



AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control
and Prevention



**AFRICA
HEALTH
ExCon**
Your Gate
To Innovation and Trade



AFRICA CDC AT AFRICA HEALTH EXCON 2026 REPORT





AFRICA CDC AT AFRICA HEALTH EXCON 2026 REPORT

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CONTENTS

01	INTRODUCTION	
02	OPENING CEREMONY	
03	PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM	
04	EXHIBITION BOOTH	
05	AFRICA CDC SIDE EVENTS	
06	THE GLOBAL PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT FORUM	
07	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC MESSAGES	
08	CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED	
08	RECOMMENDATIONS	



01

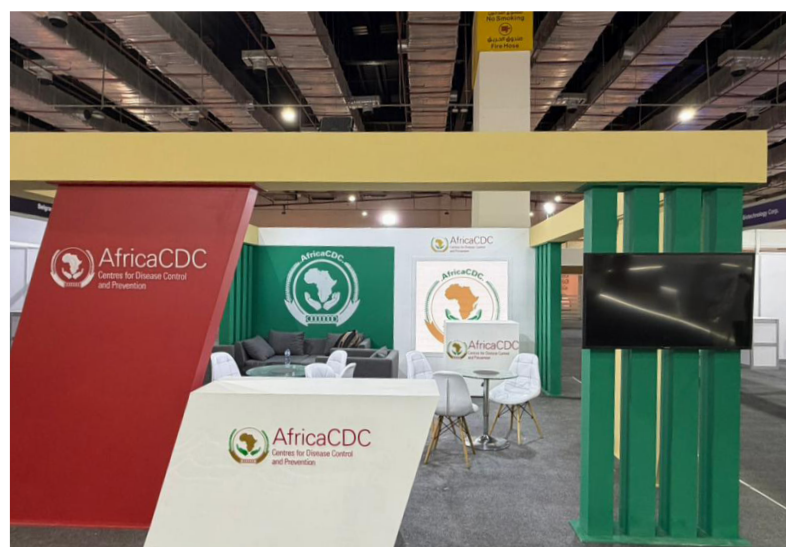
INTRODUCTION

Africa Health ExCon 2026 marks the fifth edition of the continent's premier healthcare event, hosted by Egypt's Unified Procurement Authority (UPA) and the second edition co-hosted by Africa CDC. Held under the auspices of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and attended by **H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly**, Prime Minister of Egypt, the event serves as a leading platform for advancing healthcare innovation, trade, investment, and policy dialogue across Africa.

Endorsed by the UPA, Africa Health ExCon brings together global healthcare leaders, policymakers, industry experts, manufacturers, development partners, and investors through its two core components: the Exhibition and the Conference. The two components were staged in a way that allowed for continued interaction between the conference attendees and exhibitors at the booths, open spaces and exhibitor led sessions, an approach that we could adopt to enhance delegate experience at CPHIA. This year's edition attracted more than 40,000 registrations, with approximately 1,500 participants attending the Opening Ceremony on 15 June 2026.

The 2026 edition welcomed **H.E. Đuro Macut**, Prime Minister of Serbia, as the Guest of Honour, alongside six Ministers of Health from African Union Member States, senior government officials, manufacturers, and development partners from across the continent and beyond.

Africa CDC participated with a high-level delegation led by **H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya**, Director General of Africa CDC, accompanied by senior staff who played prominent speaking and engagement roles throughout the conference.



OPENING CEREMONY



Africa Health ExCon 2026 was officially opened in the presence of **H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly**, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The opening ceremony featured remarks from several distinguished leaders, including **H.E. Dr. Hesham Stait**, Chairman of the Unified Procurement Authority (UPA), and **H.E. Dr. Ali El Ghamrawy**, Chairman of the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA), who highlighted Egypt's significant achievements in regulatory strengthening.

He underscored the EDA's status as the only WHO Maturity Level 4 (ML4) National Regulatory Authority in Africa and emphasized its ongoing

collaboration with regulatory authorities across the continent.

H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General of Africa CDC, delivered the keynote address, focusing on the ongoing Bundibugyo Ebola virus outbreak and the measures being undertaken to support the response. He emphasized that the outbreak should serve as a wake-up call for Africa to strengthen its health security architecture and accelerate investments in local manufacturing, regulatory systems, and resilient supply chains. He further called on **Africa Health ExCon 2026** to deliver tangible outcomes that advance the continent's health sovereignty agenda.



