

30 CCIH X HEALTH 30 SYSTEMS INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) provide a substantial share of services in health facilities and community-based health programs and are critically important partners¹ in local, national, and global health.² FBOs operate in complex health systems: from community services to health facility-based services that include prevention, health promotion, community-based management of diseases, disease screening, referral, and treatment.

Goal: Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) launched the [30x30 Health Systems Initiative](#), aiming to strengthen 30 health systems globally within which faith-based health services operate by 2030.

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

As of December 2023, the 30x30 Health Initiative has 40 active commitments (24 active in Sub-Saharan Africa, 5 in Asia, 2 in the Caribbean, and 9 globally), representing 43 FBOs. Commitments are classified under health systems building blocks, as defined by the World Health Organization (Health Workforce, Service Delivery, Leadership & Governance, Access to Essential Medicines and Supplies, Financing, Health Information Systems), as well as CCIH's additional category of Community Services (see fig. 2).

Between 2019 and 2023, 30x30 Commitment Makers reached more than two million people through various health programs that improved the access and utilization of health services. Over 980,000 households were reached by maternal, neonatal, and child health programs. A total of 4,103 health institutions were supported to improve their capacity in various technical areas.

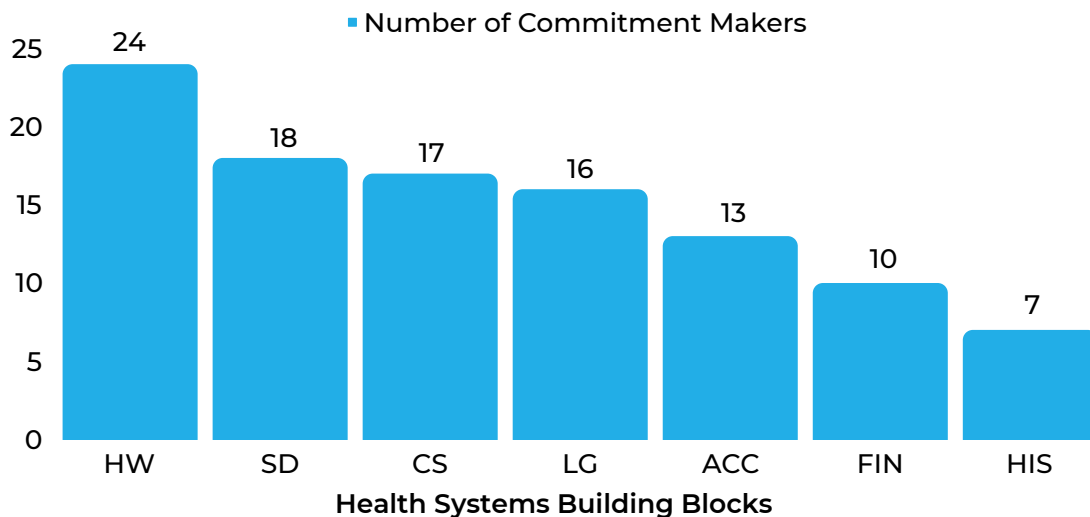


Figure 2: Commitments by Health System Strengthening Block (HW- Health Workforce, SD – Service Delivery, LG – Leadership & Governance, CS – Community Services, ACC – Access to Essential Medicines and Supplies, FIN – Financing, HIS – Health Information Systems)

“When children with treatable disabilities have access to surgical and rehabilitative care, their functionality, mobility, and independence are restored, they can return to school, their future prospects for gainful employment increase, there is a reduction in poverty, and they can fully participate in the life of the community.” – **30x30 Commitment Maker**

1 CCIH Christian Health Asset Mapping Consortium [internet] 2022 [cited 2023 Feb 27]: <https://www.ccih.org/christian-health-asset-mapping-consortium/>

2 CCIH Market share of Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) in the health care of developing countries [internet] 2017 [cited 2023 Feb 27]. Available from: <https://www.ccih.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Annotated-Bibliography-on-FBOs-market-share.pdf>

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SUCCESSSES, CHALLENGES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are a few examples of successes and challenges that FBOs experienced in health systems strengthening, as well as recommendations to achieve the goal of universal access to quality healthcare.

1 _____

Success: Between 2019 and 2023, 30x30 Commitment Makers conducted over 6,000 training programs and trained over 40,000 health personnel in various health technical areas.

Challenge: Most training programs focus on public health facility workers (e.g., government), excluding private, not-for-profit staff (such as faith-based facilities). These gaps in training in key health issue areas, such as leadership and governance, are what 30x30 Commitment Makers are trying to address.

Recommendation: Partner with FBOs on training facility and community-based health care workers, administration, and finance staff to strengthen the overall health system. Policies and programs should be inclusive to leverage the capacity of faith-based facilities and community health programs to be strong components of the country's overall health system.

2 _____

Success: 3,334 church groups were reached by Commitment Makers, allowing them to provide relevant and useful information on health issues to their local community for the prevention of diseases.

Challenge: FBOs play a significant role in delivering health services, yet there is a notable gap in data regarding FBO community initiatives, educational institutions, and pharmaceutical distribution networks. This lack of information results in an underestimation of the contributions of Christian health assets, which can lead to their exclusion from strategic planning, collaborative partnerships, and research efforts.

Recommendation: The adoption and implementation of a thorough data collection and mapping strategy encompassing healthcare facilities, community-based initiatives, and church-affiliated health programs, along with their associated partners such as medical suppliers, health worker training institutions, and efficiency-enhancing networks. Efforts like the [Christian Health Asset Mapping Consortium](#) contribute to this effort. Additionally, endorsement of policies and initiatives that prioritize the involvement of respected faith leaders in efforts to dispel myths and misunderstandings surrounding health issues, thereby fostering social and behavioral change within communities.

3 _____

Success: 278 partnerships with government, NGOs, and development agencies have been established.

Challenge: Some organizations may lack the necessary staffing and resources to engage effectively in high-level partnership and collaboration activities. Opportunities include participation in technical working groups on national or global scales and ensuring effective communication and coordination with governmental bodies and other development partners.

Recommendation: Encourage financial backing for the 30x30 Commitment Makers, ensuring they have the necessary staffing levels to actively engage locally and globally. This includes fostering appropriate partnerships and coordinating efforts with all relevant stakeholders involved in the initiative.

These are a snapshot of the successes and challenges that have been achieved and revealed through the 30x30 initiative. For more information, please review the full [30x30 Annual Progress Report 2023](#).