THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

WHS Regional Meeting | NAIROBI | APRIL 27 - 29 2026



WHS Regional Meeting 2026

Nairobi, Kenya

Theme: Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence



"The future of health policy, innovation and delivery cannot be meaningfully advanced without Africa at the centre of both deliberation and implementation. To realise this grand plan, we must re-imagine Africa's health systems and place policy leadership, technology and mobilisation of domestic resources at the centre of this paradigm shift."

H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, PhD, President of the Republic of Kenya

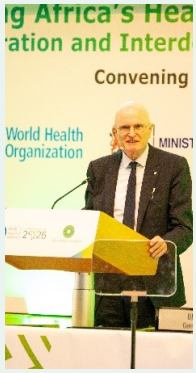


"The meeting offers a strategic platform to deepen partnerships, exchange ideas and advance practical, evidence-based solutions for stronger health systems across the continent."

Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, Kenya

"The World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Nairobi reflects the growing importance of Africa in shaping the global health agenda. Our role is to convene leaders from across sectors and regions, and the goal is clear: to translate dialogue into practical action that strengthens health systems regionally worldwide."

Prof. Axel Radlach Pries, President of the World Health Summit



"For too long, Africa has been the subject of global health discussions held elsewhere, by others. Today, with delegates from more than 50 countries gathered on African soil, we are asserting something fundamental: that African institutions, African researchers, and African policymakers are not consumers of global health policy, we are its co-authors. This will move us from the language of intention to the architecture of implementation."



Prof. Lukoye Atwoli, International President WHS Regional Meeting 2026



"This Summit marks a historic first and offers the kind of collaboration required to meet the challenges of the moment. The themes being discussed are deeply interconnected and will result in a blueprint for a new Africa that reflects a shift from addressing individual challenges to building a coherent health ecosystem."

Prof. Mohamed Yakub Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa



"Africa's health security and sovereignty depend on our ability to finance and build resilient systems at scale. The World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Nairobi provides a critical platform to move from dialogue to action, mobilizing investment, strengthening partnerships, and advancing African-led solutions that reduce dependency and expand access to quality healthcare."

H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director-General, Africa CDC

"We are proud to open our doors to this Summit and we do so with a clear conviction: That the health of this continent is inseparable from the broader agenda of sustainable development, peace and human dignity."

Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General, UN Office at Nairobi



"Challenges remain climate change, chronic diseases, lack of financial resources, the digital divide, inequity and others that we will have to overcome. But I see a sector [in Africa] more capable than ever: better positioned to integrate systems, harness technology and train the workforce needed for quality care and ethical leadership."



Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin, President and Vice Chancellor, Aga Khan University



"Cooperation with Africa in the area of health is crucial – for the people of Africa and for us. Disease knows no borders. It destroys livelihoods, drives families into poverty or forced migration, and robs children of their futures. Which is why we are strengthening health systems through our development cooperation and strategically integrating businesses. The continent of Africa is a market of the future with 1.6 billion people. German and African companies are already working closely together – and we want to expand that cooperation."

Reem Alabali Radovan, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

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Systems:
Theme: Reima
Innovation,
Host
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

ABOUT THE WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT

The World Health Summit was founded in 2009, on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Held annually in Berlin, the World Health Summit is the unique strategic forum for global health. It brings together stakeholders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society from around the world to set the agenda for a healthier future.

PRESIDENTS

- Axel R. Pries, World Health Summit President
- Lukoye Atwoli, World Health Summit International President 2026

PATRONS

The World Health Summit is traditionally held under the patronage of:

- Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
- President of the French Republic
- Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)

GOALS

- Improve health worldwide
- Find answers to health challenges, guided by science
- Bring together stakeholders from all sectors and all regions of the world
- Facilitate open dialogue guided by science
- Strengthen collaboration
- Set health agendas
- Foster global health as a key political issue
- Promote the global health debate in the spirit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

The Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies is the academic foundation of the World Health Summit. This unique network currently consists of 32 members worldwide.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Each year, the World Health Summit in Berlin is complemented by a Regional Meeting hosted by an Academic Alliance member. These offer a unique opportunity for health and research leaders to collaborate and advance pressing local and regional health agendas.



ABOUT THE WHS ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

The WHS Academic Alliance (formerly M8 Alliance) is the scientific network of the World Health Summit, bringing together 30 leading academic institutions from all continents. Founded by Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin in 2009, the Alliance fosters international collaboration, connects the scientific community to inform global health agendas, and supports evidence-based health policy and practice.

The International Presidency of the World Health Summit rotates annually among members of the WHS Academic Alliance. Each presiding institution also hosts the WHS Regional Meeting that year.






#WHSNairobi2026




World Health Organization






World Health Organization





WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT REGIONAL MEETING 2026



Prof. Lukoye Atwoli,
International President World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026.
Dean, Aga Khan University, Medical College East Africa

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026, held from **27–29 April 2026** at the **United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON)**, marked the second World Health Summit Regional Meeting to be hosted in East Africa. Convened under the theme **"Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence,"** the meeting brought together **more than 3,160 participants from over 80 countries, including 16 Health Ministers,** making it one of the largest and most diverse World Health Summit Regional Meetings to date. Over the course of three days, participants engaged in **more than 100 sessions** led by **over 400 speakers,** reflecting the growing influence of Africa in shaping regional and global health priorities.

Hosting this landmark gathering in Nairobi represented an important moment for the African continent. The Regional Meeting provided a unique platform for governments, multilateral organizations, academic institutions, healthcare professionals, researchers, development partners, civil society organizations, philanthropic organizations, innovators, youth leaders, and the private sector to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and develop practical solutions to today's most pressing health challenges. The breadth and diversity of participation demonstrated that improving health outcomes requires collaboration across sectors, disciplines, and national borders.

I am particularly encouraged by the inclusive nature of this Regional Meeting. **Women represented 53.7% of all participants,** while **850 young leaders** actively contributed to discussions and knowledge exchange throughout the programme. Their participation reflects our shared commitment to advancing gender equity, empowering the next generation of leaders, and ensuring that diverse voices remain central to shaping the future of global health.

Guided by the theme **"Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence,"** the meeting focused on the opportunities and challenges facing health systems across Africa and beyond. Discussions were organized around key priorities including pandemic preparedness and health security, climate change and health systems resilience, digital health and artificial intelligence, health workforce development and financing, Primary Health Care and universal health coverage, maternal, child and adolescent health, mental health and psychosocial well-being, and the importance of gender equity, youth leadership, and social accountability. Across these diverse topics, participants consistently emphasized that resilient health systems must be people-centred, evidence-informed, and built on strong partnerships that translate innovation into meaningful impact.

The programme featured high-level plenary sessions, panel discussions, workshops, innovation showcases, networking forums, and side events that encouraged open dialogue between policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and communities. These discussions highlighted successful African innovations, emerging technologies, and collaborative approaches that are already improving health outcomes across the continent.

They also reinforced the importance of investing in research, strengthening health systems, supporting local leadership, and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all.

A defining feature of the Regional Meeting was its emphasis on partnership. Governments worked alongside international organizations, academia collaborated with healthcare providers, innovators engaged with policymakers, and community representatives shared lived experiences that enriched every conversation. This spirit of collaboration reflects the values of the World Health Summit and demonstrates that sustainable progress can only be achieved through collective action. The partnerships strengthened in Nairobi will continue to serve as a foundation for future collaboration across Africa and around the world.

The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 also reaffirmed Africa's growing role as a driver of global health innovation and leadership. Throughout the meeting, participants demonstrated that many of the solutions needed to address today's health challenges are already emerging from African institutions, communities, and partnerships. The conversations held in Nairobi challenged us to think differently about health systems, not simply as structures that respond to illness, but as integrated systems that promote resilience, equity, preparedness, and sustainable development.

As International President of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026, it is my distinct honour to present this report, capturing the key discussions, partnerships, and outcomes that characterized this historic gathering. While this publication reflects the dialogue that took place over three days, it also represents a call to action. The ideas, evidence, and partnerships established during the meeting must now be translated into policies, investments, research collaborations, and practical solutions that improve the health and well-being of communities across Africa and beyond.

I extend my sincere appreciation to **Aga Khan University,** our host institution, together with the Government of Kenya, the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the World Health Summit, our co-hosts, policy partners, technical partners, sponsors, academic institutions, civil society organizations, volunteers, speakers, moderators, and every participant whose dedication made this Regional Meeting possible. Your commitment, expertise, and generosity of spirit created an environment where meaningful dialogue and lasting partnerships could flourish.

The success of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 belongs to every individual and organization that contributed to it. Together, we demonstrated that the future of health depends on innovation, integration, and interdependence—not only as guiding principles, but as commitments that shape how we work together. The momentum generated in Nairobi must now be sustained through continued collaboration and decisive action. I trust that this report will serve not only as a record of this landmark Regional Meeting but also as an enduring reminder of our shared responsibility to build stronger, more equitable, and more resilient health systems for Africa and the world.



PARTNERS

The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 was proudly hosted by The Aga Khan University at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON). The Aga Khan University is a member of the World Health Summit Academic Alliance.

We thank all members of the World Health Summit Academic Alliance who joined us in Nairobi and acknowledge the generous support of our local and international partners, sponsors, exhibitors, friends, and supporters whose invaluable contributions helped make this historic Regional Meeting a success.

CONVENING PARTNERS

World Health Organization

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Aga Khan University Hospital

unicef

SIEMENS Healthineers

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PARTNERS

Global Health Advocacy Incubator

IDRC · CRDI

novo nordisk foundation

SickKids | Centre for Global Child Health

THE CARTER CENTER
Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope.

Oncidium foundation

german cooperation

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

SEEG

CHARITÉ

amref health africa

AFIDEP

Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research

Global Health EDCTP3

THE GLOBAL FUND

IQVIA

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Regionalized Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative

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PMNCH
Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

SpeakUpAfrica.

AFRICA EUROPE FOUNDATION

NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL
Nourish Life

AHB
AFRICA HEALTH BUSINESS

IMEBIO

MMV
Medicines for Malaria Venture

PharmAccess

Hennet
Health NGOs' Network

LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE

CGD CENTER FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

African Union

ECONOMIST IMPACT

devex
Do Good. Do It Well.™

AFRICA HEALTH WATCH
Perspectives to transform health in Africa

Nation Media Group
Media of Africa for Africa

PHILIPS

AT A GLANCE

3
Days

80+
Sessions

20+
Side events

214+
hours recorded content

3,000+
Participants

2,100
Opening ceremony attendance

80+
Countries represented

60%
International invited speakers

43%
academic participants; 57% non-academic participants

400+
Speakers & moderators

16
Health Ministers

60%
Female speakers & moderators

59+
Local and international media reports

1.3M
Total reach on digital

90%
Said the knowledge gained will impact their work

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 1

H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, officially opened the World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Nairobi by underscoring Africa's evolving role as a proactive driver of global health policy, innovation, and implementation. Welcoming delegates from across the world, he expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya, partner institutions, and participants whose collaboration had made the meeting possible. He highlighted the significance of hosting the summit at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the only United Nations headquarters in the Global South, as a symbol of Africa's growing influence in shaping global health agendas.