In his keynote address, Dr. Kaseya proposed seven key commitments to emerge from ExCon:

- » Adopt the Cairo Initiative Manufacturing Compact, ensuring that every African data contribution is linked to fair access, post-trial commitments, technology transfer, and African manufacturing pathways.
- » Adopt the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM) as the default procurement mechanism for outbreak-critical medical countermeasures (MCMs).
- » Establish guaranteed offtake or reserve-capacity agreements for MCMs.
- » Give preference to quality-assured African manufacturers in framework contracts.
- » Invest in manufacturing lines in Africa for diagnostics, personal protective equipment (PPE), safe and dignified burial (SDB) kits, and clinical-care products.
- » Link R&D and trial data to access, benefit-sharing, and technology transfer arrangements.
- » Accelerate reliance on the African Medicines Agency (AMA) and advance joint regulatory pathways.

The opening ceremony also witnessed the signing of several important Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), including:

- » A cooperation agreement between the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) and Algeria's National Agency for Pharmaceutical Products (ANPP)
- » The accession of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM), making it the first African Union Member State to sign the APPM Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and formally accede to and participate in the mechanism.
- » A partnership agreement between Egypt's Unified Procurement Authority (UPA) and Africa CDC on the collaboration and support of operationalizing the APPM.

These agreements demonstrated the growing momentum for continental collaboration in health security, manufacturing, and regulatory harmonization.

Of particular significance was Egypt's signing of the APPM MoU, making it the first African Union Member State to formally join the mechanism. This marks a major milestone in the operationalization of the APPM and sets an important precedent for other Member States.

The opening ceremony concluded with a guided tour of the exhibition, where global and African health product manufacturers showcased innovative technologies, products, and solutions with the potential to transform and strengthen healthcare systems across the continent. The

exhibition also provided a valuable platform for direct engagement between manufacturers and high-level dignitaries, fostering dialogue and partnerships that are often limited in traditional conference settings.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

3.1. PURPOSE AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

As a co-host of the **Africa Health ExCon 2026**, Africa CDC strategic engagement was across almost all the sessions of the Public Health Track where Africa CDC staff contributed to shaping continental priorities, strengthening governance, and advancing implementation-focused health system transformation along the pillars of Africa's health security and sovereignty agenda. Across all the sessions, a clear paradigm shift emerged: from commitments to implementation, from emergency response to institutionalization for better preparedness, and from dependency to health sovereignty.

3.2. AFRICA CDC ENGAGEMENT BY SESSION

Session	Africa CDC Staff	Objective	Key Outcome	Strategic Value
 High-Level Strategic Opening Session	Dr. Tolbert Nyenswah	Institutionalize pandemic preparedness as a permanent system function	Alignment on health as national security	Positions Africa CDC as leader in preparedness institutionalization at national, regional and continental level.
 Panel 1: System Maturity	Dr. Landry Tsague	Translate commitments into operational systems	Shift toward execution and	Strengthens Africa CDC role in implementation frameworks through major milestone initiatives such as the Lusaka agenda
 Panel 2: PPPR Governance & Financing	Dr. Tolbert Nyenswah	Embed PPPR in laws, budgets, and governance systems	Move toward domestically financed preparedness	Elevates Africa CDC as a convener on health security governance through the incident management support system for emergency response of One plan, One budget and One M&E model
 Panel 3: Integrated Delivery and system	Dr. Folake Olayinka	Operationalize preparedness through PHC and surveillance systems	Focus on last-mile delivery	Reinforces coordination and operational readiness role at primary health care level



Panel 6:
Market
Shaping
and access
to medical

Dr.
Mariatou
Tala Jallow

Build sustainable
markets
via pooled
procurement

Advancement
of the African
Pooled
Procurement
Mechanism
(APPM)

Positions Africa CDC as the continent's market shaper by providing strategic leadership and coordination, enabling equitable access to health products for Member States, and facilitating preferential procurement of quality-assured African-manufactured health products.



