

# Universal Health Coverage

## Dr Chima Onoka

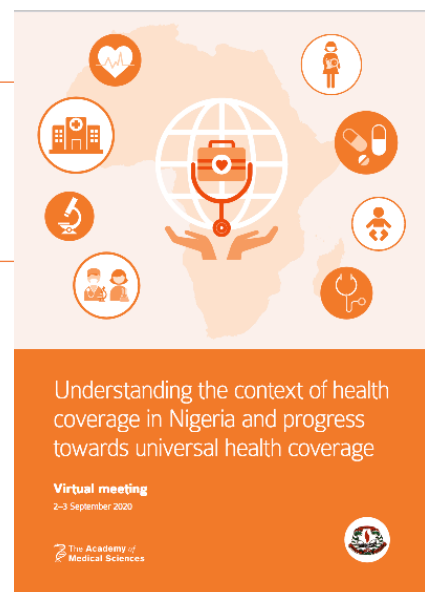
Dr Chima Onoka is a clinician and Professor of Public Health and Health Systems Economics at the University of Nigeria as well as adviser to the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, a governmental agency in Nigeria.

A keen advocate of the programme, Professor Onoka has found great benefit in being involved with the Academy of Medical Sciences GCRF Global programme.

Asked about his involvement with the programme Dr Onoka says

“ It has been exciting to be part of the programme. Those involved were true experts in their field with a wide range of experiences and working together to deliver objectives in an effective manner was possible due to the diverse backgrounds of those involved”.

[Click on the image to access the report](#)



The report is proving key to supporting vital work as Dr Onoka goes on to explain “ The report has been reviewed and has come at a time when there are conversations beginning to happen with regard to Universal Health Coverage not only in Nigeria but in other African countries. I am looking forward to using the report to develop policy briefs, creating blogs to share the output of the workshop. It is a substrate for driving the agenda; engagements are beginning and the report is shaping the direction”.

What led to such a useful report being created was the level and type of information harvested at the workshop.

Dr Onoka points out that oftentimes when having conversations about Universal Health Coverage, the discussions are medical and led by clinicians. What was different about this workshop was the involvement of different stakeholders – a truly multidisciplinary approach bringing to the table in depth interactions and different perspectives.

Dr Onoka says that it is the broad range of viewpoints that has helped him to consider the type of conversations he should be leading in the future.

The success of the discussions at the workshop allowed the mindset of citizens to be considered. The need to think about citizen perspective came out very strongly throughout the discussions.

As Dr Onoka says “ You cannot talk about Universal Health Coverage without the voice of the citizens otherwise it is incomplete”

This particular meeting has had great impact in stimulating work in Nigeria and beyond because of the knowledge gained. Rather than a SILO approach Dr Onoka said it was the Academy of Medical Science’s engagement with people beyond typical medical sciences that enriched the level of discussions and created such a strong launchpad for the work to continue.

“ I had discussions with people I hadn’t met before.

I think clearly that the Academy’s work is stimulating strong conversations stirring up thought leaders and bringing in people who want to discuss issues that are important to countries from an independent perspective.

If only medics are involved there can be gaps in policy – it needs to be truly multidisciplinary and I assure you we will transform our own systems due to the lessons learned. It has really been exciting to be part of the story being created by the Academy of Medical Sciences”

If you would like to see more about the programme please click here to see a video compilation <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/policy-projects/gcrf>