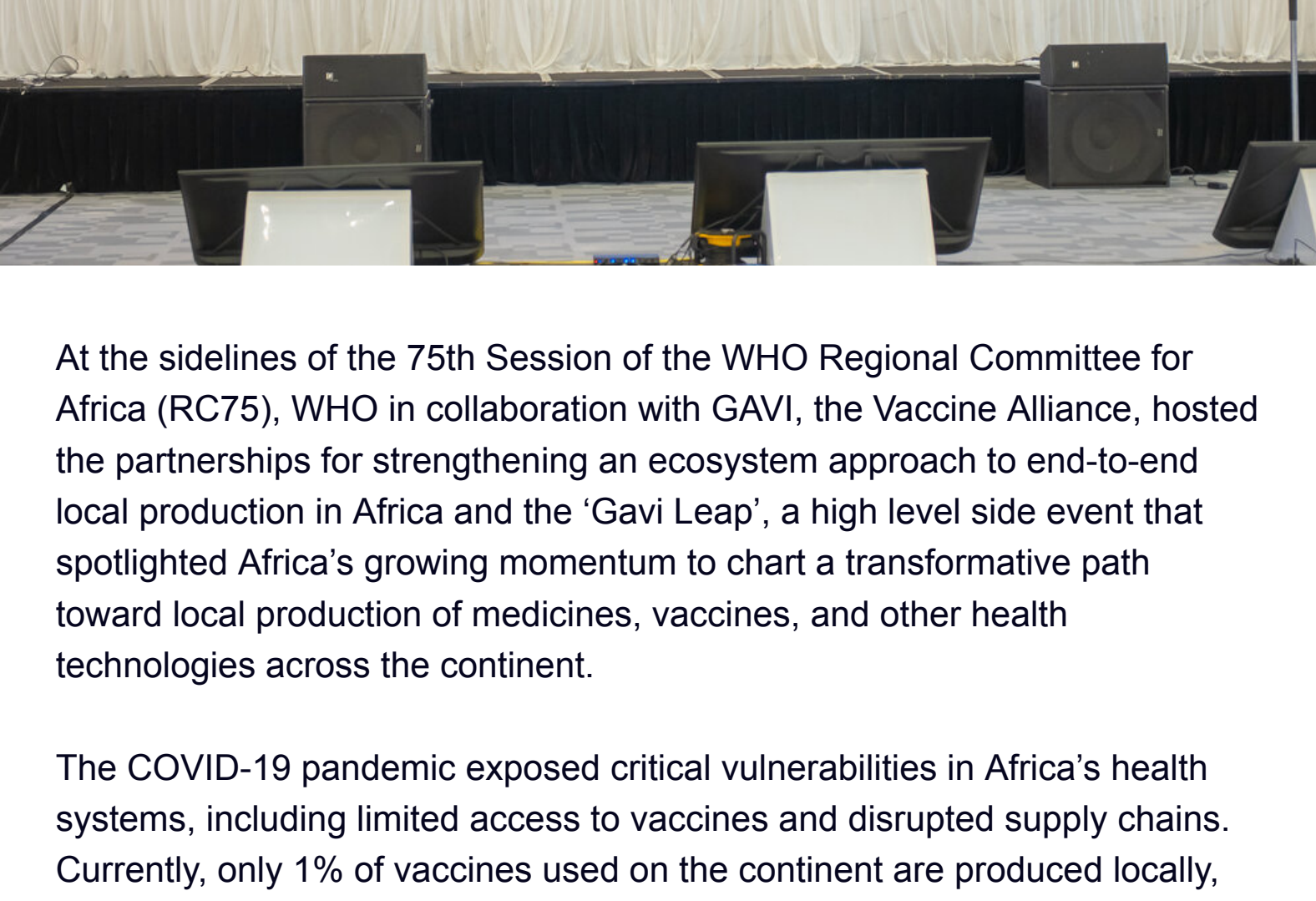


RC75 Journal English - Day 3

27 August 2025



Health sovereignty in motion: Africa's leap toward local production of medicines and vaccines



At the sidelines of the 75th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC75), WHO in collaboration with GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, hosted the partnerships for strengthening an ecosystem approach to end-to-end local production in Africa and the 'Gavi Leap', a high level side event that spotlighted Africa's growing momentum to chart a transformative path toward local production of medicines, vaccines, and other health technologies across the continent.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed critical vulnerabilities in Africa's health systems, including limited access to vaccines and disrupted supply chains. Currently, only 1% of vaccines used on the continent are produced locally, highlighting the need for regional manufacturing and health sovereignty.

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WHO AFRO's Strategic Vision for the 2026–2027 Budget



At the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC75), delegates unanimously approved the budget 2026–2027, recognizing instruments to ensure the continuity of essential health services, reinforce, and advance universal health coverage (UHC), even in the face of significant global budget constraints. This decision reflects a renewed collective commitment to building a healthier, more equitable Africa, better prepared to respond to health emergencies.