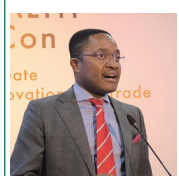
Panel 7: The
Return on
Research
through

Dr. Elvis
Temfack;
Dr. Mosoka
Fallah

Position R&D
as a sovereign
investment with
economic returns

Reframing
research as
investment
highlighting
its potential in
economically
transforming
the continent

Strengthens leadership in innovation-focused, priority-based and people-centered R&D for PPPR and local manufacturing of health products as a pillar of sovereignty



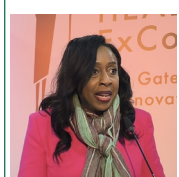
Panel 8:
People-
Centered
Systems,
trust and
inclusion

Dr. Landry
Tsague

Promote
equitable and
inclusive systems

Momentum
toward trust
charter

Enhances leadership on equity and inclusion especially for rare and under-prioritized diseases through integrated primary health care delivery



Panel 9:
RMNCAH
Financing

Dr. Folake
Olayinka;

Address financing
gaps and promote
sustainability

Focus on
domestic
financing

Strengthens leadership in financing reforms for universal health coverage.



Closing
session

Dr. Elvis
Temfack

Recapitulation
of key highlights
from all the
session

A summary
document
that outlines
key areas of

Position outcomes of the public health track of the Africa Health ExCon as a foundational alignment with the discourse for further engagements at the upcoming CPHIA 2026 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia from 23rd to 27th November 2026

3.3. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS TO AFRICA CDC CONTINENTAL LEADERSHIP

- » Accelerate implementation of system maturity frameworks through institutionalization of pandemic preparedness and response as illustrated in the response to Mpox, Cholera and the ongoing Ebola Bundibugyo outbreak.
- » Expand market shaping initiatives and procurement coordination through advocacy of all Member States to sign up to the APPM
- » Strengthen advocacy for government domestic financing of R&D through implementation of 1% GDP commitment of which 15% for health R&D especially at the early stages from discovery science to translation to preclinical and early phases of clinical trials where the risk is highest as a mechanism to drive private investment and boost economic returns.
- » Advance people-centered health system reforms that is fit for purpose to respond to contemporary health challenges most especially as Africa is faced by multiple concurrent outbreaks and other public health emergencies as well as the growing burden of non-communicable diseases.



3.3. KEY TAKEAWAY

Africa CDC emerged as a central technical authority driving Africa's transition from policy commitments to operational delivery, with strong influence across governance, financing, research and development, and service delivery and a gatekeeper of continental health security and

sovereignty. The public health track of Africa Health Excon 2026 outcome messages is a building block for the upcoming 5th edition of the continental International Conference on Public Health in Africa planned from the 23rd to 27th November 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

AFRICA CDC EXHIBITION BOOTH/ COMMUNICATION

At the **Africa Health ExCon 2026 Exhibition**, Africa CDC showcased its mission, vision, and flagship initiatives in a dedicated booth within the exhibition center.

Key achievements and progress made to tackle public health threats were displayed, including the Bundibugyo Ebola virus response in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM), Local Manufacturing of health products, and digital transformation, as well as resilient supply chains for smooth delivery of health commodities.

Through close coordination and leadership by the Communications and Public Information (CPI) Directorate and the Northern RCC, the Africa CDC booth was strategically positioned at the heart of ExCon 2026, located in Hall 1, adjacent to the main venues where all the scientific program sessions were held.

This prime location enabled sustained foot traffic, as all delegates attending side events and panel sessions were opportune to engage with the Africa CDC booth. Allowing for enhanced visibility and creating numerous networking opportunities.



The booth featured the Africa CDC branding elements, high-impact visual displays, including two high-resolution screens, curated multimedia content, and eye-catching giveaways tailored to different audience segments.

KEY ITEMS ON DISPLAY

- ▶ Africa CDC Annual report-2025 (ENG/FRN)
- ▶ AHSS AGENDA BROCHURE (ENG/FRN)
- ▶ APPM FRQ
- ▶ BVD Ebola Continental Plan
- ▶ CPHIA 2026 Information Note
- ▶ Branded roll up banners, etc...

GIVEAWAY ITEMS

- ▶ Africa CDC Annual report-2025 (ENG/FRN)
- ▶ AHSS AGENDA BROCHURE (ENG/FRN)
- ▶ APPM FRQ
- ▶ BVD Ebola Continental Plan
- ▶ CPHIA 2026 Information Note
- ▶ Branded roll up banners, etc...

