



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Africa

**MINISTÉRIO DA
SAÚDE E DA
SEGURANÇA SOCIAL**

GOVERNO DE
**CABO
VERDE**
A TRABALHAR PARA TODOS.

THE SECOND WHO AFRICA HEALTH FORUM

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

**ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL HEALTH
COVERAGE AND HEALTH
SECURITY IN AFRICA:
THE AFRICA WE WANT TO SEE**

**PRAIA, CABO VERDE
26–28 MARCH 2019**

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an ideal opportunity and platform for catalysing strategic partnerships and intersectoral engagement and action. Strategic partnerships, effective engagement and coordinated action are critical for effectively addressing the urgent and ever-changing health needs of people living on the African continent in order to achieve better access to quality and affordable care for everyone.

In fulfilment of the pledge of the World Health Organization Regional Director for Africa to build strategic partnerships and to work with all Member States and partners to attain the highest possible level of health for Africa's people, the WHO Regional Office for Africa convened the WHO Africa Health Forum. The Forum provides a unique opportunity to strengthen collaboration between WHO and its stakeholders on Africa's health agenda and to facilitate engagement with all partners in order to promote partnerships and provide a process of dialogue towards the further development and adoption of joint innovative strategies for improving the health of Africans across the Region.

Organized under the theme "Putting People First: The Road to Universal Health Coverage in Africa", the First WHO Africa Health Forum, placed under the patronage of the Government of Rwanda, was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 27 to 28 June 2017. The Forum brought together some of Africa's best – key thought leaders, policy-makers and bright young people. Participants reaffirmed their "commitment to putting people first, promoting synergies and coordination and engaging all stakeholders behind the goal of achieving UHC, while leaving no one behind". The deliberations of the Forum culminated in a "Call-to-Action".

The Second WHO Africa Health Forum will be held in Praia, Cabo Verde, from 26 to 28 March 2019, under the theme: "Achieving Universal Health Coverage and Health Security in Africa: The Africa we want to see". The three-day event will deliberate on improving health security, progress towards equity and universal health coverage (UHC), and the unfinished agenda of communicable diseases, while exploring the new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, and tackling social and economic determinants of health on the African continent.



Objectives

The specific objectives of the Forum are to:

- ✚ Provide a platform to discuss innovative strategies to address persistent public health challenges in the African Region;
- ✚ Promote reinforced country ownership and governance for health; and
- ✚ Explore concrete ways for partners to contribute in reforming the work of WHO in the African Region and fulfil the aims of the “Africa Health Transformation Programme 2015-2020”.

The Forum







The Second WHO Africa Health Forum will be placed under the distinguished patronage of H.E. the President of the Republic of Cabo Verde, Jorge Carlos Almeida Fonseca and H.E. Prime Minister José Ulisses de Pina Correia e Silva. There will be five high-level moderated roundtable discussions under the following themes:

<i>Session</i>	<i>Theme</i>
Session 1	Towards universal health coverage in Africa: Determining country focus
Session 2	Engendering action for effective engagement of the private sector for universal health coverage in Africa
Session 3	Multisectoral collaboration to improve health outcomes
Session 4	Strategic partnership for preparedness and health security in Africa
Session 5	Harnessing innovative solutions to improve health outcomes in Africa.

Session 1: Towards Universal Health Coverage in Africa: Determining country focus




In 2015, Member States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. Inherent in the goals is the recognition of the important role of health in achieving sustainable development. The adoption of Goal 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, highlights the importance of universal health coverage for achieving the SDGs. Universal health coverage is the overarching target for all the SDG 3-specific targets – implying that attainment of all the SDG 3 targets should lead to UHC, with the opposite also being true (attaining UHC in itself would lead to attainment of the other SDG 3 targets). The targets for health-related SDGs (that is, outside of SDG 3) influence and catalyse actions towards the targets within SDG 3 to facilitate the attainment of health and well-being.

Attainment of UHC is therefore central to the movement towards SDG 3 and all its related targets. This session aims to explore with participants, ways to address key hindrances to attaining effective UHC results in countries. The specific objectives are to:

-  Share the overall approach to addressing UHC in the context of the SDGs in the African Region
-  Explore lessons on planning, and monitoring disease programme results in the context of UHC
-  Assess country readiness for effective and comprehensive monitoring of UHC, and highlight key areas they need to strengthen
-  Analyse suitability of current health governance arrangements, especially for stewarding UHC attainment in countries
-  Share experiences on effective means of improving domestic financing for health, specifically better use of out-of-pocket funds
-  Identify the critical implementation bottlenecks to be addressed to accelerate progress towards UHC.