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Delegates approve strategy to strengthen rehabilitation services to save lives and restore dignity



During the 75th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC75), held in Lusaka, Zambia, delegates approved the Regional Strategy to Strengthen Rehabilitation services in Health Systems 2025–2035. This document represents a decisive step forward for millions of Africans living with functional limitations and facing the devastating effects of accidents, diseases, and emergencies daily.

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Accelerating Progress for Women, Children, and Adolescents: A Unified Commitment to Health in Africa

Africa has real reasons to celebrate. Between 2000 and 2023, maternal mortality fell by 40%, neonatal mortality dropped from 39 to 26 per 1,000 live births, and the under-five mortality rate fell from 149 to 67 per 1,000. These advances reflect the joint efforts of Member States to protect the lives of the most vulnerable populations and strengthen health systems.

It was in this spirit of progress and urgency that, during the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC75), held in Lusaka, Zambia, countries approved by consensus a technical document proposing to further accelerate advances in the health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents through the transformation of health systems.

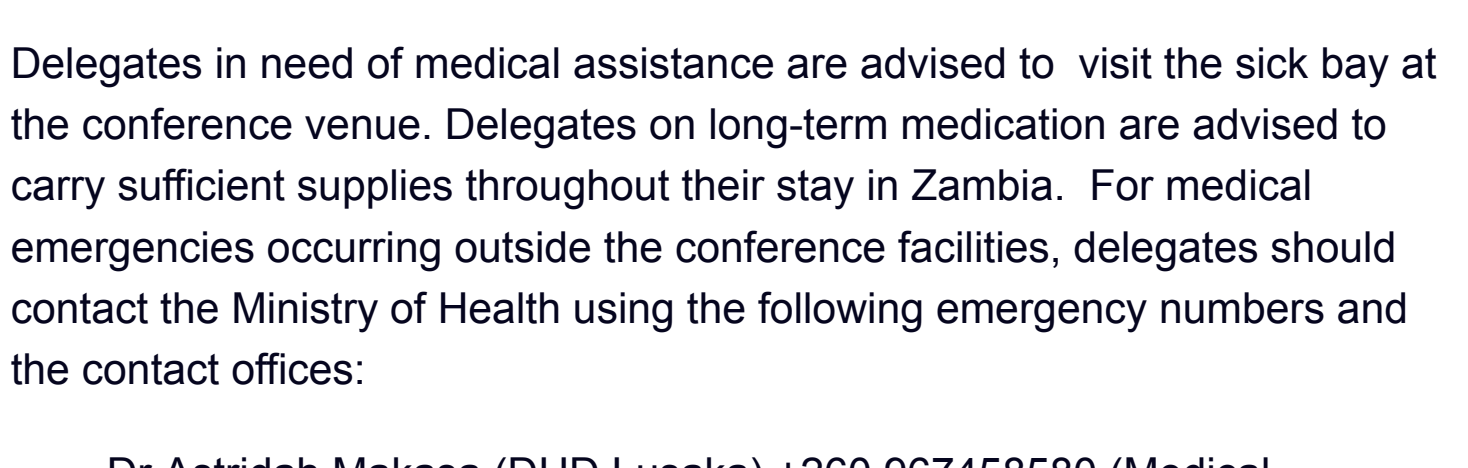
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African Member States reaffirm their commitment to polio eradication

Following its certification as a continent free of wild poliovirus since 2020, Africa now has a single goal: to eradicate polio entirely.

This ambition was at the heart of a side event held on the second day of the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa. Structured around two panels, the event provided a platform to discuss the efforts underway in the African Region to contain polio outbreaks and advance the polio transition.

In his opening remarks, Dr Abdourahmane Diallo, Director of Program Management (DPM), highlighted the progress made in the fight against polio in the African Region.

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Check your health status in the RC75 exhibition hall

« I just came to have my breasts checked. We've taken advantage of this exhibition", said Mutinta, who has just been made aware of the role of food in cancer prevention at the Cancer Disease Hospital stand. She decides to undergo breast cancer screening in the exhibition hall at RC75.

While waiting to be seen by a professional, she shares that this is her first experience. « For the breast, it will be my first time. I've just been practicing self-examination, the one they encourage us to do after our periods. But I would want it to be done by the professionals."

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Important contacts during RC75

Emergency Medical Services

Delegates in need of medical assistance are advised to visit the sick bay at the conference venue. Delegates on long-term medication are advised to carry sufficient supplies throughout their stay in Zambia. For medical emergencies occurring outside the conference facilities, delegates should contact the Ministry of Health using the following emergency numbers and the contact offices:

- Dr Astridah Makasa (DHD Lusaka) +260 967458580 (Medical Services)
- Dr Charles Msisika (MoH) +260977824736 (Medical Services)
- Jonathan Tapalu (MoH) +260979231450
- Dr Richard Nsakanya (MoH) +260966187854.

All emergency hospital services for delegates will be arranged by the medical personnel covering the meeting.

Security Emergency Contacts

Ms Albertina Mugunga, UNDSS Security Officer in Zambia

Email: mununga@un.org

Mobile: +260 979 780104 Office: +260 211 368175

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RC75 Exhibition

Delegates are invited to visit the various exhibitions.

