

Roadmap for implementation of the Lusaka Agenda in Africa

Introduction

This *Roadmap for Implementation of the Lusaka Agenda in Africa* is an outcome of the [Technical Consultation on Advancing Africa's Leadership and Unified Voice towards Realization of the Lusaka Agenda](#) convened in collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the African Constituency Bureau for the Global Fund (ACB) in Addis Ababa, 12-13 June 2024.

The *Roadmap* is being shared for the consideration of Ministers of Health and their representatives at the Seventy-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, in August 2024, to support a unified African voice calling for change.

The *Roadmap* provides guidance for governments on how to embed the Lusaka Agenda key shifts and near-term priorities into their ways of working and builds on the February 2024 decision of African Heads of State and Government at their Thirty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) to “support the establishment of an accountability mechanism within the AU architecture to ensure the effective implementation of the Lusaka Agenda in Africa”.

The [Lusaka Agenda: Conclusions of the Future of Global Health Initiatives Process](#) was launched on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day on 12 December 2023, following [final consultations](#) at the Conference on Public Health in Africa in Lusaka, Zambia in November 2023. Its launch marked the culmination of a 14-month process of engagement, including at the [Strategic Priorities for Africa's Engagement with Global Health Initiatives \(GHIs\)](#) meeting during the 73rd WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Gaborone, Botswana, where ministers called for a unified African voice in engagement with GHIs. This *Roadmap* is a response to this call.

Of note, the Lusaka Agenda is referenced in [WHO's Fourteenth General Programme of Work 2025-2028](#), which was endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Lusaka Agenda captures consensus around five key shifts for the long-term evolution of GHIs – and the wider global health financing ecosystem – and a path towards a joint long-term vision of domestically-financed health systems and UHC that leaves no-one behind. The key shifts for this evolution, which build on work that is already happening, are to:

1. Make a stronger contribution to primary health care (PHC) by effectively strengthening systems for health
2. Play a catalytic role towards sustainable, domestically-financed health services and public health functions
3. Strengthen joint approaches for achieving equity in health outcomes
4. Achieve strategic and operational coherence
5. Coordinate approaches to products, research and development (R&D), and regional manufacturing to address market and policy failures in global health.

Deliberations at the 12-13 June 2024 *Technical Consultation on the Lusaka Agenda* made it clear that governments are committed to delivering these shifts and the associated near-term priorities, working in tandem with their partners at national, global and regional levels.

Recognizing that strong government ownership and leadership are key to affecting change and to advancing Africa's leadership and unified voice toward realizing the Lusaka Agenda, the consultation proposed that:

Ministers of health, in order to facilitate the alignment of external support to their national plans and systems and transition to domestically-financed health systems and UHC:

- build and sustain political and technical leadership capacity in all relevant government ministries and institutions to drive change in line with the five strategic shifts;
- strengthen and update their public financial management (PFM) systems, laws and relevant policies to improve financial management and facilitate alignment of external resources with national systems. GHI health systems

strengthening funding should contribute to this process including training in PFM at the central and local level;

- work with all partners to develop a national framework for aligning GHIs behind one national plan and government systems;
- work with Ministers of Finance and Heads of State and Government to increase domestic financing for health and in relation to this, actively engage with donors already present within the country for socializing the Lusaka Agenda among them;
- ensure one plan, one budget, one monitoring and evaluation system is the basis for all investments in the health sector, with clear guidelines and timelines on alignment and coordination;
- ensure ongoing engagement of civil society in setting pathways for implementation;
- leverage learnings from other countries and document and share their own experiences and lessons learnt;
- support their Heads of State and Government in supporting the AU accountability mechanism to ensure effective implementation of the Lusaka Agenda in Africa;
- use their seats on GHI boards to demonstrate action being taken in support of the Lusaka Agenda and to call for corresponding action by GHIs and donors on their boards. Ministers should be encouraged to call in-country representatives of GHI board members and GHI portfolio managers for regular meetings to ensure on-going commitment to the alignment process.

Noting the important role of regional partners in supporting Ministers of Health, the consultation proposed that governments call on:

Regional partners, including WHO Regional Office for Africa, Africa CDC, the AU Commission and the ACB

- to develop a joint plan for how they will work together, including with Regional Economic Communities, with each playing to their comparative advantage, to support countries in implementing the Lusaka Agenda.

This could include:

- facilitation of peer-to-peer learning opportunities;
- leveraging of existing health financing approaches, including the Africa Health Leadership Meeting, National Health Financing Dialogues and AU health financing scorecards, to advance Lusaka Agenda implementation;
- using regional convenings including the October/November 2024 Extraordinary AU Summit on Health, the November Conference in Public Health in Africa in Morocco and annual meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa to shine a light on Lusaka Agenda implementation in Africa;
- supporting African countries to develop a strong and unified voice on GHI boards;
- ensuring equity between countries when it comes to benefiting from different initiatives such as local/regional manufacturing, etc.

To successfully operationalise the shifts set out in the Lusaka Agenda, actions taken by Ministers of Health and regional partners will need to be complemented by concerted action by GHI secretariats and other stakeholder groups, including development partners, civil society and community organisations. These actors are encouraged to take urgent steps to realise the shifts and priorities set out in the Lusaka Agenda, in order to support country-led trajectories toward UHC.