



Communities and Civil Society Engagement in the Lusaka Agenda Implementation

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Communities and CSOs Engagement

Following a technical consultation organized by WHO AFRO in collaboration with the African Constituency Bureau for the Global Fund (ACB), the AU and Africa-CDC on June 12 & 13, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Communities and Civil Society regrouped to:

1. Reflect on the deliberations of the technical meeting, key takeaways
2. Identify opportunities for civil society and communities to influence the process;
3. Identify immediate next steps, with consensus to develop a common civil society understanding and position on what and how the Lusaka Agenda is seeking to change;
4. Develop a clear strategy for providing input into the regional and country implementation roadmap. It was agreed that it is critical for civil society to influence the next stages of the Lusaka Agenda process.

CSOs convene on a bi-monthly basis to discuss on opportunities and way forward, these calls are open for all CSOs and there is a good participation.

CSO priorities for the proposed five shifts.

To ensure an inclusive process, a group of CSO, including *WACI Health, STOPAIDS, Amref Health Africa, Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB and Malaria, Hope for Future Generations, Impact Sante, Aidspan, WOTE, CSEM, Gem Hub Initiative, Afya na Haki* and others – created a survey to collect feedback on CSO priorities for the proposed five shifts.

CSOs support the general aims of the Lusaka Agenda and want to ensure implementation of the Agenda leads to equitable, expanded and human-rights based access to comprehensive health services.

The following points reflect our priorities to make each of the five key shifts successful.

Link: [Civil Society Priorities for making the Lusaka Agenda Successful](#)

Shift 1. Make a stronger contribution to primary health care

Health workforce

- Strengthen health systems at the community level, including training health workers and communities affected by the diseases
- Ensure primary health care is inclusive of all essential services as defined by WHO
- Countries ownership of PHC systems and health priorities

Funding

- Focus investments on strengthening health systems to make them more resilient.
- Sustain and grow donor funding and commitments to complement domestic funding
- Investment in institutional capacities of local CSOs

Social participation

- Community engagement and ownership

Monitoring and evaluation

- Establish and Implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks
- Measure and evaluate the impact of health interventions on public health outcomes
- Prioritize commitments to the rights of women and girls and gender equality

Service delivery

- Adopt a person-centered approach to health care
- Promote and implement integrated service delivery models
- GHIs align their efforts with the national health plan
- Recognize the critical role of disease-focused programs

Shift 2. Play a catalytic role towards sustainable, domestically-financed health services

Sustainable and innovative financing

- Prioritize building financial resilience within health systems through innovative funding mechanisms
- Mobilize domestic resources by advocating for increased government budget allocations for health
- Enhance financial management and accountability in health spending
- policy reforms that create an enabling environment for sustainable health financing
- Focus on meeting the Abuja Declaration (15%)
- Plan for a gradual transition from external support

Alignment

- Align with national health priorities and sustainability goals
- support initiatives that increase domestic health spending
- GHI's must allow for a proportion of their funding spent at the discretion and autonomy of the recipient country

Shift 3. Strengthen joint approaches for achieving equity in health outcomes

- Implement targeted interventions for vulnerable populations
- Address social determinants of health including issues like poverty, education, housing, and employment
- Provide capacity building for local health workers, community leaders, and CSOs
- Utilise existing platforms to support, expand and complement their reach
- Strengthen community health systems
- Facilitate partnerships among public and private sector providers, including community-led organizations
- Implement coordinated and targeted programming to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized populations
- Engage community-led organizations in planning and implementation to ensure that services are culturally appropriate and meet local needs.
- Leave no one behind should be the guiding principle
- Mainstream the needs and rights of older people within action on health equity at all levels

Shift 4. Improve efficiencies and reduce transaction costs on countries

- Ensuring the meaningful participation of communities and civil society in the governance structure of the GHIs
- Improve efficiencies and reduce transaction costs in health systems through several key strategies, including:
 - Involve civil organization in management and delivery of the health sector to reduce cost and improve transparency
 - Focus on health promotion and disease prevention through an extensive network of outpatient provider establishments
 - GHI's should utilise existing platforms to support, expand and complement their reach
 - GHI's should try to use the country's existing WHO reporting mechanisms to get data on their programme's effectiveness
- Governments should extend subsidies to FBOs health facilities that are often in remote places to extend services to hard-to-reach communities

Shift 5. Coordinate approaches to products, R&D and regional manufacturing

- Foster partnerships between governments, private sector entities, and research institutions to drive innovation in health products and technologies
- Support the development of regional manufacturing capacities for essential medicines, vaccines, and medical devices
- Support Africa CDC and the African Medicines Agency with their advocacy for the local production of health products
- A regional approach and market shaping for products to avoid competition and waste
- Invest in local capacity building, including training and infrastructure development
- Promote open access to research findings and data to accelerate the development of new health solutions
- Address policy barriers that hinder the efficient production and distribution of health products
- Engaging underserved communities in the design and implementation of health solutions
- Create incentives and supporting policies to stimulate demand and ensure affordability and availability of health products.
- Place equity and human rights at the center of R&D
- Ensure adherence to international quality standards to guarantee the safety and efficacy of health products.
- Streamline regulatory processes across regions to expedite the approval and distribution of health products.

Technical Briefing and Consultation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the Lusaka Agenda Monitoring and Accountability Framework and Scorecard

On February 27, 2025, Africa CDC in collaboration with the AUC, the Africa Constituency Bureau (ACB) and WACI Health held a Technical Briefing and Consultation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the Lusaka Agenda Monitoring and Accountability Framework and Scorecard. Over 100 civil society representatives from all the regions attended the session which was jointly moderated by WACI Health and ACB.

Objectives of the briefing and consultative meeting:

1. Inform and consult African CSOs on the progress of the Lusaka Agenda.
2. Review the Draft Lusaka Agenda Accountability Framework and Scorecard indicators to ensure alignment with CSO perspectives.
3. Discuss the way forward for CSO engagement in implementing and monitoring the Lusaka Agenda.

CSOs made contributions to the Accountability Framework which was facilitated by WACI Health and has been submitted to Africa CDC. Also, the need for a regular briefing touch point of CSOs with Africa CDC and WHO Afro was indicated.

- The webinar recording: https://x.com/CiSPHA_Tweet/status/1897047807418318863
- The accountability framework (French and English);
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tohezC279LMYapY9QeBKSMo50tDVHTgG?usp=sharing>



Thank You