President Ruto called for an urgent rebalancing of the global health architecture to reflect equity, solidarity, and shared responsibility, noting that recent crises, including COVID-19 and other public health emergencies, had exposed deep structural inequities in access to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and essential health commodities. He emphasized that Africa must shift decisively from dependence on external systems towards strengthened domestic capacity through resilient health systems, local pharmaceutical manufacturing, robust supply chains, biotechnology, genomics, vaccine research and development, and greater investment in scientific innovation.

Highlighting Kenya's ongoing health sector reforms, President Ruto outlined the country's commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage through sustainable domestic financing. He explained that Kenya had transitioned from a fixed-contribution health insurance model to an income-based system under the Social Health Authority, requiring eligible citizens to contribute 2.75% of their income into a unified national health insurance pool. According to the President, the reform has significantly strengthened health financing, generating approximately US$1.3 billion within a year, reducing out-of-pocket expenditure, expanding access to quality healthcare, and ensuring that healthcare is determined





by need rather than income or geographical location. He stressed that sustainable health financing must be anchored in law, institutional continuity, and public accountability rather than political cycles.

President Ruto further emphasized the importance of strengthening regional coordination and continental institutions to enhance preparedness and response to emerging public health threats. He urged African governments to invest strategically in health workforce development, research, biotechnology, and local manufacturing capacity to improve resilience and safeguard the continent against future health emergencies.

Addressing policymakers, he called for evidence-informed leadership capable of navigating an increasingly complex global health landscape. To international partners, he emphasized that Africa seeks partnerships founded on mutual respect, shared priorities, and long-term investment rather than short-term assistance. He concluded by reaffirming that health is both a development and security imperative and that investing in Africa's health systems is essential for global stability, economic growth, and shared prosperity. Declaring the World Health Summit Regional Meeting officially open, he welcomed delegates back to "the origin of humanity," inviting them to work together in shaping a healthier and more equitable future.

The opening keynote, *Reimagining Africa's Health Systems in an Age of Polycrisis,* established the intellectual foundation for the World Health



Summit Regional Meeting 2026 by arguing that Africa's health systems must move beyond responding to successive crises towards fundamentally redesigning how health systems are conceived, governed, and financed. The session observed that Africa is confronting a persistent "polycrisis" in which pandemics, climate change, conflict, demographic shifts, fiscal constraints, and geopolitical instability occur simultaneously rather than sequentially. These overlapping challenges expose structural weaknesses that cannot be addressed through emergency responses alone.

Participants emphasized that resilience, while important, is no longer sufficient. Instead, the continent must pursue transformational change that addresses the underlying conditions creating vulnerability. The keynote called for a coordinated Pan-African health architecture built on stronger governance, greater domestic ownership, sustainable financing, interoperable digital health systems, and regional cooperation. A central message was that health should be viewed as a strategic investment essential for economic development, security, and national resilience rather than merely a social expenditure.

The session highlighted the need to strengthen domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing, procurement systems, research and innovation, and digital infrastructure while integrating community health workers into both service delivery and health governance. Participants argued that locally driven solutions, supported by accountable institutions and empowered communities, are critical to achieving health sovereignty.

Ultimately, the keynote challenged African governments and their partners to shift from fragmented, donor-driven projects towards integrated, system-wide reforms that build long-term institutional capacity. It concluded that the true test of Africa's response to polycrisis lies not in its ability to absorb repeated shocks but in its willingness to redesign health systems that are equitable, resilient, self-reliant, and capable of meeting the continent's future health needs.

SESSIONS

- Opening Ceremony and Opening Plenary
- Keynote Session: Reimagining Africa's Health Systems in an Age of Polycrisis
- Smart Funding for Sustainable Change: A Roundtable on Catalytic Investment in Country-Led Health Reform
- Climate-Resilient and Green Health Infrastructure
- Scaling Affordable Digital Health Platforms for Primary Care Access
- Financing and Scaling Women and Youth-Led Health Innovations
- Financing Universal Health Coverage: Domestic Resource Mobilization, Private Sector and Philanthropic Partnerships
- From Neurons to Neighbourhoods: Dementia and Healthy Brain Aging in Africa
- Innovative Financing for Epidemic Preparedness: Doing More with Less
- Primary Health Care Financing, Advocacy and Accountability
- Women and Children in Conflict and Fragile Settings
- Beyond Borders: Strengthening Global Health Security within the East African Community
- Cost-Effective Approaches to Climate-Sensitive Diseases, Mental Health and NCDs
- Trust in Science: Advancing Quality Health Information in the Age of Digital Health
- Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Health Systems
- Delivering People-Centered, Community-Led Primary Health Care
- Integrating Mental Health into Primary Care
- International Health Regulations and Public Health Orders
- Financing and Scaling Competency-Based Health Workforce Programmes
- Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Accelerating Universal Health Coverage through Multisectoral Action on NCDs
- Advancing capacity building agendas for local vaccine production: A cooperation between RCCNs and Academia
- Harnessing Big Data for Policy, Financing and Public Health Decision-Making
- Beyond Rhetoric and Targets: Re-Negotiating Africa's Position in Global Health Financing
- Integrated Planetary Health Solutions to Safeguard Health
- Confronting Gender-Based Violence and Building Accountability for Equitable Service Delivery
- Maternal, Perinatal and Neonatal Health: Leadership and Innovation to Reduce Mortality and Morbidity
- Health Dividend Initiative
- Opening Night Dinner

DAY 2

Keynote 2: Africa Leads the Future of Health: Country Leadership, Partnerships and Innovation to Transform Health Systems

Keynote 2 focused on what it means for Africa to genuinely lead the future of health, arguing that leadership must be measured not by representation in global forums but by ownership of decisions, resources, and institutions. The session challenged participants to move beyond rhetorical commitments towards structural reforms that place African countries and institutions at the centre of health governance.

Discussions emphasized that effective country leadership requires African governments to exercise greater authority over health priorities, financing, data governance, intellectual property, and accountability mechanisms. Speakers argued that sustainable transformation cannot be achieved while critical decisions remain externally driven, calling instead for governance models that strengthen national and regional institutions and enable countries to determine their own development pathways.

The keynote further examined the future of partnerships, advocating for relationships founded on mutual respect, shared accountability, and alignment with national priorities rather than donor-led agendas. Participants noted that meaningful partnerships require African institutions to have the capacity and confidence to negotiate equitable arrangements, including the ability to decline initiatives that do not advance domestic or continental priorities.







Innovation was presented as an essential enabler of resilient health systems, extending beyond technology to include new models of governance, financing, service delivery, and collaboration. Participants highlighted the importance of investing in digital transformation, research, local manufacturing, and institutional capacity while ensuring that innovation strengthens health systems rather than creating parallel structures.

The session concluded that Africa's leadership in global health will ultimately be demonstrated through stronger institutions, sovereign decision-making, equitable partnerships, and innovative solutions that are designed, owned, and sustained by African countries.



Keynote 3: Putting People at the Center of Health System Transformation

Keynote 3 emphasized that meaningful health system transformation must begin with the people whom health systems are intended to serve. The session argued that many health systems continue to prioritize institutional processes over community needs, resulting in inequitable access, reduced public trust, and services that fail to respond to local realities. Participants called for a fundamental redesign of health systems so that communities, particularly women, children, young people, and underserved populations, become central to planning, implementation, and accountability.

The keynote highlighted community participation as an essential principle of Primary Health Care, noting that although this commitment has long been recognised, it remains inadequately implemented. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening and professionalizing community health workers, with evidence



demonstrating that investments in this workforce generate substantial health and economic returns. Participants stressed that community health workers should be formally trained, remunerated, integrated into national health systems, and recognised as critical contributors to health service delivery.

The session also explored the role of digital technologies in transforming healthcare, emphasizing that innovation should expand equitable access rather than deepen existing inequalities. Technology should complement, rather than replace, trusted community-based health systems and must be governed in ways that promote inclusion and accountability.

Speakers further highlighted the importance of gender equity, youth leadership, and inclusive



governance, noting that the underrepresentation of women and young people in health decision-making weakens the responsiveness of health systems. The keynote concluded that truly people-centredhealth systems require communities to move from being passive recipients of care to active partners in designing, delivering, and evaluating healthcare, ensuring that health policies and services are responsive, equitable, and accountable to those they serve.



SESSIONS

- From Crisis Response to Strategic Design: Shifting Focus to Future Health Systems Development in Africa (Invitation Only)
- Systemic Approaches to Enabling Universal Health Coverage: Embedding Social Determinants of Health in Primary Health Care Systems
- Protecting Vulnerable Populations through Community Engagement, Locally Led Climate Action and Integrated Solutions
- Public-Private Innovation Ecosystems Driving Health Tech in Africa
- Youth Leadership in Health Governance
- Building Resilient Health Workforce Systems: Governance, Planning, and Multi-Sectoral Approaches
- Breaking Barriers: Tackling Stigma through Multisectoral and Integrated Approaches
- Governing Polycrisis: Integrating Preparedness into National Health Strategies
- Ministerial Dialogue on AI, Data and Digital Sovereignty
- Delivering Sustainable Malnutrition Prevention by Strengthening Kenya's Primary Care Systems
- The Role of Technology in Transforming Healthcare in Africa
- Resilient Systems, Rapid Response: Innovative Strategies for Africa's Short- and Long-Term Epidemic Preparedness
- Child Health Development and Disabilities
- The Roadmap to Resilience: Enabling Local Delivery of Affordable Maternal and Child Health Solutions
- From Community-Based Interventions to Policy Change: Decentralizing NCD Care for Sustainable Impact
- Leveraging South-South and North-South Partnerships for Climate-Health Adaptation, Innovation and Technology Transfer
- Telemedicine and Remote Monitoring for Hard-to-Reach Settings
- Transforming Health Financing in Africa: From Aid Volatility to Sustainable Investment Through Innovative Models and Regional Platforms
- Youth and Adolescent Mental Health: Building Psychosocial Resilience and Leadership
- From Political Commitment to Predictable Markets: Operationalising Regionalised Vaccine Manufacturing in Africa
- Closed Door Ministerial Dialogue on Operationalizing Africa's Health Financing Reform
- Closing the Gender Gap in Health Workforce Leadership
- Integrating Oral Health into Kenya's Primary Health Care System: Policy, Practice and People's Voice
- Building Human Research Capacity for Malaria Elimination within Africa
- Designing Power: Women Leading Africa's Health Research and Development Systems
- Nutrition Throughout the Life Course in Africa: Pathways to Health and Development
- Keynote Session: Putting People at the Center of Health System Transformation
- Keynote Session: Africa Leads the Future of Health: Country Leadership, Partnerships and Innovation to Transform Health Systems
- Building Coalitions for SCDM in Western Kenya: New Partnership Opportunities for Academia, Tech, Industry and County and Local Government
- Science Diplomacy for Health in a Fragmented World
- Youth at the Frontlines: Leveraging Data Science for Climate and Health Action
- Mobile Health (mHealth) Solutions for Community Outreach and Health Equity
- Equitable Financing Models for Gender and Youth Health Priorities
- Establishing Radioligand Therapy for Advanced Cancer Care in the Region
- Community-Driven and Youth-Led Mental Health Innovations
- Launch of the Africa CDC Continental Immunization Strategy and Dissemination of the Policy Brief on the Review of Immunization in Africa
- Youth Event
- Medicine Quality and Access in Times of Health Transitions: Strengthening PHC in Africa
- Reimagining Health Systems: The Strategic Role of Civil Society in a Changing Global Health Architecture
- AI-Driven Solutions, Data Science and Technological Innovations in Women, Newborns, Adolescents and Children's Health
- Global Leaders Network Webinar: From Debt Distress to Health Investment: Leveraging Debt Swaps to Finance Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health
- Harnessing Technology, Digital Health, EHR, Data Science and Innovation for Climate-Health Data, Early Warning and Resilient Service Delivery
- Digital Innovation for Health Workforce Capacity Building
- Intersection of Climate Change, Gender, and Youth Health Outcomes
- Managing Health Financing Cliffs: The Value of Health Policy and Systems Research
- Strengthening Mental Health Access through Digital Health, AI and Information Systems
- Accelerating Vaccine Sovereignty in Africa for Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems and Security
- Innovations in PHC for Integration, Prevention and Resilience
- From Innovation to Impact: Strengthening Africa's Health Research Ecosystems for Better Public Health
- Women's Health, Global Wealth: Advancing Women's Health Across the Lifespan, Cancer Early Detection & Prevention

