

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT – KIGALI HIGH-LEVEL HEALTH CONFERENCE

THEME: SUSTAINING THE HIV RESPONSE THROUGH FINANCING AND INVESTING IN HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVED HEALTH SECURITY ON THE CONTINENT

Meeting on Strengthening Coordination and Accelerating Implementation of ALM with a focus on Private Sector Engagement in Health and Health Financing.

**24-25 November 2023
Lusaka, Zambia**

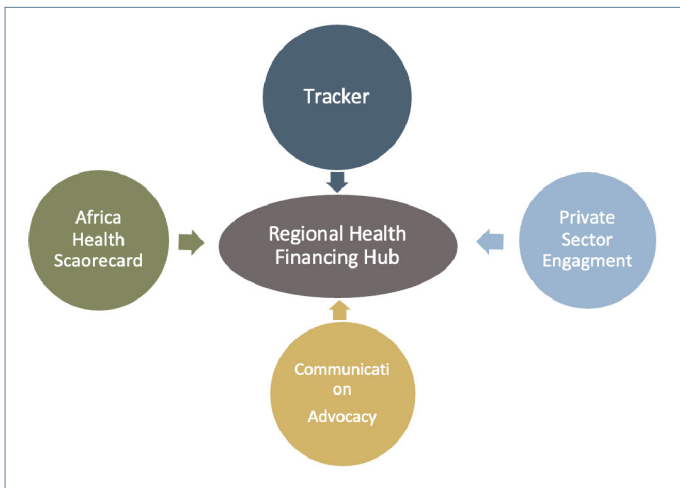
BACKGROUND: AFRICA LEADERSHIP MEETING - INVESTING IN HEALTH DECLARATION

The African Leadership Meeting (ALM) on "Investing in Health" held in February 2019 adopted a declaration (Assembly/ AU/Decl.4 (XXXII)) aimed at increasing domestic health financing to strengthen health systems and achieve quality assured Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa. The ALM declaration was grounded on the Agenda 2063 and the Africa Health Strategy 2016-2030 that prioritises "sustainable and predictable financing as essential to building viable health systems". The declaration also builds on the Abuja 2001 political commitments by African Union (AU) Member States to allocate at least 15% of the national budgets to health.

Under the ALM declaration, Africa's Heads of States and Governments committed to:

1. Increase domestic investment in health. Heads of State to review progress annually against the benchmarks of the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health.
2. Convene African Ministers of Finance and Health every 2 years to discuss health financing and to review progress against benchmarks.
3. Complement the Africa Scorecard with a domestic health financing 'Tracker' that will guide health financing reforms and track country progress in implementing these enablers.
4. Establish regional health financing Hubs in each of Africa's five regions to facilitate peer-to-peer learning by providing practical & technical expertise to support countries to implement these reforms and to coordinate alignment of partner efforts to Africa's priorities.
5. Attract further private capital into the health sector by creating conducive investment climates and increase Member State stewardship of private sector support so that such efforts strengthen public health systems and expand access to health services.
6. Increase the coherence of investment through improved alignment of multilateral, bilateral and private sector efforts to the priorities of the continent.
7. 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, through equitable and efficient general taxation and improved revenue collection, and strengthen the capacities of Ministries of Finance and tax revenue authorities to achieve this.
8. Digitize the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health so that the data used to review performance is more widely disseminated.
9. Enhance national health financing systems, including exploring options to reduce fragmentation, explore national health insurance (where appropriate), strengthen capacity to purchase services effectively and improve prevention, cost-effectiveness and efficiency.
10. Reorient health spending and health systems to target the diseases and conditions across the lifecycle that have the greatest impact on mortality and human capital development with the mix of interventions that will deliver the greatest impact in combatting them.

The implementation of the ALM declaration is structured into the four components as shown below: The tracker which monitors progress all the four components of ALM; health financing with a focus on domestic allocations to health, private sector engagement in health and the advocacy and communication component. The AUC and AUDA-NEPAD are collaborating with wide range of partners, including Regional Economic Communities and development partners in the implementation of ALM declaration.



OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALM DECLARATION

- The tracker has been developed and piloted to test its applicability in monitoring the components of the ALM especially health financing, private sector engagement, governance and leadership and other issues.
 - The Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health. The Addis Ababa Call to Action made the following commitments during the launch of the ALM Declaration (Assembly/ AU/Decl.1/Decl.4 (XXXII)) initiative: i) "Increase domestic investments in and allocations to health, tracking progress annually against the indicators of the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health" and ii) "Request the AU Commission to digitise the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health in order to make the data more widely available;" Further to these commitments the AU Commission completed the digitisation of the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health. The Scorecard is now available online in the 5 official languages of the African Union (Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish) and is available for download dating back to the 2018 edition. The Scorecard can be accessed at the website: Score-card.Africa. The Commission further updated the Scorecard website to provide the 2022 and 2023 editions of the Africa Scorecard, in line with 'ALM Declaration and produced a downloadable PDF version of the 2023 edition of the Scorecard in all 5 official languages, available for download at score-card.africa/downloads.
 - Private sector engagement in health strategic framework to guide RECs and countries in increasing private sector investment in health systems. This framework was validated in the Nairobi stakeholder meeting in October 2022 where stakeholders agreed to: (a) adopt favourable policies and legislation to create an enabling environment for private sector investment in health; (b) conduct a mapping of areas for private sector investment; (c) strengthen private sector federations/associations/ councils at continental, regional and countries levels for effective government/private sector engagement; and (d) operationalise the coordination arrangements for the strategic framework.
- National Health Financing Dialogue: These dialogues serve as platforms for multi-stakeholder discussions, paving the way for identifying solutions to health financing challenges. The technical assistance plans developed during these dialogues aim to chart a strategic path towards the gradual implementation of national health financing reforms that will play a pivotal role in strengthening domestic investments in health across the African continent and improving allocative efficiencies and equity. To date, five National Health Financing Dialogues have been held. These include Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Mozambique, Mauritius and Rwanda.
 - Establishment of Regional Health Financing Hubs in Regional Economic Communities. 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. AUDA-NEPAD, in close collaboration with Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union Commission (AUC), the Champion's Office, the Global Fund, and other stakeholders, using the developed RHFH Design and Operationalization Document, successfully established and operationalized Regional Health Financing Hubs in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC) regions. This achievement marks a crucial step towards strengthening health financing mechanisms in these regions.
- AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with AUC and other partners, is convening a meeting to review progress and strengthen the coordination and implementation of the ALM declaration with a focus on private sector engagement in health and health financing. The recommendations of this conference will inform broader discussion in the Kigali health financing and investment conference to be held in February 2024.

OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives of the meeting are:
2. To share best practices and lessons learnt from health financing and private sector engagement in health
3. To outline and reach consensus on a comprehensive private sector and health financing engagement process.
4. To improve coordination of private sector investment in health and health financing
5. To identify and build consensus on priority actions (Quick wins) in health financing and private sector engagement for 2024.

AGENDA

The agenda of this meeting will include:

- An overview of the progress in implementation of the ALM declaration regarding the tracker, health financing, private sector engagement in health and advocacy and communication
- An overview of development partners perspectives and support to the ALM agenda
- Expert assessment of the strategic issues and directions in health financing and private sector engagement in health
- A review of lessons learnt, achievements, challenges and next steps for health financing dialogue meetings held in various countries
- Discussion and consensus on recommendations for strengthening planning and implementation of health financing and private sector engagement in health priorities and processes
- Strengthening of coordination of private sector investment and health financing
- Consensus on priority actions in health financing and private sector engagement for 2024

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will be drawn from:

- AUDA-NEPAD and AUC
- Regional Economic Communities
- Member States – Ministries responsible for health financing and private sector investment in health
- Private sector federations and associations
- Donors and development partners
- Experts in private sector investment and health financing

Expected meeting outcomes:

- Improved collaboration and processes for private sector investment in Health
- Improved coordination PS investment in health and health financing
- 2024 priority actions