Senior Africa CDC experts were on site to provide in-depth briefings, facilitating meaningful engagement with high-level guests and health actors from across the continent and beyond. Our booth welcomed cross-sectional visitors including delegates from Member States, CEOs of companies, University Students and the Africa CDC Local Manufacturing Fellows based in Cairo. The interest from these multi-sectorial delegates further reinforced Africa CDC's institutional visibility and its leadership role in advancing health security across the continent.



COMMUNICATION

In addition to coordinating the exhibition booth, the CPI team also provided support for increased visibility for Africa CDC's participation at all levels, including DG's bilateral engagements. Expert panels and side events featuring senior Africa CDC experts were fully covered with strong emphasis on branding and media visibility.



KEY OUTPUTS

- » Pre-event social media countdown posts with key messaging in partnership with UPA
- » Drafted social media captions/messages for DG's engagements
- » Produced recap videos for key sessions of the public health programme for social media posting
- » Drafted Press release(s) APPM MoU signing & SLL equipment handover to MoH
- » Compiled photo and video highlights for internal and public use.

AFRICA CDC SIDE EVENTS

5.1. STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE ON ADVANCING THE AFRICAN POOLED PROCUREMENT MECHANISM (APPM)

OBJECTIVE

Africa CDC convened a stakeholder dialogue on the sidelines of Africa Health ExCon 2026 to update stakeholders on the progress, structure, and operational model of the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM); strengthen Member States' understanding of its strategic value in improving access to health products and supporting African manufacturing; gather

feedback on implementation opportunities and challenges; and discuss pathways for Member States to join the APPM through signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The session also sought to sensitize partners and stakeholders on existing APPM opportunities and encourage broader participation.



DISCUSSIONS

The dialogue brought together representatives from Member States, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), global health initiatives, manufacturers, development partners, and Africa CDC.

Africa CDC presented the APPM as a continental market-shaping mechanism rather than a procurement agency, with two core objectives: improving access to essential health products and creating sustainable demand for African manufacturers.

The presentation emphasized that APPM is a complementary mechanism that supports, rather than replaces, national procurement systems,

while advancing a **“Buy from Africa”** agenda. Africa CDC highlighted its collaboration with African Union institutions, including the African Medicines Agency (AMA), particularly on the development of a **Continental Quality Assurance Policy** to ensure quality-assured products across the platform.

Participants were also updated on progress in operationalizing the APPM, ongoing procurement opportunities, and current Requests for Prequalification for Manufacturers: <https://appm.africacdc.org> with stakeholders encouraged to widely share these opportunities with African manufacturers.

The session further announced plans for regional APPM hubs, with Egypt confirmed as a host country, Kenya proposed as another hub, and an additional host country to be announced. These hubs are intended to leverage regional capacities and bring services closer to Member States and patients.

The discussion and Q&A session focused on:

- » Alignment of APPM with national Public Financial Management and Procurement Acts.
- » Quality standards and readiness of African manufacturers.
- » Governance arrangements and interaction between national procurement Agencies, regional PPMs, and the APPM
- » Timelines for the first APPM transactions.
- » Integration of vaccines into APPM without disrupting national immunization programmes.
- » Expansion of APPM engagement beyond governments to hospitals, faith-based organizations, and other procuring entities.
- » The need for continental and regional stockpiling mechanisms to improve access to medical countermeasures during outbreaks and emergencies.

Participants shared valuable reflections, including the Regional Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative (RVMC), which reaffirmed its support for APPM implementation. South Africa also shared lessons from the SADC pooled procurement initiative for Lenacapavir, which could provide useful learning for APPM.

OUTCOMES AND WAY FORWARD

In response to stakeholder concerns, Africa CDC confirmed plans to establish a Capital Fund to facilitate procurement transactions while Member States complete payment processes. Afreximbank noted that discussions on support to the APPM are at an advanced stage and committed to providing further details on potential support.

Africa CDC also announced ongoing collaboration with AMA to develop a Continental Quality Assurance Policy for AU endorsement, which will provide clear guidance for manufacturers

and strengthen confidence in products procured through the APPM.

Regarding stakeholder participation, Africa CDC emphasized that Member State buy-in remains the foundation of APPM success and will facilitate broader engagement with other procuring entities. On emergency preparedness, Africa CDC confirmed that work is underway on a **Continental Stockpiling Strategy** to improve access to medical countermeasures during outbreaks and other health emergencies.