DAY 3

Keynote 4: Financing the Future of Health in Africa challenged participants to move beyond the false choice between global health financing reform and domestic resource mobilization. Through a structured debate, speakers concluded that Africa requires both fairer global financing mechanisms and stronger domestic financing sovereignty. Participants highlighted the risks of excessive dependence on external funding, citing examples where withdrawal of donor support disrupted essential health services. At the same time, speakers emphasized that domestic financing depends on public trust, transparent governance, and accountable institutions that demonstrate how citizens' contributions translate into quality healthcare. The session also drew attention to the significant economic loss resulting from the migration of African-trained health workers, framing health workforce retention as both a financing and development priority.

Keynote 5: Manufacturing Health in Africa – Sovereignty, Scale and Supply Chains shifted the discussion from aspiration to execution. Speakers argued that Africa's health security depends on its ability to manufacture vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and other essential health commodities at scale. Success will require coordinated regional markets, predictable procurement, regulatory harmonization, blended financing, equitable technology transfer and sustained political commitment. The session highlighted the Institut Pasteur de Dakar as an example of African manufacturing excellence while noting that Africa currently produces less than one percent of the vaccines it consumes.

In the **Closing Ceremony,** Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki reaffirmed that Africa's health future will be built through political courage, institutional discipline, sustained investment and accountable leadership. He challenged governments and partners to translate the Nairobi commitments into concrete policies, investments and measurable outcomes, emphasizing that the true legacy of the Regional Meeting will be determined not by the quality of the discussions, but by the decisions and actions that follow.



SESSIONS

- Where Policy Meets Production: From Innovation to Implementation in Regional Health Manufacturing
- From Dialogue to Delivery: Building Africa's Future in Genomics and Precision Medicine
- Accelerating Climate-Health Solutions through Locally-Led Research in Africa
- Cross Border Surveillance and Early Warning Systems: Leveraging AI and Digital Tools
- Culture and Health at Crossroads: Meaning, Practice and Power
- Strengthening Primary Health Care Financing Through Country Learning: Insights from Kenya, Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Tanzania
- Innovative Financing Models and Scalable Mental Health Systems
- Regional Supply Chain Resilience: African Manufacturing and Distribution Hubs
- Traditional Medicine as Part of the Solution: Reimagining Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage in Africa
- Integrating NCD Care into PHCs, UHC and ID Ecosystems
- Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Evidence to Policy Ecosystems in East Africa
- Commemoration of Immunization: "For Every Generation, Vaccines Work"
- Quality of Care for Women, Children and Adolescents
- Shaping the Future of Health in the WHO African Region: Consultation on the Development of the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2026–2030 and Vision 2035
- Advancing Primary Health Care for Children Through Essential Infrastructure: Investing in WASH, Waste, and Electricity in Healthcare Facilities
- Integrating Policy, Systems and Intersectoral Approaches for Climate-Health Action, Clean Energy and Transport Co-benefits
- Digital Health and Innovative Strategies for Resilient, Integrated, and Preventive PHC in Africa



- Transforming Health Professionals' Education to Meet Increasing Population Health Needs
- Alliance of Academic Health Centers International (AAHCI)
- Exploring the Role of Religion and Indigenous Traditions in Mental Health and Healing
- Financing Community Preparedness and Harmonising Regulatory Frameworks for Medical Countermeasures
- Launch of the WHO–AKU Collaborative Initiative on Breast and Cervical Cancer at the Centre of Excellence for Women and Child Health, AKU
- Financing Sustainable Cancer Care in Africa: Shifting from Out-of-Pocket Crisis Spending to Results-Based Investment in Women's Health
- Can Data and Technology Help Africa Deliver Better Healthcare Even with Limited Budget?
- Women, Child Health, Environment and Climate
- From Evidence to Action: Advancing Adolescent Nutrition
- Keynote Session: Financing the Future of Health in Africa
- Keynote Session: Manufacturing Health in Africa: Sovereignty, Scale and Supply Chains
- Improving the Financing of Medical Supply Chains in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
- Advancing Africa's Health Workforce: From Shared Priorities to Coordinated Action
- Bridging Generations: Practitioners in Climate Sensitive Infectious Diseases
- Ethical and Governance Frameworks for Digital Health and Data Sharing
- Social Accountability Mechanisms: Citizen Voices Driving Health Reforms
- Two Million Community Health Workers: How to Empower Them for Effective and Equitable UHC?
- The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Blind Spot: Why Mental Health Progress Is Stalling in Africa
- Digital Health Records and Information Systems for Pandemic Preparedness and Response
- Young Voices in Action: Empowering Youth for Improved Health – Why Youth Belong at the Center of Global Health?
- Achieving Better Maternal and Child Health Outcomes through AI-Powered Solutions
- Dynamic Modelling for Strategic Decision-Making in Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health
- Closing Plenary

WELCOME RECEPTION/OPENING NIGHT



The **Opening Night Reception** officially launched the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 by bringing together global health leaders, policymakers, development partners, academia, and the private sector for an evening of welcome, networking, and celebration. Guests were received with a welcome reception and cultural entertainment, followed by opening remarks from the International President of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026, President of the World Health Summit, the WHO Regional Director for Africa and the Director General of Africa CDC, who collectively underscored the importance of strengthening collaboration to advance resilient and equitable health systems across Africa. The evening continued with a networking dinner featuring entertainment, culminating in keynote addresses by the Principal Secretary for Medical Services and the Cabinet Secretary for Health, who reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to regional and global health leadership. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and acknowledgements of key partners and supporters whose contributions had made the meeting possible.







SUB-THEMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

The regional meeting organized discussions across eight interconnected sub-thematic tracks covering Africa's health agenda. This section synthesizes the key messages, priorities and recommendations emerging from each track.

1. Pandemic Preparedness & Health Security

From reactive to operational preparedness

Africa's health security requires a shift from fragmented, reactive responses to integrated, sustainable and operational preparedness. The discussions emphasized reducing dependence on unpredictable external funding by strengthening domestic financing, aligning national and subnational budgets with preparedness priorities, and improving public finance, governance, accountability and oversight.

Legal frameworks and interconnected crises

The International Health Regulations (IHR), regional frameworks and national legislation are critical for translating global commitments into effective surveillance, border health, workforce, laboratory and emergency-response capacities. Preparedness must also address Africa's interconnected poly-crisis, where climate change, conflict, displacement, food insecurity and health emergencies disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, particularly women and children. This requires locally adaptable strategies informed by timely data, geospatial analysis, operational research and evidence-to-policy mechanisms.

Regional vaccine manufacturing

Strengthening African vaccine manufacturing requires moving from political commitments to implementation through predictable demand, sustainable financing, technology transfer, regulatory harmonization, manufacturing capacity and regional pooled procurement. Overall, resilience depends on domestic investment, evidence, accountability, integration and regional interdependence.









2. Climate Change, Environment, and Health Systems Resilience



Practical, climate-resilient solutions

The sessions collectively highlighted the urgent need to build climate-resilient, environmentally sustainable and integrated health systems in Africa. Discussions demonstrated practical solutions including climate-proof health facilities, solar-powered clinics, resilient WASH infrastructure, heat adaptation measures, clean cooking, sustainable housing and nature-based solutions.

Interconnected health impacts

The sessions also emphasised the interconnected impacts of climate change on climate-sensitive diseases, mental health, cardiovascular disease, NCDs and neglected tropical diseases, requiring stronger integration within primary healthcare.

Multisectoral partnerships and financing

A recurring message was the importance of multisectoral partnerships, community engagement, private-sector participation and innovative financing, including blended finance and impact investment, to scale climate-health solutions. Rwanda's Car-Free Day and other country examples demonstrated how political leadership and community action can deliver simultaneous health and environmental benefits. Overall, the sessions called for embedding planetary health, One Health and climate resilience into health policies, urban planning, infrastructure, housing and primary healthcare.

3. Digital Health, AI, and Technological Innovation



From fragmented pilots to people-centred ecosystems

The sessions under Digital Health, AI and Technological Innovation highlighted the need for Africa to move from fragmented digital health pilots towards integrated, scalable, affordable and people-centred digital health ecosystems. Discussions covered digital platforms for primary care, telemedicine, mHealth, big data, AI, health workforce development, public-private innovation, cross-border surveillance and digital governance.

Foundations for scale

Across the sessions, interoperability, strong digital public infrastructure, data quality, user-centred design and sustainable financing emerged as critical foundations for scale. Digital technologies can improve access, continuity of care, workforce capacity, surveillance and decision-making, particularly in underserved settings, but connectivity, digital literacy, fragmented systems and limited workforce capacity remain significant barriers.

Trust, ethics and African-led governance

The sessions also stressed that trust, ethics, data sovereignty and governance must accompany technological innovation. Recommendations included African-led regulatory frameworks, responsible AI, stronger cross-border data sharing, community participation, workforce digital competencies, and partnerships among governments, academia, private sector and communities to transition innovations from pilots into sustainable national and continental systems.

