDG3 Global Action Plan R&D, Innovation and Access Accelerator.

Rosemary has published several peer-reviewed articles on global health. She holds a Master of Public Health from Ohio University, a Master of Business Administration from Frostburg State University, Maryland, and a Bachelor of Education from Kenyatta University, Kenya.

Overview of Support Hub to the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council
Dr Bruce J Aylward

Dr Aylward is the Senior Advisor on Organizational Change to the Director-General. In this capacity he has led the design and implementation of WHO's Transformation Agenda since September 2017. He is currently lead for the Support Hub to the ACT-A Facilitation Council.

In February 2020 Dr Aylward was requested by the Director-General to lead the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

From August 2016 through August 2017, Dr Aylward worked with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), initially leading the inter-agency process that resulted in the first-ever system-wide activation procedures for major infectious disease emergencies.

From December 2015 through July 2016, Dr Aylward led the design and implementation of far-reaching reforms of WHO's work in emergencies, culminating in the launch of a new WHO Health Emergencies Programme. From September 2014 through July 2016 Dr Aylward served as Special Representative of the Director-General for the Ebola Response, directing WHO's 2000+ person response to the West Africa outbreak and providing strategic and technical leadership to the United Nations Emergency Ebola Response (UNMEER). Between the early 1990s and 2014, Dr Aylward served WHO in a variety of leadership positions in the areas of emergencies, disease eradication and vaccines and immunization.
Overview of ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Partnership

Dr Emma Hannay

Emma is leading the creation of the ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Partnership on behalf of the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She is a public health doctor with a focus on global health strategy and delivery. Her work has been centred at a global level on organizational strategy in global health, and at a country level in implementing health system reforms in complex operating environments.

In Emma’s previous role as Head of Health at Acasus, she was part of the team leading the Pakistan Health Reforms Roadmaps, which improved primary care for more than 150 million people, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s Mashako Plan to increase immunization coverage for children. Prior to joining Acasus she was the manager of the Market Dynamics Team at Unitaid in Geneva, and an Engagement Manager for McKinsey & Company based out of Dubai and Washington, DC.

Emma holds a medical degree from the University of Auckland, New Zealand and a Master of Public Health from Harvard University.

Katy Kydd Wright

Katy is a Senior Policy Adviser at International Civil Society Support where she coordinates the Global Fund Advocates Network, established to unite voices and efforts from all over the world to support a fully funded and effective Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Katy spent close to a decade working for Canadian Parliamentarians in various roles at the House of Commons. During her time working for parliamentarians her policy areas were as diverse as automotive policy, telecommunications regulations and human rights, but it was her work on patent regulations and the first Canada’s Access to Medicines Regime adopted in 2004 that brought her into the field of global health.

Katy left Canadian politics and joined RESULTS Canada where she managed the grassroots-based organization’s work on tuberculosis control with the ACTION partnership. Later, as Director of Campaigns, she led efforts on all the global health and poverty-related campaigns of the organization including vaccines, microcredit and education for all.

Katy has presented at Canadian and international conferences, trained grassroots volunteers to advocate to their elected officials, lobbied organizations like the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and run numerous campaigns to increase funding for global health issues, TB in particular.

Katy holds a degree in Political and Comparative Development Studies from Trent University, Canada.
Dr J Carolyn Gomes

The Honourable Carolyn Gomes has a distinguished record as a human rights advocate. Carolyn has been a member of the Developing Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria since 2017, Alternate Board Member since May 2019, and a member of the Strategy Committee since May 2020.

A medical doctor since 1980, Carolyn worked in public and private medicine in Trinidad and Jamaica, served as an Executive of the Paediatric Association of Jamaica and was a paediatrician in private practice until 2002, before focusing full time on her human rights work. From 2002 to 2013 Carolyn was Executive Director of Jamaicans For Justice, a non-profit, citizens’ rights action group, which she helped found in 1999 and led to become an internationally recognized organization advocating against state abuse of rights and for strengthening legislative and other provisions for the protection of rights. Her work on human rights was recognized by the United Nations in 2008 and she was awarded the Order of Jamaica in 2009. Between 2014 and 2018 she worked as Executive Director of the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition, where she was the organization’s chief executive and spokesperson, helping to determine and drive its strategic direction, vision and work in policy analysis, advocacy and resource mobilization.

She presently serves as an independent consultant and special advisor to a number of Caribbean non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including as Special Advisor on International Relations to ProActividad, a Dominican Republic NGO.

Overview of ACT-Accelerator Health Systems Connector

Kate Thomson

Kate is Head of the Community, Rights and Gender Department at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The department provides technical leadership and strategic and policy guidance across the organization on gender, human rights, and community responses. It also supports the engagement of communities in Global Fund related-processes.

Prior to joining the Global Fund, Kate was with UNAIDS from 2005 to 2013, where she led the Community Mobilization Division with overall responsibility for collaboration with diverse community and civil society groups. She oversaw civil society participation in strategy and policy development, as well as in political events such as high-level meetings on HIV in the UN General Assembly.

Kate has been active in global health since the mid-1980s when she and two friends established Positively Women, a UK-based peer-led support organization for women living with HIV. The organization, now known as Positively UK, is still active and provides support to both women and men living with HIV on a national basis.

Javier Hourcade Bellocq

Javier has been working in HIV since 1988 and is currently a board member of the Global Network of People living with HIV/AIDS and the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations. He is the community-based organization representative in the UHC2030 Steering Committee and a member of
the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism. Javier also coordinates the Civil Society Sustainability Network, and Latin America and the Caribbean Key Correspondents Team. He is an experienced consultant, advocate and communicator, specializing in health communication. Javier has extensive experience working in Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions.

Robin Montgomery

Robin is the Executive Director at the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD). She has over 20 years of experience working in the field of HIV and AIDS in Canadian and international settings, in academic and not-for-profit sectors.

Prior to joining ICAD, Robin’s international experience largely focused on the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. She spent a decade based in Moscow working in countries of the former Soviet Union on HIV and health equity together with local and international communities, to increase access to quality and timely prevention, treatment, care and support services for vulnerable and key affected populations.

Robin is the Board Member to the Developed Country NGO Delegation and is Chair of the Implementer Group to the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Robin holds a Master in Health Administration from the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Women Studies from the University of Ottawa.

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