The meeting agreed on the following next steps:

- » Continue advocacy and engagement to encourage AU Member States to join the APPM and expand outreach to other procuring entities, including faith-based procurement organizations.
- » Fast-track the development of the Continental Quality Assurance Policy in collaboration with AMA.
- » Advance work on integrating vaccines into the APPM under the Continental Immunization Strategy (CIS), ensuring alignment with national immunization programmes while creating opportunities for African vaccine manufacturers.
- » Increase awareness of APPM procurement opportunities to ensure broad participation by African manufacturers.
- » Accelerate development of the Continental Stockpiling Strategy and engage stakeholders in shaping continental and regional approaches.

The dialogue concluded with strong interest and positive feedback from participants, who welcomed the progress made in operationalizing the APPM and expressed optimism about its potential to strengthen health security, improve access to health products, and support Africa's manufacturing ambitions.

5.2. AFRICA MARKET SHAPING COUNCIL (AMSC)

OBJECTIVE

Africa CDC is establishing the Africa Market Shaping Council (AMSC), a high-level advisory body to the Director General of Africa CDC, to provide strategic guidance on policies and mechanisms that promote sustainable health product markets, strengthen the growth and competitiveness of African manufacturers, and improve equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics, medicines, and other essential health products across the continent.

On the sidelines of **Africa Health ExCon 2026**, **Africa CDC** convened a stakeholder consultation to gather insights and recommendations on how the Council can best address market barriers and accelerate the development of resilient and sustainable health product markets in Africa. The consultation presented the rationale, vision, objectives, governance structure, and proposed scope of work of the AMSC; introduce and seek feedback on its proposed composition and membership; gather stakeholder perspectives on the Council's role in addressing key market challenges and advancing sustainable markets

for African health product manufacturing; and identify priority actions and recommendations to guide the successful establishment, launch, and operationalization of the Council.

Discussions focused on practical solutions to strengthen market sustainability, enhance demand visibility, improve procurement and financing mechanisms, and foster a more enabling environment for African health product manufacturers.



DISCUSSIONS

The consultation brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from Member States, development finance institutions (DFIs), global health initiatives, manufacturers, development partners, and Africa CDC. Participants included representatives from Afreximbank, UPA, South Africa, Biovac, RVMC, ZAMSA, Africa CDC, the Ghana FDA, Burundi, Unitaaid, PATH, and CAPEBIO.

Africa CDC provided an overview of the proposed Africa Market Shaping Council (AMSC), including its rationale, objectives, proposed membership,

governance structure, and institutional composition. Participants were informed that the Council is envisioned as a multi-stakeholder advisory body comprising both African and international experts and institutions, modeled on Africa CDC's existing advisory mechanisms such as the Emergency Consultative Group (ECG) and the Diagnostics Advisory Council (DAC).

The consultation aimed to present the concept of the AMSC and gather feedback, ideas, and recommendations from stakeholders to inform its design and operationalization.

GENERAL FEEDBACK

Participants welcomed the establishment of the AMSC, describing it as a timely and strategic initiative to address persistent market challenges affecting the African health products manufacturing sector. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of clearly defining the Council's mandate and ensuring that it remains focused on providing high-level strategic guidance. Participants suggested that technical working groups or specialized task teams could support the Council by addressing detailed, product-disease specific, or operational matters, allowing the Council to maintain a strategic and policy-oriented focus.

STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

Manufacturers

- » Improve the predictability and harmonization of regulatory frameworks across AU Member States.
- » Enhance demand visibility and predictability through country procurement and purchasing plans.
- » Address delayed payments to manufacturers.
- » Promote longer-term procurement contracts to support investment and production planning.
- » Facilitate faster sharing of samples and regulatory pathways to support innovation and product development.

Development Finance Institutions (DFIs)

- » Prioritize interventions that address both supply-side and demand-side financing constraints.
- » Develop mechanisms that improve access to financing for manufacturers while strengthening market demand.

Advocacy and Policy Institutions

- » Promote policy reforms that support local manufacturing.
- » Advance industrial development policies and preferential procurement frameworks that favor African-made health products.

Global Health Initiatives and Development Partners

- » Address low manufacturing capacity utilization across the continent.
- » Strengthen community awareness and confidence in African-manufactured health products.
- » Better understand and influence purchasing decisions that drive demand for locally produced products.
- » Promote fit-for-purpose financing solutions and strategies to attract private sector investment.