Session 2: Engendering Action for Effective Engagement of the Private Sector for Universal Health Coverage in Africa

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a comprehensive and ambitious programme that aims to address the socio-ecological and economic challenges that currently deter sustainable and inclusive development. The sheer scope, ambition, indivisibility and universality of its attendant Goals signal that the world cannot approach the Agenda in the same manner in which actions for the MDGs were implemented. The SDG Agenda calls for ambitious investment (US\$ 2.5 trillion needed), innovation to ensure timely achievement of the Goals by 2030 and new partnerships. It recognizes that while the public sector plays a significant role in leading action for the Goals, there is need to harness other partners including the private sector to mobilize the necessary capital, support innovation for action, support service delivery so as to leave no one behind and more. The aims of the session are, inter alia:

-  To share a synthesis of the evidence on private sector engagement in health in Africa that addresses the key issues raised above
-  To share a model for decision-making that guides Member States on how and when to engage the private sector
-  To provoke candid discussion among participants on the critical next steps that need to be taken within the Region by governments, the private sector, WHO and partners in order to foster private sector engagement for UHC.

Session 3: Multisectoral collaboration to improve health outcomes

The achievement of many SDGs has a bearing – whether direct or indirect – on the health Goal by addressing the social determinants of health. The main deterrent to achieving a multisectoral approach throughout the world is the low priority accorded to intersectoral coordinated mechanisms within specific countries. Where a response has been forthcoming, it is often limited in effectiveness because of the lack of collaboration between government departments. It is against this backdrop that the session on strengthening multisectoral collaboration is proposed with the following objectives:

-  Share the conceptual approach of the bi-directional interrelation between main development sectors and key health issues in the African Region

- ✚ Provide an overview of the progress made after the First Africa Health Forum on multisectoral collaboration for improving health, in relation to the Africa Forum Roadmap actions 5, 6 and 10.
- ✚ Share the status of multisectoral collaboration for health outcomes by analysing the strengths and weaknesses of multisectoral collaboration
- ✚ Discuss varied approaches of partners to effective multisectoral coordination which can eliminate policy implementation barriers, facilitate scale-up and increase the impact that one sector or partner might generate on its own.
- ✚ Advocate for the setting up of a coordination platform led by Heads of State or Prime ministers (this can be an open question from the moderator on how we can set up this coordination platform).



Session 4: Expanded session on collaboration for improved coordination, preparedness and global health security

The Strategic Partnership Forum for IHR (2005) and Health Security in Africa (SPH Africa) that was held in 2015 under the theme “Building Health Security beyond Ebola”, stipulated the next actions to be undertaken WHO, partners and the Member States, which include actively coordinating, convening, monitoring and maintaining collaboration to ensure that relevant information is shared in a timely

manner. The Strategic Partnership Forum also called for a global focus on health security but with priority countries identified in the African Region where over 100 significant public health events occur annually.

This expanded session brings into reality the recommendations of the 2016 Bali meeting on “Advancing Global Health Security: From Commitments to Actions” and the 2017 Seoul meeting on “Delivering Health Security through Sustainable Financing”. The overall goal of this session is to bring together the key national, regional and international stakeholders to share their collective achievements in IHR (2005) and optimize multisectoral partnerships for health security in the African Region. The specific objectives are to:

- ✚ Review progress on regional health emergency preparedness, health security, IHR monitoring and evaluation in the African Region;
- ✚ Scale up health emergency preparedness and health security investment in Africa and strengthen national intersectoral preparedness through enhancement of multisectoral partnerships and collaboration at national, regional and global level;
- ✚ Obtain specific commitments (technical and financial) and identify major roles of partners, donors and relevant stakeholders for better coordination and collaboration and the use of the Strategic Partnership Portal for IHR and Health Security.

Session 5: Harnessing innovative solutions to improve health outcomes in Africa

There is increasing pressure for universal access to quality health care and the need to lower its cost for the world’s most marginalised citizens and communities. The African continent is no exception in this regard and this calls for stepping up the pace of progress so as to deliver the expected health outcomes.

The WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO) recognizes the critical role that innovation can play in supporting Africa to address the continent’s biggest problems in health care and is excited to announce the launch of the WHO Africa Innovation Challenge. The Challenge will source, select and support innovators, researchers and community-based initiatives, including youth and women who are working on

novel solutions that improve health outcomes, quality of life, and apply new and fresh thinking to address unmet health needs for Africa.

The Challenge will prioritize innovative and scalable health-care solutions for selection in the categories of Product Innovation, Service Innovation and Social Innovation, and will also provide continued support to health-care innovators through a digital platform. Selected finalists will present and showcase their solutions to participants at the Forum.

Who will participate?

WHO will not only reach out to its traditional partners, but more importantly, the Forum will include new regional and global health players. Participants will include: African leaders; government representatives; UN agencies; intergovernmental agencies; the private sector; academic institutions; civil society organizations; philanthropic foundations; and youth organizations.

Expected results

- ✚ Roadmap to deliver on Commitments for Action made by the Forum, agreed and adopted
- ✚ Progress and best practices on key challenges and opportunities for Africa in delivering UHC showcased
- ✚ Biennium platform to engage key stakeholders on common strategies to achieve the SDGs established.





For more information and to register, please send an email to:

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Link for online registration:

<https://reg.unog.ch/event/27601/>