4. Health Workforce, Financing and System Building

Toward sustainable, locally-owned systems

The sessions under Health Workforce, Financing and System Building emphasized the need for Africa to transition towards sustainable, locally owned and resilient health systems. Discussions highlighted declining external aid, debt pressures and fragmented financing as major threats to Universal Health Coverage (UHC), underscoring the importance of domestic resource mobilization, innovative financing, public-private partnerships and stronger financial governance.

Integrated workforce planning

Health workforce discussions stressed integrated planning across education, financing, recruitment and deployment, alongside improved retention, competency-based training, digital learning and stronger primary healthcare.

Local research, innovation and ownership

The sessions also highlighted the importance of local research, innovation, regional collaboration and African ownership, including expanding access to advanced cancer therapies such as radioligand therapy. Overall, participants called for integrated financing, stronger institutions, evidence-informed



policymaking, local manufacturing, workforce development and partnerships to build equitable, sustainable and shock-responsive African health systems.

5. Gender, Equity, Youth Leadership and Social Accountability

Centering communities in decision-making

Across the sessions, discussions emphasized that equitable health systems must place women, youth, communities and marginalized groups at the centre of decision-making, financing and service delivery. Participants called for youth participation that moves beyond tokenism to co-creation, governance roles and investment in youth-led innovations.

Closing leadership gaps

Gender equity requires closing leadership gaps through fair recruitment, pay transparency, mentorship, supportive policies and gender-disaggregated workforce data. Sessions highlighted the need for dedicated domestic financing for gender and youth priorities, alongside sustainable support for grassroots innovations.

Inclusive preparedness and rights-based digital health

Climate discussions showed how floods and droughts disproportionately affect women, children, youth and persons with disabilities, requiring inclusive preparedness, resilient services and accountability. Digital health must integrate gender, human rights, accessibility and equity from design through implementation. SGBV should be embedded in health information systems and survivor-centred accountability. Finally, culturally competent, community-rooted care and social accountability were identified as essential to building trust, responsiveness and sustainable health reforms.

6. Mental Health, Psychosocial Support, and Well-being

From fragmented service to integrated care

The sessions on Mental Health, Psychosocial Support and Well-being highlighted the urgent need to transform mental health from a fragmented, underfunded service into an integrated, community-based and sustainable component of African health systems. Discussions emphasized integrating mental health into primary and secondary care and UHC, supported by functional referral pathways, task-sharing, workforce development, essential medicines and robust health information systems.

Sustainable financing and crisis response

Participants stressed the importance of innovative and sustainable financing, including domestic resource mobilization, blended finance and public-private partnerships, alongside stronger investment cases and inclusion of mental health within insurance and UHC benefit packages. Crisis and displacement discussions highlighted community-based, culturally grounded responses, Psychological First Aid and stronger coordination across humanitarian and health systems.

Innovation, culture and stigma reduction

The sessions also explored dementia, healthy brain ageing, AI and neuroimaging, emphasizing African-led data, locally relevant innovation and community engagement to overcome stigma and infrastructure gaps. Finally, religion and indigenous traditions were recognized as important partners in culturally acceptable mental health promotion, referral and stigma reduction, provided appropriate safeguards and evidence-based standards are maintained.





7. Primary Healthcare, UHC, NCDs, IDs and Social Determinants of Health

PHC as the foundation

The six sessions under Primary Healthcare, UHC, NCDs, Infectious Diseases and Social Determinants of Health emphasized the need to strengthen PHC as the foundation of resilient, equitable and sustainable African health systems. Discussions highlighted sustainable domestic financing, political commitment, accountability and community participation, with greater investment needed to reduce donor dependence and improve frontline services.

People-centred, integrated delivery

Participants called for people-centred, community-led PHC that integrates prevention, NCD management, migration health, nutrition, surveillance and effective referral systems, supported by digital tools and cross-sectoral partnerships. The sessions also stressed medicine quality and local manufacturing, stronger pharmacovigilance and regional regulatory collaboration to combat falsified and substandard medicines.

Addressing social determinants

A recurring priority was addressing social determinants—including poverty, climate change, food insecurity and inequality—through integrated action across health, agriculture, education and other sectors. Overall, the sessions advocated for country-led, integrated, data-driven and community-accountable PHC systems capable of delivering UHC and responding to Africa's changing disease burden.

8. Women, Adolescents, Child Health and Nutrition

Reorienting systems around women and children

Across the sessions, participants emphasized the need to reorient African health systems around women, children and adolescents through integrated, equitable, data-driven and locally owned approaches. Conflict and fragility were identified as major drivers of maternal and child mortality, requiring community-led services, sustainable financing, stronger CHW systems and protection of health facilities. Adolescent health discussions called for integrated, youth-centred SRHR services addressing HIV/STIs, early pregnancy and violence, with deliberate inclusion of adolescents with disabilities.

Early-life investment and AI-enabled care

Sessions on child development, nutrition and maternal health stressed early-life investment, life-course care, multisectoral action, domestic



financing and implementation accountability, particularly for vulnerable populations. AI and dynamic modelling were highlighted as opportunities to improve diagnosis, forecasting and decision-making, provided African data ownership, interoperability, cybersecurity and system readiness are strengthened. Overall, participants urged a shift from coverage to quality, using community engagement, innovation, evidence and country leadership to deliver sustainable health outcomes.

Cross-Cutting Synthesis

Six threads recur across all eight tracks of the regional meeting:

1. **Domestic financing**
   Reducing donor dependence through sustainable, locally-owned resource mobilization — repeated across every track.
2. **Data, digital & AI**
   African-led data ownership, interoperability and responsible AI as enablers across health security, PHC and child health.
3. **Equity & inclusion**
   Women, youth, adolescents and marginalized groups placed at the centre of design, financing and delivery.
4. **Multisectoral partnership**
   Government, private sector, academia and community action working across health, climate, and finance.
5. **Local ownership & manufacturing**
   Regional vaccine and medicine manufacturing, regulatory harmonization and pooled procurement.
6. **Community-rooted delivery**
   Culturally competent, community-led and accountable care as the basis for trust and sustainability.

HIGH LEVEL EVENTS

1. Launch of the Africa Continental Immunization Strategy (CIS) 2026–2030-Africa CDC

One of the landmark special events of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 was the official launch of the **Africa Continental Immunization Strategy (CIS) 2026–2030,** led by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in collaboration with the African Union and global health partners. The launch introduced a unified, Africa-led framework to guide the transformation of immunization systems across the continent, positioning immunization as a cornerstone of Primary Health Care, health security, and sustainable development.

The high-level event brought together Ministers of Health, senior government officials, regional institutions, and development partners, reflecting strong political commitment to advancing immunization as a continental priority. Discussions emphasized the importance of sustainable domestic financing, stronger governance, accountability, digital transformation, and equitable access to vaccines, particularly for zero-dose and underserved populations.

The Strategy outlines a shared vision for achieving universal immunization coverage by 2030 through strengthened Primary Health Care systems, community engagement, local vaccine manufacturing, resilient supply chains, and enhanced epidemic preparedness. More than a technical framework, the Continental Immunization Strategy was presented as a political compact that reinforces African ownership and leadership in building resilient, equitable, and sovereign health systems.

The launch concluded with a collective commitment from Member States and partners to translate policy into measurable action, reaffirming immunization as a strategic investment in health security, human capital development, and Africa's long-term social and economic prosperity.







2. Ministerial Dialogue on AI, Data and Digital Sovereignty-WHO



Convened by the **World Health Organization (WHO),** the **Ministerial Dialogue on AI, Data and Digital Sovereignty in Africa** brought together ministers, policymakers, technical experts, and development partners to examine how digital transformation can strengthen Africa's health systems while safeguarding national ownership of health data and digital infrastructure. The dialogue emphasized that digital health, artificial intelligence, and health data are strategic assets that should be governed in ways that promote equity, trust, innovation, and public value.

Participants highlighted the need for African countries to move beyond fragmented digital initiatives towards integrated, interoperable, and nationally governed digital health ecosystems. Discussions underscored the importance of strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks, investing in secure digital infrastructure, building a skilled digital health workforce, and ensuring that artificial intelligence is developed and deployed ethically, transparently, and in ways that address Africa's health priorities.

The dialogue also reaffirmed that digital sovereignty is not about isolation, but about enabling countries to collaborate regionally and globally while retaining ownership, governance, and control over their health data and digital systems. Participants called for stronger partnerships among governments, WHO, Africa CDC, academia, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate Africa-led innovation and build resilient digital public health infrastructure.

The session concluded with a shared commitment to advance country-owned digital health architectures, strengthen governance and accountability, and harness digital technologies and artificial intelligence to improve Primary Health Care, disease surveillance, health financing, and equitable access to quality healthcare across the continent.



3. Youth Event: Shaping the Future of Africa's Health Systems

The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 placed young people at the centre of the regional health agenda through a dedicated **Youth Event,** which convened young leaders, policymakers, researchers, innovators, and development partners to explore how youth can drive the transformation of Africa's health systems. Through a series of interactive panel discussions, participants examined the role of young people in digital health and artificial intelligence, health financing, climate resilience, health workforce development, gender equity, migration, and social accountability.

A consistent message across the sessions was that Africa's youth should no longer be viewed as beneficiaries of health policies but as equal partners in designing, implementing, and evaluating health solutions. Discussions emphasized the importance of meaningful youth representation in decision-making processes, sustained investment in youth-led innovation, and creating opportunities for young professionals to contribute to policy development, digital transformation, and health system strengthening. Participants also highlighted the need to move beyond short-term pilot projects by supporting scalable, locally driven innovations that respond to the realities of African communities.

The forum further explored the interconnected challenges affecting young people, including climate change, migration, mental health, unemployment, and inequitable access to healthcare. Speakers called for integrated approaches that recognize the links between health, education, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability while ensuring that marginalized and underserved youth are not left behind. Across the discussions, collaboration between governments, academia, civil society, the private sector, and international partners emerged as essential for creating enabling environments where young people can lead meaningful change.

The Youth Leadership Forum concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen youth participation in health governance, expand investments in youth-led initiatives, build leadership and digital competencies, and institutionalize mechanisms that enable young people to influence policy and accountability. The discussions reaffirmed that investing in youth leadership is fundamental to building resilient, innovative, and equitable health systems capable of addressing Africa's present and future health challenges.







4. Resilient Systems, Rapid Response: Innovative Strategies for Africa's Short- and Long-Term Epidemic Preparedness

The session, **"Resilient Systems, Rapid Response: Innovative Strategies for Africa's Short- and Long-Term Epidemic Preparedness,"** brought together regional and international leaders to examine practical strategies for strengthening Africa's preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks. Hosted by the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in partnership with GIZ, Africa CDC, Charité University Hospital Berlin, and other key stakeholders, the session aligned with the World Health Summit Regional Meeting (WHSRM) 2026 sub-theme on **Pandemic Preparedness and Health Security in Africa.**

The discussions explored how immediate response mechanisms, medium-term workforce development, and long-term institutional investments could be integrated to build resilient, Africa-led health security systems. Drawing on lessons from the 2024 Marburg Virus Disease outbreak in Rwanda and recent Mpox responses across East Africa, speakers highlighted the importance of regional cooperation, rapid deployment of technical expertise, simulation-based clinical training, and cross-border coordination within a One Health framework.

