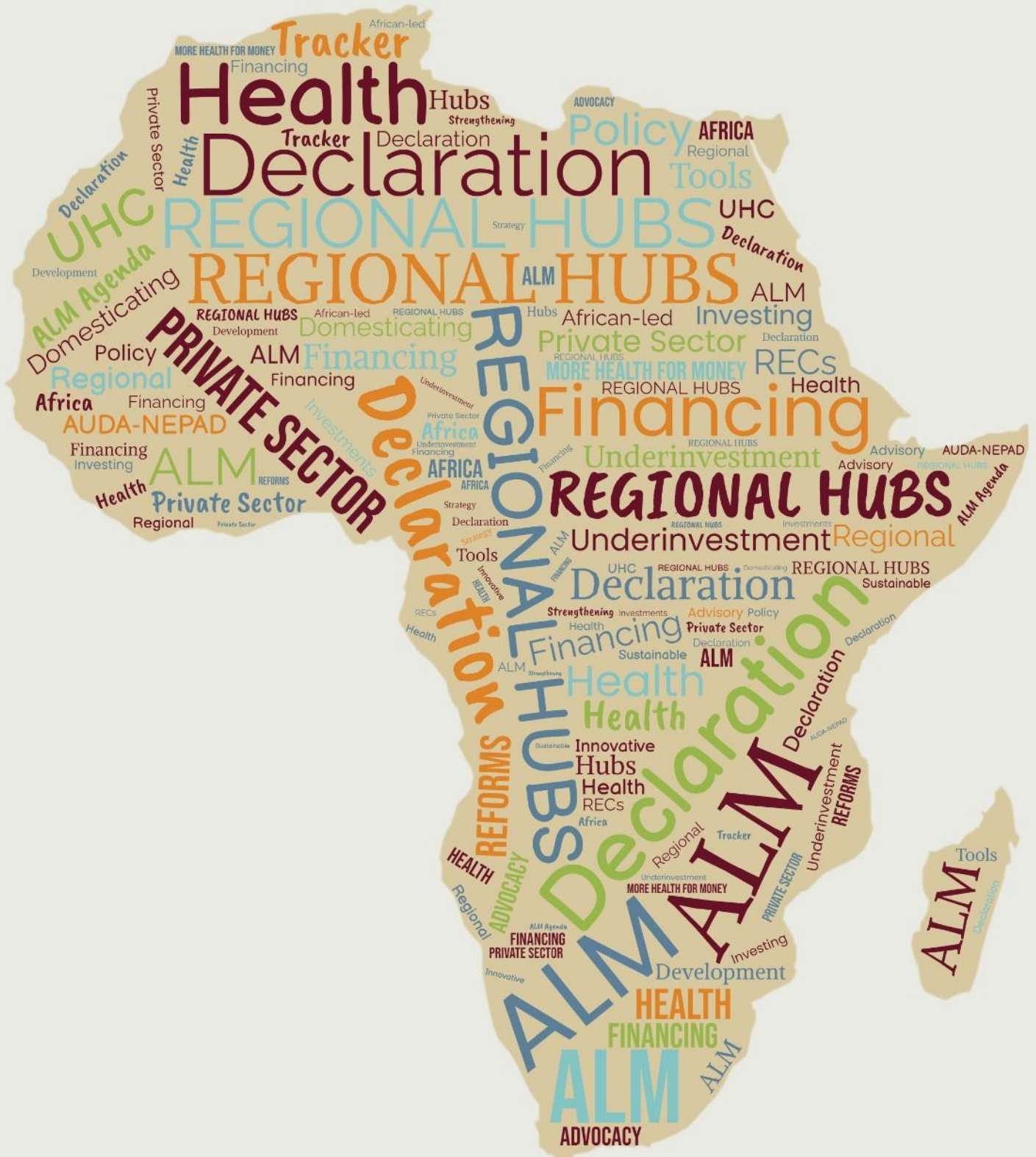


ALM DECLARATION

BRIEFING PAPER 2023



WHAT IS THE ALM DECLARATION?

In February 2019 the African Union convened Heads of States and Government and regional and global leaders in Addis Ababa, for the **African Leadership Meeting - Investing in Health**.

A crucial outcome of the meeting was the AU Assembly “Addis Ababa Commitment towards Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for Increased Health Financing Declaration”. The Declaration, now popularly known as the ALM Declaration.

The ALM is a comprehensive initiative to guide countries through these reform efforts. It aims to put in place the political and technical mechanisms that will assist and enable countries to steadily increase domestic investment in health year after year, as well as hold each other accountable in the collective commitment to do so.



WHAT CHALLENGES IS THE ALM ADDRESSING?

Africa has set highly ambitious aspirations in strengthening its health architecture these include eradicating AIDS, TB, Malaria, achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for its citizens, as well as, other SDG-related health targets. However, underinvestment in health across most countries on the Continent persists despite high-level political commitments demonstrated by calls to action such as the Abuja Declaration. These limited investments in health present a fundamental constraint on Africa’s ability to develop the human capital required to drive economic growth.