Procurement Agencies

- » Consider piloting targeted market-shaping initiatives, such as a “10 by 10” approach, to assess priority products, improve market access, and enhance affordability.
- » Support efforts to strengthen procurement mechanisms that create sustainable demand for African manufacturers.

OUTCOMES AND WAY FORWARD

The consultation generated valuable insights on the potential role and priorities of the Africa Market Shaping Council. Participants exchanged practical ideas on how to ensure the Council’s effectiveness, sustainability, and impact in strengthening health product markets across Africa. There was broad consensus on the need for a multi-stakeholder platform that can address market barriers, improve coordination among key actors, and support the development of sustainable markets for African-manufactured health products.

Next Steps

- » Refine the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Africa Market Shaping Council.
- » Increase awareness and stakeholder engagement around the Council’s objectives and role.
- » Further clarify and refine the Council’s mandate, objectives, and operating structure.
- » Establish the governance and operational mechanisms required for the Council’s launch.
- » Advance the formal operationalization of the Africa Market Shaping Council.

5.3. AFRICA MARKET SHAPING COUNCIL (AMSC)

BACKGROUND

Africa’s health security and equitable access to quality health products depend on strengthening local manufacturing capacity and workforce skills. For example, there is a need to quadruple the estimated 3000 FTE in the vaccine manufacturing industry if the goal of manufacturing 60% of vaccines and medicines in Africa is to be realized.

The regional capability and capacity networks (RCCNs), which promote collaborations between educational institutions (universities and TVETs) and the industry (manufacturers, R&D, and NRAs), were established in February 2025 to address these needs. They aim to align training programs, identify

capacity gaps, and implement scalable workforce solutions across the continent. However, funding coordination and stakeholder alignment remain challenges.

The RCCN side event sought to spotlight the capabilities of the RCCNs, foster partnerships, and synchronize efforts to support prioritized capacity-building initiatives that will drive sustainable health manufacturing talent development in Africa.

It brought together RCCN secretariats and partner institutions to:

- » Present training programs and initiatives in the RCCNs;
- » Share the RCCN gap analysis report;
- » Showcase the proposed RCCN capacity building and implementation plan;
- » Foster strategic partnerships.



PARTICIPANTS

- » RCCN regional coordinators and program lead for Southern, East, and North Africa RCCNs
- » Industry and private sector representatives from the RCCNs
- » Academia and training institutions from the RCCNs
- » Representatives from Egyptian Drug Authority

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1. **RCCNs Presentation of Training Programs and Challenges**
All the RCCNs secretariats except IPD presented their training programs. This was an interactive that also enabled participants to provide immediate feedback and seek clarity.
2. **Presentation of the RCCN Gap Analysis Report**
All the RCCNs secretariats except IPD presented their training programs. This was an interactive that also enabled participants to provide immediate feedback and seek clarity.
3. **Capacity Building & Implementation Plan: Presentations and Panel**
Africa CDC presented the proposed RCCN capacity building plan to respond to the identified gaps.
4. Additionally, Africa CDC witnessed the signing of the MoU between UPA and IPM to operationalize the North Africa RCCN for health products manufacturing workforce development

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

This side event offered a pivotal platform to harmonize efforts and accelerate Africa's self-reliance in biomanufacturing and other health products manufacturing through talent development. The next steps will focus on resource mobilization to support the implementation of the RCCN capacity building plan.

5.4. ADVANCING AFRICA'S HEALTH SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE VACCINE AND PHARMACEUTICALS MANUFACTURING

This side event was hosted by GennVax, an Egyptian vaccine manufacturing company. Gennvax is a sister company of Gennex. The session highlighted the critical role of technology transfer, regulatory excellence, and strategic partnerships to build sustainable biomanufacturing capability on the continent. In addition to vaccine manufacturing, Gennvax has established a state-of-the-art biomanufacturing training facility.

Dr. Abebe Genetu Bayih, participated in the panel discussion and shared the progress and challenges in vaccine manufacturing in Africa. The session was concluded by the signing of partnership agreements with Chinese and Russian companies.