A major highlight of the session was the launch of the EAC–Charité **TEACH** programme, a regional initiative aimed at strengthening clinical management of high-consequence infectious diseases through advanced training for healthcare professionals. Live simulation demonstrations showcased innovative approaches to intensive care preparedness, infection prevention, and emergency response.

The programme featured high-level remarks from representatives of the EAC, Africa CDC, the Government of Kenya, Germany, and technical partners, followed by a panel discussion on sustainable regional deployment mechanisms, workforce development, and strategic partnerships. The session concluded with a shared commitment to advancing continental preparedness, strengthening regional collaboration, and accelerating the development of agile, sustainable, and self-reliant epidemic response systems across Africa.





5. From Debt Distress to Health Investment: Leveraging Debt Swaps to Finance Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

The high-level session, **"From Debt Distress to Health Investment: Leveraging Debt Swaps to Finance Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health,"** brought together ministers, senior government officials, regional institutions, development partners, and civil society leaders to examine innovative financing mechanisms for strengthening health systems. Participants discussed how rising debt burdens and declining development assistance had constrained fiscal space for health, threatening progress towards Universal Health Coverage, particularly for women, children, and adolescents.

The session explored how debt relief mechanisms, particularly debt-for-health swaps, could unlock domestic resources and redirect investments towards priority health programmes. Drawing on country experiences, including Indonesia's Debt2Health programme, speakers highlighted practical approaches to integrating health priorities into national and multilateral debt negotiations while strengthening accountability to ensure that financial gains translated into improved health outcomes. The discussions concluded with a shared commitment to advancing innovative, sustainable financing solutions that support resilient, equitable, and domestically financed health systems across Africa.

6. Traditional Medicine as Part of the Solution: Reimagining Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage in Africa

The session, **"Traditional Medicine as Part of the Solution: Reimagining Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage in Africa,"** convened ministers of health, regulators, researchers, traditional medicine practitioners, youth representatives, and development partners to explore the role of traditional medicine in strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) and advancing universal health coverage (UHC) across Africa. Participants recognized traditional medicine as an essential and culturally grounded component of healthcare that could expand access, address workforce shortages, and improve health system resilience, particularly in underserved communities.





Discussions focused on strengthening regulatory frameworks, expanding evidence generation, protecting indigenous knowledge and biodiversity, and integrating traditional medicine into national health systems in line with the WHO Global Strategy on Traditional Medicine 2025–2034. Speakers also emphasized the importance of collaboration among governments, academia, regulatory bodies, civil society, and community practitioners. The session concluded with commitments to advance policy implementation, strengthen research and regulation, and accelerate the safe, evidence-based integration of traditional medicine into PHC and UHC across Africa.

7. Official Launch of the African High-Level Ministerial Committee on the Reform of the Global Health Architecture

A major highlight of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 was the official launch of the **African High-Level Ministerial Committee on the Reform of the Global Health Architecture (AHLMC)**. Established following the 39th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly and supported by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) as its technical secretariat, the Committee provides a high-level platform for African Union Member States to coordinate and advance a unified African position on global health governance and reform.

The launch marked a significant step in strengthening Africa's leadership in shaping the future of global health. Ministers and partners reaffirmed the need for Africa to move from being a recipient of global health decisions to becoming a co-architect of a more equitable, resilient, and inclusive global health architecture. Discussions highlighted the importance of addressing persistent challenges, including fragmented governance, declining external financing, inequitable access to medical countermeasures, and the need to strengthen health sovereignty through sustainable domestic investment and regional collaboration.

The Committee introduced a comprehensive reform agenda centred on five strategic priorities: governance reform, sustainable health financing, equitable access to medical countermeasures and local manufacturing, resilient health systems, and mutual accountability supported by data sovereignty. Participants also emphasized the importance of strengthening regulatory systems, developing the health workforce, engaging the private sector, and establishing measurable mechanisms for implementation.

The launch concluded with a strong political commitment to advancing an Africa-led, consultative, and action-oriented reform process aligned with the African Union and the World Health Organization. By establishing clear governance structures, thematic workstreams, and a shared roadmap, the Committee laid the foundation for coordinated African engagement in global health policy processes and reinforced the continent's commitment to shaping a more equitable and sustainable global health future.





8. Ministerial Dialogue on Operationalizing Africa's Health Financing Reform

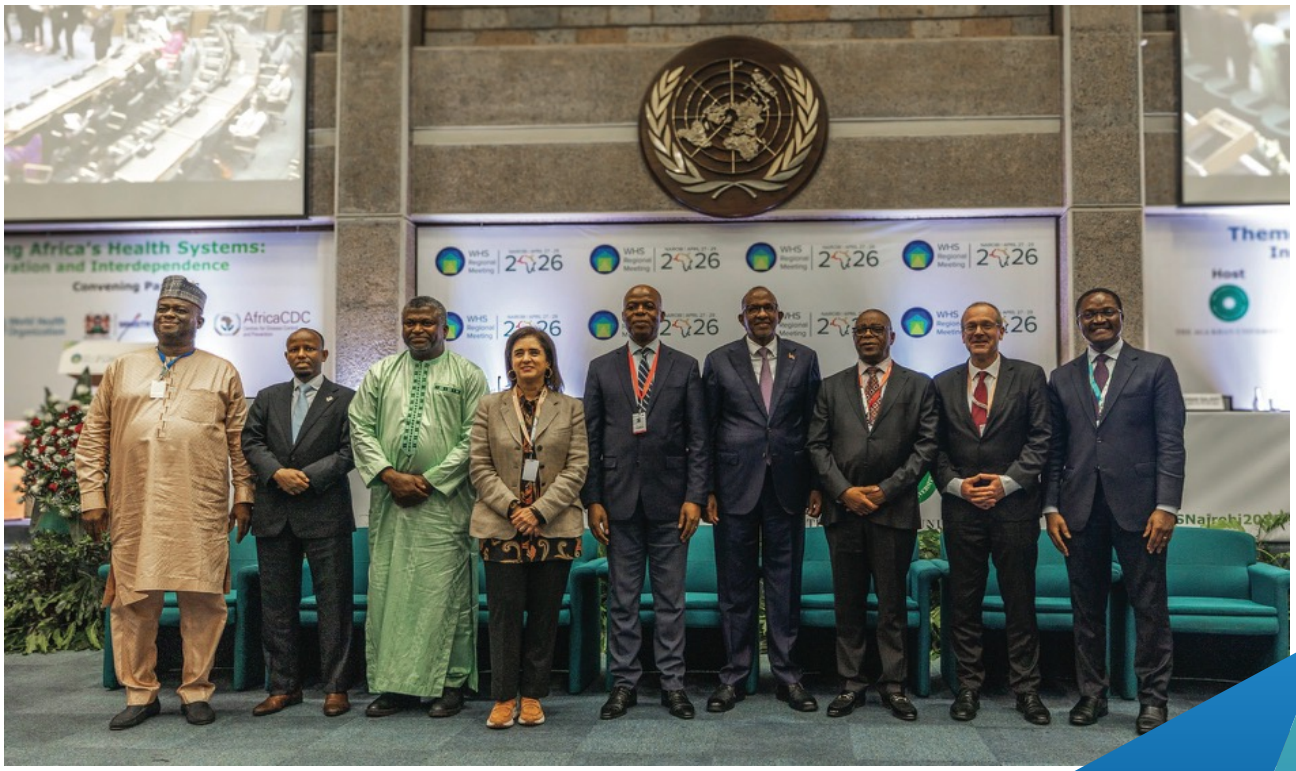


The **Ministerial Dialogue on Operationalizing Africa's Health Financing Reform** convened Ministers of Health, finance leaders, development partners, and global health experts to examine practical strategies for strengthening sustainable health financing across the continent. Against a backdrop of declining external assistance, rising health demands, and increasing fiscal pressures, the dialogue emphasized the urgent need for African countries to accelerate the transition towards domestically financed, resilient, and equitable health systems.

Participants highlighted three complementary pathways for expanding fiscal space for health: strengthening domestic resource mobilization, improving efficiency in health spending, and leveraging innovative financing mechanisms such as blended finance, debt swaps, and public-private partnerships. Discussions underscored that successful financing reform extends beyond technical solutions and requires strong political leadership, effective governance, cross-sector collaboration, and accountability to ensure sustainable implementation.

Country experiences from Kenya, Morocco, Ethiopia, Zambia, and The Gambia demonstrated the progress being made in improving health financing through digital innovations, national health insurance reforms, enhanced public financial management, and stronger collaboration between Ministries of Health and Finance. These experiences also highlighted common challenges, including expanding coverage to informal sector populations, managing the transition from donor dependence, and navigating the political and operational complexities of reform.

The dialogue concluded with a shared commitment to integrate health financing into national fiscal planning, strengthen governance and accountability systems, and align external support with country priorities. Participants reaffirmed that sustainable health financing is fundamental to achieving universal health coverage, strengthening health security, and building resilient health systems capable of responding to Africa's evolving health needs.



9. Launch of AKU, CoEWCH as WHO Collaborating Centre on Breast and Cervical Cancer Control

The World Health Organization (WHO) and Aga Khan University (AKU) launched a strategic partnership to strengthen breast and cervical cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research across Africa. Under a Memorandum of Understanding running through September 2028, AKU's Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health will provide technical and research support for WHO's Global Breast Cancer Initiative and Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative, focusing on low- and middle-income countries. The partnership will generate evidence to inform policy, strengthen the health workforce through training and mentorship, and validate innovative technologies, including AI-enabled breast ultrasound and AI-assisted cervical cancer screening. It also aims to develop integrated, one-stop service models that improve early detection, referral, diagnosis, and treatment. The collaboration supports Kenya's National Cervical Cancer Elimination Action Plan 2026–2030 while contributing to universal health coverage. By addressing the growing burden of women's cancers, the initiative seeks to reduce late-stage diagnoses, expand access to quality care, and improve survival outcomes for women across Africa.





SIDE EVENTS

1. Investing in What Works: Digital Health Foundations for Africa's Health Systems

The UNICEF-led side event brought together ministers of health, development partners, multilateral organizations, and digital health experts to discuss how African countries could build resilient, country-owned digital health systems. The session emphasized the need to move beyond fragmented pilot projects by investing in foundational digital health infrastructure, including interoperable health information systems, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and costed national roadmaps.

