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## **The African Collaborative for Health Financing Solutions (ACS) Announces New Institutional Partner**

**Washington, DC** – The ACS project today announced that Benin-based *Centre de Recherche en Reproduction Humaine et en Démographie* or the Centre of Research in Human Reproduction and Demography ([CERRHUD](#)), based in Cotonou, Benin, as a new institutional partner in ACS' goal to support sub-Saharan countries in advancing toward universal health coverage (UHC). CERRHUD will be a lead partner for ACS' learning and accountability work.

CERRHUD is a health research and development center whose mission is to strengthen health research capacity and to develop and implement research programs and interventions for better health in Benin and in Africa. CERRHUD promotes equity, the utilization of local learning and capacities, continuous learning and African-led development through research and context-sensitive evidence generation and use. "The vision, the mission and the activities of CERRHUD perfectly align with the mission of the ACS project," said Director of CERRHUD, Jean Paul Dossou. "This partnership is a springboard that will strengthen the regional relevance and added-value of CERRHUD for health systems and in the UHC process in Benin and in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)."

Launched in 2017, ACS is a five-year, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded project that recognized the political will in SSA to advance UHC. Now moving into its fourth year, ACS is increasingly focused on strengthening the UHC ecosystem and building linkages between countries and regional institutions to build evidence, catalyze learning and sustain momentum.

ACS is supporting the Government of Benin to pilot a health insurance program launched in late 2019 for the most vulnerable. Stakeholders from the government, private sector, and civil society have been actively engaged through consultations and dialogue to improve the program, and ACS facilitates and provides technical support to the learning agenda defined by stakeholder priorities for the pilot phase in view to its scale up. In addition to Benin, ACS supports the governments of Botswana, Burkina Faso, Namibia, Togo and Uganda to advance their UHC agendas.

"CERRHUD brings to the table an incredible combination of technical expertise, an intricate knowledge of health systems in SSA, as well as a deep passion for making UHC a reality," said ACS Project Director, Allison Kelley. "We are committed to the same vision, so I am pleased to make our partnership official to carry it forward through ACS and beyond."

### **About ACS**

ACS supports countries by 1) identifying operational challenges around health financing policies, 2) bringing essential people to the table, then facilitating evidence-based collaboration and processes to design, test, and adapt solutions to tackle those challenges, and 3) creating communication pathways to strengthen and support learning, advocacy and accountability. For more information, visit [ACS'](#) web page.