THE GLOBAL PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT FORUM 2026

Private Sector Engagement for sustainable vaccine and pharmaceutical Manufacturing in Africa

The 3rd Global Private Sector Engagement Forum (PSEF): Sustainable Vaccine and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in Africa, convened 18–20 June 2026 in Cairo, Egypt. The Forum was organized by WHO's PAM Unit and co-convened by the European Commission's DG INTPA, with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). PSEF 2026 brought together around 250 leaders from governments, international organizations, pharmaceutical companies, finance institutions, and regional policymaking bodies to strengthen

Africa's sustainable health product manufacturing ecosystem. The Forum will address enabling conditions for private sector engagement; connecting production with access, affordability, supply security, and health system resilience; with emphasis on quality assurance, market access, and alignment with donor-financed and regional procurement mechanisms.

The PSEF 2026 Forum covered a number of topics to address the challenges in the ecosystem to support the vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing in Africa. From Access to Finance, to harmonized and clear pathways to regulatory, skills, tech transfer, the forum tried to address these bottlenecks for a successful industry.

Africa CDC participated in the PSEF 2026 and participated in these sessions:

I. Stakeholders Dialogue on Advancing the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM)

Dr. Abebe Genetu Bayih chaired the pre-meeting session, which featured a panel comprising representatives from WHO, UNIDO, IFPMA, MedAccess, and AfricInvest. The discussion highlighted progress across the key enablers of health products manufacturing and underscored the importance of strengthened coordination and collaboration among stakeholders to accelerate the development of a sustainable and resilient health products manufacturing ecosystem in Africa.

II. High-level Policy Leadership Panel: STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PATHWAYS FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURING

This high-level panel was co-convened by WHO, the EU Global Gateway, and GIZ. It was chaired by Dr. Adham Ismail, Director of Programme Management, WHO/EMRO and included the following panellists: Ms. Brigit Pickel, Director-General for Sustainable Development and Climate at the Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Dr. Hisham Stait, Chairman of the Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement, Egypt, Ms. Hui Yang, Head of Supply Operations at The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Pre-recorded video, Dr. Nkaelang Modutlwa, Technical Officer,

African Medicines Agency (AMA) and Mr. David Kinder, Director at Gavi and Dr JM Okwo-Bele, for Africa CDC.

The discussion focused on overcoming three persistent bottlenecks: regulatory fragmentation, uncertain demand, and financing gaps.

The central message delivered on behalf of Africa CDC was that Africa's manufacturing agenda has entered a new phase and now focused on how to create the conditions for manufacturers to survive, grow, and supply African markets sustainably.

Four issues were identified as critical to execution:

- » Demand must become visible, financed, and translated into forecasts, tenders, and purchasing decisions, across vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, bed nets, insulin, ARVs, and emergency-response products.
- » Regulation has progressed significantly through AMA and reliance mechanisms, but there is a need for greater predictability, and a shorter time to market.
- » Financing is needed on both sides: patient and working capital for manufacturers, and demand-side mechanisms enabling countries to purchase African-made products.
- » As such, APPM was highlighted as the connective mechanism that can turn political commitment into actual procurement opportunities.

III. Manufacturing What Matters: Ensuring Sustainable Uptake of Health Products Manufactured in Africa

This session was chaired by Robert Matiru, UNITAID, with panelists from Africa CDC (Dr. Mariatou Tala Jallow); IDA Foundation; WHO and GAVI.

On this topic, the key focus was on barriers such as quality and price limiting the uptake of products manufactured in Africa. Dr. Tala highlighted the objective of the APPM as a market shaping tool, whose key objective is to address these barriers perpetuated in various fora to keep African manufacturers from accessing the African Market. Through the APPM, Africa CDC in

collaboration with AMA, will develop a continental QA policy, consolidating the roles and efforts of the 9 ML3 countries; facilitate the reach of Africa manufacturers to have access to the markets, through a supplier preference, facilitating the volumes needed to reach the economies scale to become more competitive and financially sustainable. Africa CDC through PHAHM and APPM will focus on addressing the barriers to ensure the sustainable uptake of health products manufactured in Africa.

IV. Talents for Transformation: Strengthening Africa's Biomanufacturing Workforce through Regional and Global Partnerships

Dr. Abebe Genetu Bayih participated as a panelist together with participants from WHO, IVI and members of the Africa CDC RCCNs. The session highly acknowledged the progress in coordinating workforce development through the Africa CDC RCCNs. The session ended by calling on partners to closely work with RCCNs to consolidate the efforts for better results.