Participants shared successful country experiences, including UNICEF's AI-enabled identification of zero-dose children in West Africa, Rwanda's nationally owned digital health programme, digital innovations supporting immunization campaigns, and Kenya's digitization of community health services.

These examples demonstrated the importance of national ownership, interoperability, sustainable financing, and strong governance in achieving digital transformation at scale. The session concluded with endorsement of the "Nairobi Signal," reaffirming collective commitments to strengthening country-led digital health investments and advancing Africa's digital health agenda.



2. Designing Power: Women Leading Africa's Health Research and Development Systems

The side event, **"Designing Power: Women Leading Africa's Health Research and Development Systems,"** convened policymakers, researchers, funders, innovators, and civil society leaders to examine how women's leadership could be strengthened across Africa's health research and development ecosystem. The discussions highlighted persistent structural barriers that limited women's participation in scientific leadership, research governance, funding decisions, and innovation, and emphasized the importance of advancing gender-responsive research systems.

Participants explored policy and financing reforms that could increase women's representation in leadership and decision-making while showcasing the achievements of African women driving health innovation and research. A key highlight was the introduction of the **Women's Health R&D Scorecard,** an African-led accountability tool designed to monitor and promote women's leadership across the research value chain. The session concluded with commitments from policymakers, research institutions, and development partners to implement practical actions that would strengthen inclusive, equitable, and women-led health research and development systems across Africa.



3. From Community-Based Interventions to Policy Change: Decentralizing NCD Care for Sustainable Impact

The side event, **"From Community-Based Interventions to Policy Change: Decentralizing NCD Care for Sustainable Impact,"** convened policymakers, health financing experts, civil society organizations, community health workers, and private sector partners to examine strategies for integrating community-based non-communicable disease (NCD) care into national health systems. The discussions recognized that while community-led models had demonstrated success in improving early detection, disease management, and access to care, many remained isolated pilots with limited policy integration and sustainability.

Participants explored practical approaches to decentralizing NCD services, strengthening health systems, and embedding community-based interventions within universal health coverage strategies. Particular emphasis was placed on innovative financing mechanisms, policy reforms, and cross-sector collaboration needed to scale successful models. The session concluded with consensus on actionable recommendations to strengthen partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector, bridge the gap between grassroots innovation and national policy, and promote equitable, sustainable access to quality NCD care across low- and middle-income countries.



4. For Every Generation, Vaccines Work

The high-level side event, **"For Every Generation, Vaccines Work,"** commemorated World Immunization Week 2026 by bringing together senior government leaders, the African Union Commission (AUC), the Government of Kenya, WHO, ministers of health, and development partners to reaffirm Africa's commitment to immunization. The session highlighted the continent's achievements in expanding vaccine coverage while addressing persistent challenges related to vaccine equity, financing, and access.

Speakers underscored the importance of sustained political leadership, domestic investment, and regional collaboration in strengthening immunization programmes and improving health security. Discussions also emphasized the African Union's role in advancing vaccine research, manufacturing, and equitable access through stronger partnerships with Member States and international organizations. Participants renewed their commitment to the **Addis Ababa Declaration on Immunization** and called for increased investment in the African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative and other continental health priorities. The session concluded with a collective commitment to ensuring that vaccines remain accessible to every generation and continue to protect communities across Africa.



REACH

9
media mentions in Kenya and across Africa

1.3M
Total reach on digital

34,197
views on LinkedIn

4,234
followers on LinkedIn

205,685
impressions on LinkedIn

46,000
website visits (1 January - 6 July 2026)

44,154
clicks on LinkedIn

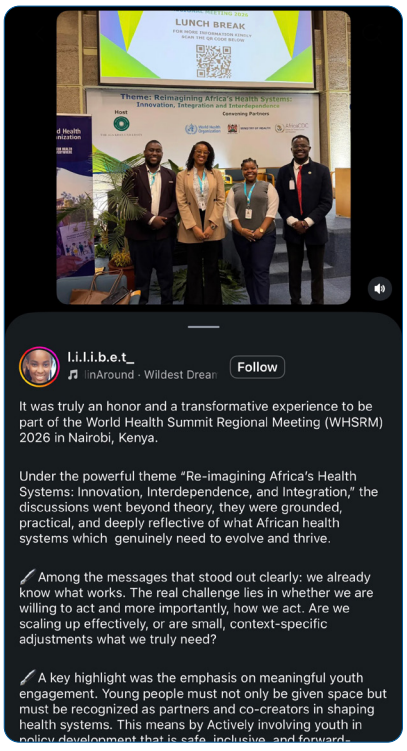
MEDIA

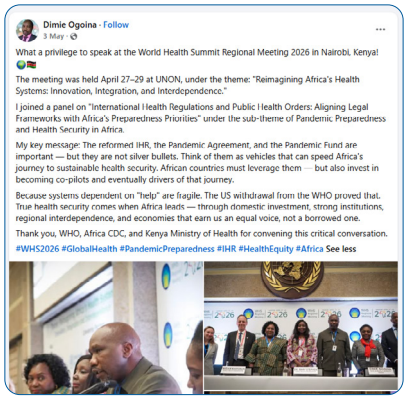
Selected Media Mentions

1. KBC
2. People Daily
3. The Star
4. Citizen Digital
5. The Standard
6. Vanguard Nigeria
7. AllAfrica
8. News Ghana
9. GhanaWeb
10. 3News
11. Independent Nigeria
12. Health Business
13. The Business & Financial Times
14. The Guardian Nigeria
15. MSN
16. Authority Newspaper Nigeria
17. International Health Policies
18. Health Policy Watch
19. Devex
20. Kenya News Agency


William Samoei Ruto · Follow
27 April ·
Africa is no longer a passive participant in global health; it is an active architect of its own direction, priorities, and outcomes.
The future of health policy, innovation, and delivery cannot be meaningfully advanced without Africa at the centre of both deliberation and implementation.
To realise this grand plan, we must re-imagine Africa's health systems and place policy leadership, technology and mobilisation of domestic resources at the centre of this paradigm shift.
More fundamentally, Africa's health systems can only be sound when we are able to manufacture adequate health commodities within the continent.
Addressed the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026, Nairobi, that brings together 2,000 delegates from 40 countries. See less
+26

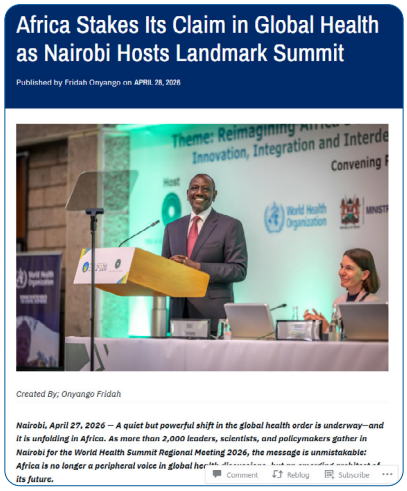

Susan Wamithi-Gitao
2 May ·
I honoured to have chaired the Child Health Development and Disabilities session as the International Pediatric Association official representative at the World Health Summit Regional Meeting held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).
Grateful for the insightful contributions from distinguished speakers representing the African Union, UNICEF, Aga Khan University, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Save the Children, and the Ministry of Health Malawi. Together, we conti... See more
ASANTENI!


LUNCH BREAK
Theme: Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration and Interdependence
l.i.l.i.b.e.t_
Follow
It was truly an honor and a transformative experience to be part of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting (WHSRM) 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya.
Under the powerful theme "Re-imagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Interdependence, and Integration," the discussions went beyond theory, they were grounded, practical, and deeply reflective of what African health systems which genuinely need to evolve and thrive.
Among the messages that stood out clearly: we already know what works. The real challenge lies in whether we are willing to act and more importantly, how we act. Are we scaling up effectively, or are small, context-specific adjustments what we truly need?
A key highlight was the emphasis on meaningful youth engagement. Young people must not only be given space but must be recognized as partners and co-creators in shaping health systems. This means by Actively involving youth in


Dimie Ogoina · Follow
3 May ·
What a privilege to speak at the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya!
The meeting was held April 27–29 at UNON, under the theme: "Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence."
I joined a panel on "International Health Regulations and Public Health Orders: Aligning Legal Frameworks with Africa's Preparedness Priorities" under the sub-theme of Pandemic Preparedness and Health Security in Africa.
My key message: The reformed IHR, the Pandemic Agreement, and the Pandemic Fund are important — but they are not silver bullets. Think of them as vehicles that can speed Africa's journey to sustainable health security. African countries must leverage them — but also invest in becoming co-pilots and eventually drivers of that journey.
Because systems dependent on "help" are fragile. The US withdrawal from the WHO proved that. True health security comes when Africa leads — through domestic investment, strong institutions, regional interdependence, and economies that earn us an equal voice, not a borrowed one.
Thank you, WHO, Africa CDC, and Kenya Ministry of Health for convening this critical conversation.
#WHS2026 #GlobalHealth #PandemicPreparedness #IHR #HealthEquity #Africa See less


NTV Kenya · Follow
27 April ·
World Health Summit 2026
President Ruto: In Kenya, to us, health is not a cost; it is an investment.
We have enacted transformative legislation that establishes a durable framework for universal health coverage; ensuring that reforms are not dependent on political cycles but in law, institutional continuity and public accountability.
#HealthForAll See less
LIVE
World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026
#HealthForAll


#WHS Nairobi 202
msmuthoni_
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World Health Summit regional meeting 2026 -Nairobi Kenya .
Was a pleasure representing Young Doctors Network@kenya_medics
Alongside other lovely colleagues.
SOLI DEO GLORIA
#healthfinancing #healthenterpreneurship #healthsystems...


Africa Stakes Its Claim in Global Health as Nairobi Hosts Landmark Summit
Published by Fridah Onyango on APRIL 28, 2026
Created By; Onyango Fridah
Nairobi, April 27, 2026 – A quiet but powerful shift in the global health order is underway—and it is unfolding in Africa. As more than 2,000 leaders, scientists, and policymakers gather in Nairobi for the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026, the message is unmistakable: Africa is no longer a peripheral voice in global he
its future.