A. How much does government spend on health?
(Current expenditure, 2017)



WHAT ARE THE FOCUS AREAS OF THE ALM?

The ALM Declaration is founded on the objectives of Agenda 2063 that fosters ‘self-reliance and Africa financing its own development’ and a shift towards African-led initiatives for funding disease responses, and the Africa Health Strategy 2016-2030 that puts forward ‘sustainable and predictable health financing as essential to building viable health systems as a critical ingredient for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and building healthy human capital. The focus areas of the ALM are outlined in a variety of commitments, which include:

- **Improved government stewardship** to keep health financing high on the political agenda;
- **Convening of African Ministers of Finance and Health every two years** to discuss health financing;
- **Creation of Regional Health Financing Hubs (RHFH) in each of the African Union regions** to assist Member States in realising the ALM-Investing in Health agenda;
- **Promoting increased coherence of health financing** by stakeholders’ efforts to the priorities of the continent;
- **Complement the Africa Scorecard with a domestic health financing ‘Tracker’** that will guide health financing reforms and track countries’ progress in implementing these enablers;
- **Better engage the private sector** to strengthen public health systems; and
- **Improve public financial management (PFM) capacity** to help improve tax collection and/or increase the proportion of tax revenue collected as a percentage of GDP.

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AUDA-NEPADs ROLE IN REALISING THE ALM

Guided by the 34th AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government decision of February 2021 (Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.810(XXXIV)) - AUDA-NEPAD was tasked with coordinating the design, establishment and operationalisation of the Regional Health Financing Hubs in order to speed up implementation of the February 2019 ALM-Investing in Health Declaration

Furthermore, AUDA-NEPAD leads the development of the Private Sector Engagement Framework

WHAT ARE THE REGIONAL HEALTH FINANCING HUBS?

The Regional Health Financing Hubs (RHFH) are the effective nexus of the ALM's-Investing in Health initiatives with the following key functions that aim to support Member States to:

1. Drive the **exploration and adoption of innovative and viable domestic financing** mechanisms;
2. Provide **strategic regional policy advisory** services;
3. **Enhance development partner and private sector investment alignment** to regional and national health priorities;
4. **Facilitate the application of diagnostic and tracking tools** such as the Health Financing Tracker, Africa Scorecard, as well as Private Sector Engagement for identifying health financing issues and needs that require reforms;
5. Provide **technical assistance and capacity-building services**;
6. Facilitate **knowledge sharing among Member States** and RECs;
7. Mobilise resources for the implementation of priority projects; and
8. Support **research, innovation, and entrepreneurship**.

EFFORTS IN OPERATIONALISING THE RHFH ACROSS AFRICA

In 2022, the RHFH activities made a significant transition from design to establishment and operationalization. Through the provision of technical support and joint resource mobilisation with the RECs and AUDA-NEPAD the pilot RHFHs in the SADC and EAC have been operationalised, and activities are underway. The activities captured in the operational plan are currently being carried out in the regions. These activities have included Health Financing dialogues and Tracker Piloting, with technical and financial support provided by AUDA-NEPAD and Development Partners.

Notably, **the first National Health Financing dialogue held in Malawi was a key milestone in domesticating the ALM Declaration**, providing an advocacy platform to advance the ALM agenda, and leveraging the involvement of policymakers, development partners, the private sector, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

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AUDA-NEPAD further expanded its engagement with other RECs (ECOWAS, IGAD) in addition to the pilot RECs - to commence the design and implementation activities for their RHFHs. Through its coordination role, AUDA-NEPAD continues to assist RECs and Member States in operationalising RHFHs; which are the primary technical support mechanism for increasing health-related investments at the national and regional level for the development of Africa's human capital.

THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN BOOSTING INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH

The ALM Agenda recognises that Governments alone cannot adequately finance and provide healthcare simultaneously, and similarly cannot attain UHC without partnership with the private sector and other partners. AUDA-NEPAD was tasked to lead the implementation of private-sector engagement in health as part of the overall ALM agenda.

To date AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with AUC, RECs and Member States as well as private sector associations, have finalised the private sector engagement in health - strategic framework. This framework identifies four strategic priorities aimed at increasing and diversifying private sector investment in health in Africa. It further spells out the institutional arrangements for the implementation of private sector engagement in health and a monitoring framework to progress towards defined results. Furthermore, multiple engagements with stakeholders from the private sector, government, RECs, Member States, development partners and experts have been undertaken to deliberate on the opportunities and strategies for increasing private sector investment in health and improving the provision of quality and equitable services.



African Union Development Agency - NEPAD
230 15th Rd, Randjespark, Midrand, 1685
South Africa | +27 11 256 3600