PARTNERS' MEETINGS

In addition to participating in the ExCon and the Private Sector Engagement Forum, PHAHM and APPM teams conducted several bilateral meetings and engagements with partners including Afreximbank, Minapharm, UNIDO, and Oxford University,

The newly appointed Director of Manufacturing at Africa CDC, Dr. Skhumbuzo Ngozwana, also took the opportunity to have introductory meetings with several partners, including CEPI, UNITAID, MPP, NEPAD, USP, UNIDO, and GIZ among others.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

Africa CDC's late entry into the planning and organization of Africa Health Excon 2026 limited its ability to strategically influence the agenda and shape key discussions. Formal engagement commenced only a few weeks before the event, reducing opportunities to align the programme with Africa CDC's priorities and mobilizing stakeholders effectively. The late engagement also affected efforts to attract African manufacturers to exhibit at the Excon, as many manufacturers were unable to sufficiently assess the value proposition of participation within the limited timeframe. Furthermore, securing the necessary budget proved challenging and was finalized at a very late stage, which constrained Africa CDC's ability to extend invitations early and provide clarity on the level of support, cost coverage, and commitments available to participants.

One key achievement was the engagement of the Africa CDC leaders in various forums ranging from immunization, Pandemic Preparedness, Primary Health Care, Local Manufacturing and Pooled procurement; Research, made the discussion both rich and more diverse.

As Africa Health Excon increasingly serves as a precursor and feeder event to the International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA), it is important for Africa CDC to reassess its strategic approach and positioning. Early engagement with

the Unified Procurement Authority (UPA) and other organizers would enable Africa CDC to contribute to the development of themes, sessions, and discussions from the outset, ensuring stronger alignment with the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda (AHSS), the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM), and the broader agenda of promoting African health products manufacturing.

Despite joining the process at a late stage, Africa CDC successfully adapted several elements of the programme to reflect current continental priorities and helped shape key discussions. This demonstrates the institution's influence and convening power. However, earlier engagement would enable Africa CDC to be more proactive and strategic, ensuring that Africa Health Excon serves as a meaningful milestone on the road to CPHIA and evolves into a premier platform for African manufacturers, policymakers, procurers, and investors to forge partnerships, conclude business deals, and create sustainable markets for African vaccine, pharmaceutical, and medical product manufacturers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Africa CDC's participation in Africa Health Excon 2026 demonstrated the institution's growing influence and convening power across the continent. Through its strong presence at the opening ceremony, active participation in high-level sessions, exhibition booth, and well-attended side events, Africa CDC successfully engaged Ministers of Health, Member States, National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), procurement agencies, development partners, and global health organizations around key continental health priorities.

Given the strategic value of the platform, it is recommended that Africa CDC maintain and strengthen its engagement with Africa Health Excon. However, future participation should be guided by a more proactive and strategic approach. Africa CDC should engage with the organizers, including UPA, at the earliest stages of planning to help shape the overall agenda, ensure alignment with continental priorities, and position key initiatives such as the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM), the Platform for Harmonized African Health Products Manufacturing (PHAHM), and the broader Africa Health Security and Sovereignty (AHSS) Agenda.

Africa Health ExCon presents valuable opportunities to further strengthen the International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA). The platform could be leveraged to increase participation from North African countries through early engagement, targeted promotion of CPHIA in ExCon communication materials and keynote speeches, and the sharing of the ExCon delegate roster to support targeted CPHIA outreach. In addition, the exhibition was seamlessly integrated into the conference programme, creating a vibrant environment that fostered meaningful engagement

and networking between exhibitors, public health professionals, policymakers, and other delegates. This model offers valuable lessons for enhancing the visibility, networking opportunities, and overall impact of CPHIA exhibitions.

In addition, Africa CDC should identify and prepare flagship side events well in advance, mobilize stakeholders early, and leverage the platform to facilitate policy dialogue, partnerships, investment opportunities, and business-to-business engagements. Emphasis should be placed on creating opportunities for African manufacturers to showcase innovations, access markets, and engage directly with procurers and decision-makers.

Looking ahead, Africa Health Excon should be positioned as a strategic milestone on the pathway to the International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA), serving not only as a forum for dialogue, but also as a premier marketplace for advancing African health security, promoting local manufacturing, supporting the operationalization of APPM, and fostering sustainable business opportunities for African health products manufacturers.



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