INDEPENDENT
World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 Opens In Nairobi, Harps On Resilient Health SystemsThe World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026

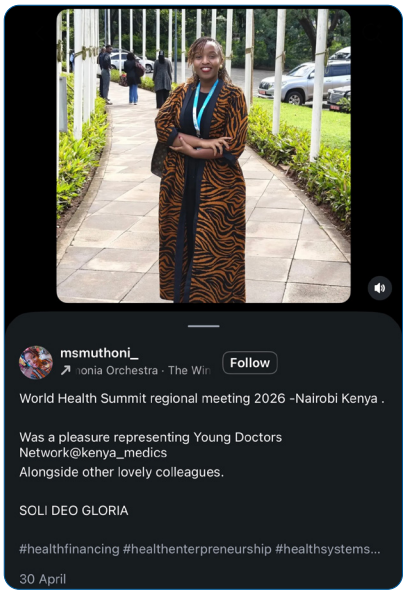

lutaerick
Follow
Grateful for the opportunity to attend the World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Nairobi
This year's theme, "Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration and Interdependence," sparked powerful conversations on the future of health across the continent.
Some key reflections:
1. We are truly in the era of AI and digital health and the question is no longer if, but how these innovations can close gaps, especially in maternal health care and other SRHR conditions within underserved communities.
2. Africa's future depends on shifting from dependency to locally driven, sustainably financed health systems.
3. Youth are not just the future, they are active drivers of transformation, and their role must go beyond participation

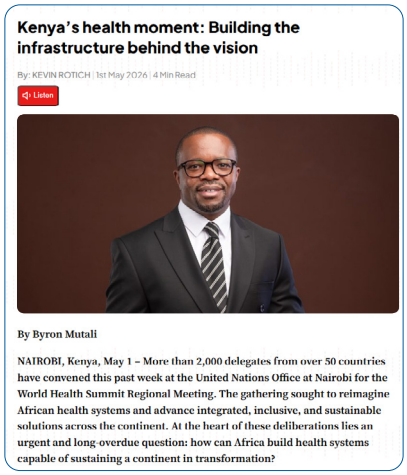

candybellkensah
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Day 2 || Part 2
Every policy conversation on health eventually comes back to one thing: people.
At the @worldhealthsummit Regional Meeting in Nairobi, I had the opportunity to join the launch of the Continental Immunization Strategy (CIS), hosted by the @africanunion_official and @africacdc @who @unicef @gaviallianc .
Conversations on the Continental Immunization Strategy highlighted how Africa's health future will depend not only on funding, but on implementation, collaboration, and including young people in the rooms where these decisions are made.
Africa has frameworks, strategies, and commitments. The challenge has often been ensuring that these policies translate into realities people can actually feel in their everyday lives.

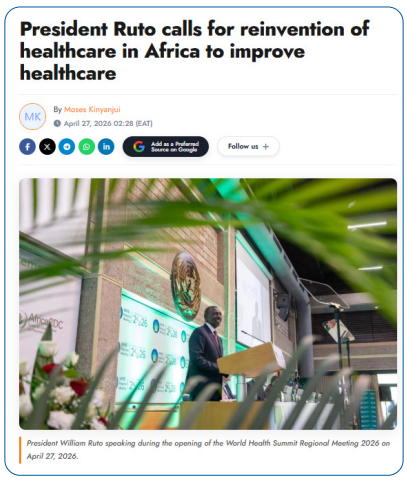

Standard Digital · Follow
23 May ·
OPINION:The 2026 World Health Summit (WHS) regional meeting in Nairobi concluded with several major resolutions and strategic outcomes. Bringing together leaders and innovators in health care, the gathering explored solutions that strengthen Africa's health systems and advance global health progress. See less
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Let's re-imagine Africa's pulse to fill health divide

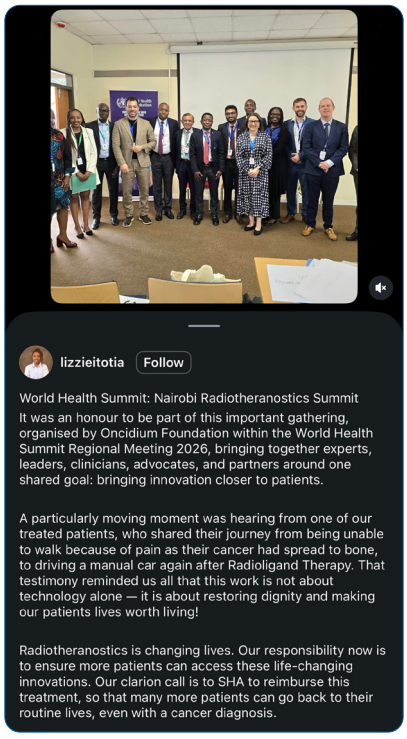

Health Business
African Scientists Push for Bigger Role in Global Health Agenda at Nairobi Summit
by Samwel Doe Ouma — April 29, 2026 in News


Africa urged to put more weight on health financing amid donor cuts


msmuthoni_
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World Health Summit regional meeting 2026 -Nairobi Kenya .
Was a pleasure representing Young Doctors Network@kenya_medics
Alongside other lovely colleagues.
SOLI DEO GLORIA
#healthfinancing #healthenterpreneurship #healthsystems...
30 April

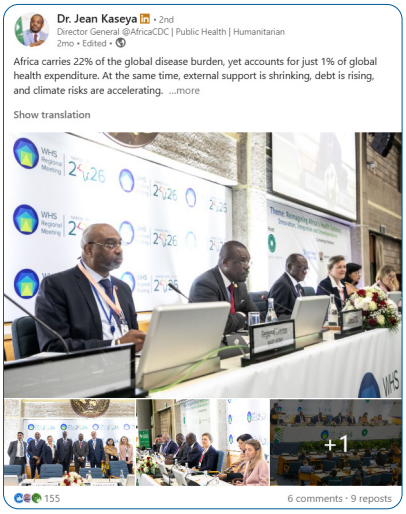

Kenya's health moment: Building the infrastructure behind the vision
By: KEVIN ROTICH | 1st May 2026 | 4 Min Read
Listen
By Byron Mutali
NAIROBI, Kenya, May 1 – More than 2,000 delegates from over 50 countries have convened this past week at the United Nations Office at Nairobi for the World Health Summit Regional Meeting. The gathering sought to reimagine African health systems and advance integrated, inclusive, and sustainable solutions across the continent. At the heart of these deliberations lies an urgent and long-overdue question: how can Africa build health systems capable of sustaining a continent in transformation?


President Ruto calls for reinvention of healthcare in Africa to improve healthcare
By Moses Kinyanjui
April 27, 2026 02:28 (EAT)
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President William Ruto speaking during the opening of the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 on April 27, 2026.


lizzieitotia
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World Health Summit: Nairobi Radiotheranostics Summit
It was an honour to be part of this important gathering, organised by Oncidium Foundation within the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026, bringing together experts, leaders, clinicians, advocates, and partners around one shared goal: bringing innovation closer to patients.
A particularly moving moment was hearing from one of our treated patients, who shared their journey from being unable to walk because of pain as their cancer had spread to bone, to driving a manual car again after Radioligand Therapy. That testimony reminded us all that this work is not about technology alone — it is about restoring dignity and making our patients lives worth living!
Radiotheranostics is changing lives. Our responsibility now is to ensure more patients can access these life-changing innovations. Our clarion call is to SHA to reimburse this treatment, so that many more patients can go back to their routine lives, even with a cancer diagnosis.


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FOR YOU NEWS RADIO TV PODCASTS LIVE EVENTS
Nairobi hosts key WHO regional meeting on traditional medicine as Africa pushes integration


World Health Summit Opens in Nairobi with Urgent Call for Resilient Health Systems
By Isaac Kofi Dzokpo - April 28, 2026
The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 officially opened today in Nairobi, bringing togeth
over 2,000 global health leaders, policymakers


Dr. Jean Kaseya · 2nd
Director General @AfricaCDC | Public Health | Humanitarian
2mo • Edited •
Africa carries 22% of the global disease burden, yet accounts for just 1% of global health expenditure. At the same time, external support is shrinking, debt is rising, and climate risks are accelerating. ...more
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155
6 comments · 9 reposts


WHO African Region @WHOAFRO · Apr 29
#WHSNairobi2026 concludes after days of meaningful exchange, bringing together leaders and partners committed to improving health across Africa.
From dialogue to practical solutions, the Summit reinforced the importance of partnership, innovation and country leadership.
The
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World Health Summit and 3 others
1
11
33
1.3K

Africa Health Business
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At the The World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting 2026 in Nairobi, discussions focused heavily on the structural shifts underway in Africa's health financing landscape. ...more



Reframing Health as a Productive Investment: Lessons from the World Health Summit Regional Meeting

Africa Health Business

43 2 comments • 2 reposts

CBM Inclusive Health Initiative @cbmIHI · Apr 30

This is what it looks like when persons with disabilities lead the conversation on health equity. Our partner Jemimah Kutata from @APDKenya on the panel at #WHSNairobi2026, advocating for gender equity, accountability and inclusive health systems across Africa.

#HealthForAll.



1 6 102

Winnie Byanyima @Winnie_Byanyima · May 3

Health threats respect no borders. Good to see momentum building for a new global health order that is more equitable, based on #multilateralism, and which includes the voices of developing countries. #WHSNairobi2026

> **Prof. Mohamed Janabi** @ProfJanabi · Apr 29
> We've been honest this week. We've acknowledged that the old ways are shifting. But disruption is not only a challenge; it is an opportunity to stop patching systems and start building durable ones.
>
> As #WHSNairobi2026 comes to a close, I am encouraged by the dept...



1 5 17 2.1K

Africa CDC @AfricaCDC · Apr 29

On the margins of #WHSNairobi2026, Africa CDC convened a high-level dialogue on Accelerating Universal Health Coverage through Multisectoral Action on NCDs, Injuries and Mental Health.

NCDs, injuries and mental health conditions are placing increasing pressure on health

Show more



2 13 33 2.2K

Dr Brian Chirombo @BrianChirombo · May 1

At #WHSNairobi2026, I moderated an engaging country panel on @giz_gmbh funded initiative in @jumuiya EAC to strengthen #lab systems & #environmental #surveillance. Technically supported by WHO AFRO & UVRI @UVRIug, it'll help boost EAC country #pandemic #preparedness & #response



WHO African Region and 5 others

7 33 947

HananBalkhy حنان بلخي @HananBalkhy · May 3

Wrapped up a productive week at #WHSNairobi2026

Across all my engagements one message stood out: strong, resilient health systems are built through country leadership, sustainable financing and partnerships that deliver impact.

From advancing universal health coverage and

Show more



3 5 21 1.3K

Kenya Ni Mimi Initiative @KeNiMimiYouth · May 6

Africa's health systems weren't built for us so we co create them. At #WHSNairobi2026 Kenya Ni Mimi helped shape health equity gender and social justice conversations. Youth are not tokens we are architects. #KenyaNiMimi #YouthInHealth





1 2 13

Aga Khan University @AKUGlobal · May 5

With 400+ speakers, 80+ sessions and 16 ministers in attendance, the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 #WHSNairobi2026, hosted by AKU, created a platform for sharing ideas, experiences and practical solutions to strengthen Africa's health systems.

We asked some of the

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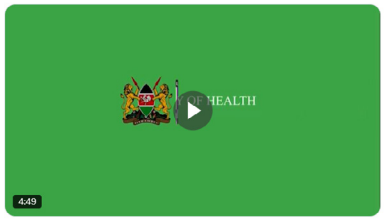


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Mary Muthoni Muriuki, CBS, HSC
@psmuthoni

On Global Health Leadership (World Health Summit)

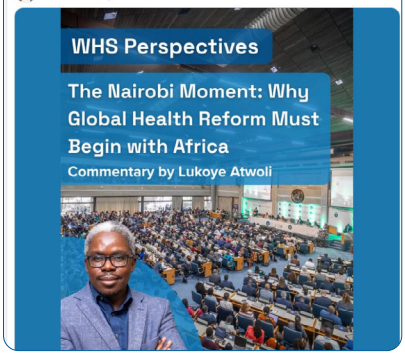
- "Kenya is ready to lead the conversation. Hosting the World Health Summit Regional Conference in 2026 is a testament to our commitment to global health security."
- "Health security is national security. Our focus remains on pandemic preparedness and resilient health systems for all."



9:02 AM · Apr 26, 2026 · **164.9K** Views

11 21 246 13

Lukoye W'Atwoli
26 June at 09:45 ·



ORGANISING COMMITTEES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE/PATRONS



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President of the World Health Summit since 2021 and Vice-Rector of the DPU since 2023



Prof Ilona Kickbusch, PhD
Founder of the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva



Prof Zulfiqar Bhutta
Founding Director, Institute for Global Health and Development, The Aga Khan University



Mr Elhadj As Sy
Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation Board, Chancellor of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and former IFRC Secretary General, with over 25 years' senior leadership experience at UNICEF, UNAIDS and the Global Fund.

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Program Navigator, Clinical Research Unit, The Aga Khan University



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Director, Marketing & Partnerships, The Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi



Ms. Johanna Schulte
Strategic Engagement Manager, World Health Summit, Berlin



Prof. John Weru
Chief Medical Officer AKUH,N & Associate Dean, Clinical Services, The Aga Khan University



Prof. Reena Shah
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Mr. Khurram Jamal
Chief Operating Officer, The Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi



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Ms. Katu Mutungi Program Navigator, Clinical Research Unit, The Aga Khan University



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Winnie Kanana Research Administration Manager The Aga Khan University



Jackim Nyamari Faculty, Department of Population Health, Medical College East Africa, The Aga Khan University



Linda Kagasi Project Officer, Africa CDC



Ann Thuo Communications Manager, Project ECHO Africa



Dr. Caroline Kisia Africa Director Project ECHO



Lolem Lokolile Bosco, Assistant Director of Public Health, Head - Climate Change & Health Unit, State Department for Public Health & Professional Standards, Ministry of Health, Kenya



Evelyne Chagina Health Workforce Technical Officer World Health Organization (WHO) Kenya Country Office



Prof. Abebe Bekele Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Research, & Dean, School of Medicine University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda



Dr. Ngina Kisangau Country Readiness and IHR World Health Organization (WHO) Kenya Country Office



Dr Elizabeth Oele DPHK Secretariat World Health Organization (WHO) Kenya Country Office



Graça Matsinhe Technical Director for Health Systems and Digital Population Services International (PSI) Mozambique



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Ministry of Health, Kenya



Felix Murira,
Country Director – Kenya
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Michael Gaitho Mwangi
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Dr. Cecilia Mbae,
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Amanuel Abajobir
Research Scientist, MNCH
African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)



Amani Kalokola
Tinkasimile,
Senior Manager
Africa Academy for Public Health (AAPH).



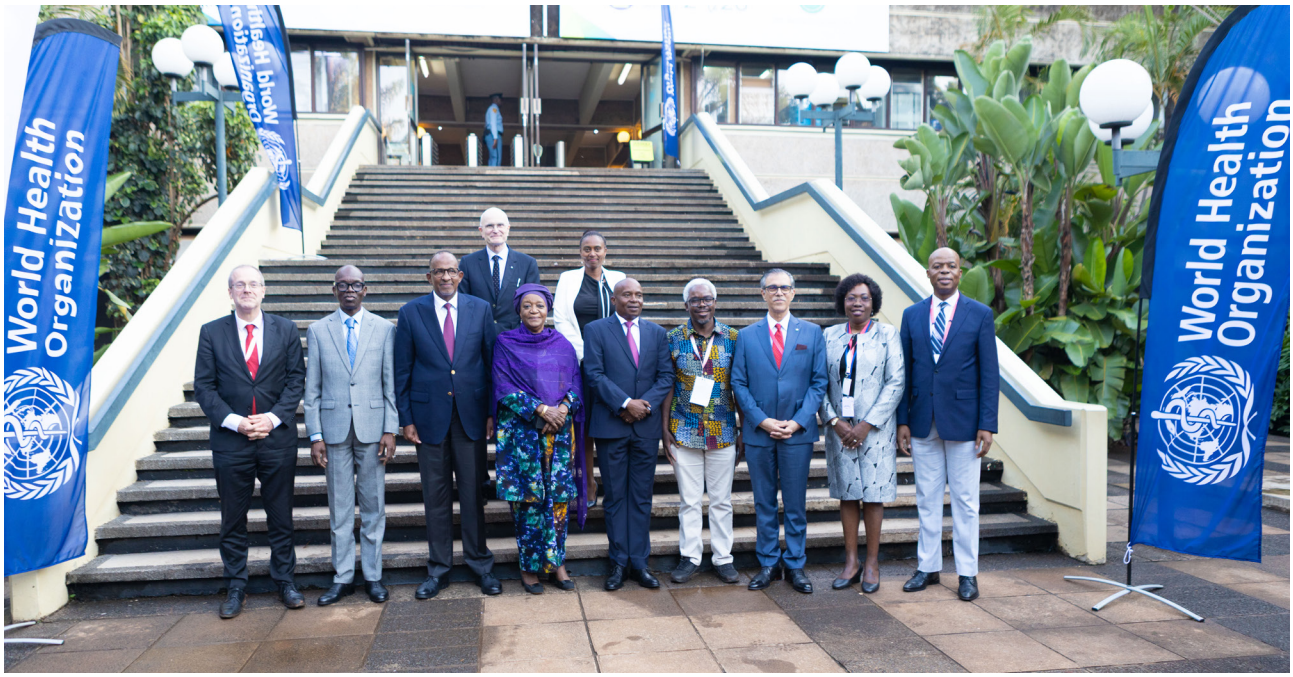
Dr. Sylvia Muyingo,
Research Scientist
African Population Health Research Center



Dr. Rose Maina
Faculty, School of Nursing & Midwifery, The Aga Khan University



WHAT PEOPLE SAID



Prof. Dimie Ogoina

The reformed IHR, the Pandemic Agreement, and the Pandemic Fund are important — but they are not silver bullets. Think of them as vehicles that can speed Africa's journey to sustainable health security. African countries must leverage them — but also invest in becoming co-pilots and eventually drivers of that journey. Because systems dependent on "help" are fragile. The US withdrawal from the WHO proved that. True health security comes when Africa leads — through domestic investment, strong institutions, regional interdependence, and economies that earn us an equal voice, not a borrowed one:

Global Health Otherwise

The gap between science and politics is not closing on its own. The global health community is technically strong but often struggles to translate evidence into language that decision-makers act on. Evidence alone does not move policy. The framing of that evidence does.

Lisa Micheni

This powerful platform brings together global health leaders, innovators, and policymakers to drive bold, people-centered solutions for stronger and more equitable health systems. As an advocate for amplifying voices on the ground, I'm particularly inspired by the opportunity to champion community perspectives, foster meaningful dialogue, and contribute to solutions that are inclusive and impactful.

Hafeez Hamza

From research and advocacy to digital health and community engagement, youth are not waiting for systems to catch up, they are driving impact right now. The gap is not in ideas or energy. It is in how financing models are built, and who they were designed to include. We must prioritize youth in health financing not as a gesture, but as a strategy.

Jasmit Shah (Sumaria), Ph.D.Jasmit Shah (Sumaria), Ph.D.

The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026 in Nairobi highlighted a major shift: data is now central to health policy, systems strengthening, and climate-risk response in Africa. The core message is that data sovereignty turns data from conversation into impact. "Africa for Africa" means building locally relevant systems, embedding governance within national institutions, developing analytics that reflect African populations, and ensuring evidence leads to decisions on the ground. Getting data into the room was step one; owning it is what will determine whether it drives real change.

@lutaerick

We are truly in the era of AI and digital health, and the question is no longer if, but how these innovations can close gaps, especially in maternal healthcare and other SRHR conditions within underserved communities. Africa's future depends on shifting from dependency to locally driven, sustainably financed health systems. Youth are not just the future, they are active drivers of transformation, and their role must go beyond participation

@candybellkensah

Conversations on the Continental Immunization Strategy highlighted how Africa's health future will depend not only on funding, but on implementation, collaboration, and including young people in the rooms where these decisions are made. Africa has frameworks, strategies, and commitments. The challenge has often been ensuring that these policies translate into realities people can actually feel in their everyday lives.

VOLUNTEERS & RAPPORTEURS

The success of the **World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026** would not have been possible without the dedication of our exceptional volunteers and rapporteurs. Comprising **Aga Khan University students and staff,** together with volunteers from partner institutions, they played a vital role in supporting delegates, coordinating sessions, providing technical and logistical assistance, documenting discussions, and ensuring the smooth delivery of the Regional Meeting throughout the three days.











We thank our volunteers and rapporteurs for their outstanding dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm. Their commitment, professionalism, and tireless efforts were integral to the success of the **World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2026,** making it a memorable and seamless experience for all participants.

Gregory Gicobi
Victor Tenge
Kayuyu Mwaura
Kennedy Njoroge
Angela Muthoni
Amos Musili
Daniel Gachugu
Alex Gaku
Daniel Musyoka
Betty Muchai
Agnes Mugo
Caroline Okwiri
Joseph Hanjari
Stella Gichuru
Miriam Malonza
Caroline Mutua
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Clara Oganga
Evalyne Mathu
Tamara Somini Marita Lucas
Mohammad Osman Imran
Armaan Ali Din
Ummikulsum Parpia
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Mwaura Ivy Wanja
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Terrence Kogu Maina
Mwangi Teddy Murage
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Dr Mitchel Okumu
Linda Norah Khakali
Anum Hossain
Griffin Onyino
Denis Munene
Jotham Mwongera Mithika
Farouk Mitha
Mehmoona Mitha
Zahra Haji
Francis Angira
Sheena Shah

REGIONAL MEETINGS

2028 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2027 Hong Kong, China
2026 Nairobi, Kenya
2025 New Delhi, India
2024 Melbourne, Australia
2023 Washington DC, USA
2022 Rome, Italy
2021 Kampala, Uganda
2020 Meeting postponed due to COVID-19
2019 Kish Island, Iran
2018 Coimbra, Portugal
2017 Montreal, Canada
2016 Geneva, Switzerland
2015 Kyoto, Japan
2014 São Paulo, Brazil
2013 Singapore


Theme: Reimagining Africa's Health Systems:
Innovation, Integration and Interdependence
Convening Partners
unicef
AFRICAN UNION
AFRICA CDC

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