

RC75 Journal English - Day 3 (2)

28 August 2025



A Continental Cholera Preparedness and Response Plan launched at RC75



The President of the Republic of Zambia, Hakainde Hichilema, African Union Champion for the fight against cholera, officially launched the Continental Cholera Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan 1.0 during the 75th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa.

This plan, developed by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners, will help the continent's 54 Member States reduce cholera deaths by 90%, keep the case fatality rate below 1%, and eliminate the disease in more than 20 countries.

[Read More](#)

Malaria in Africa: Time to Renew Commitment and Accelerate Action

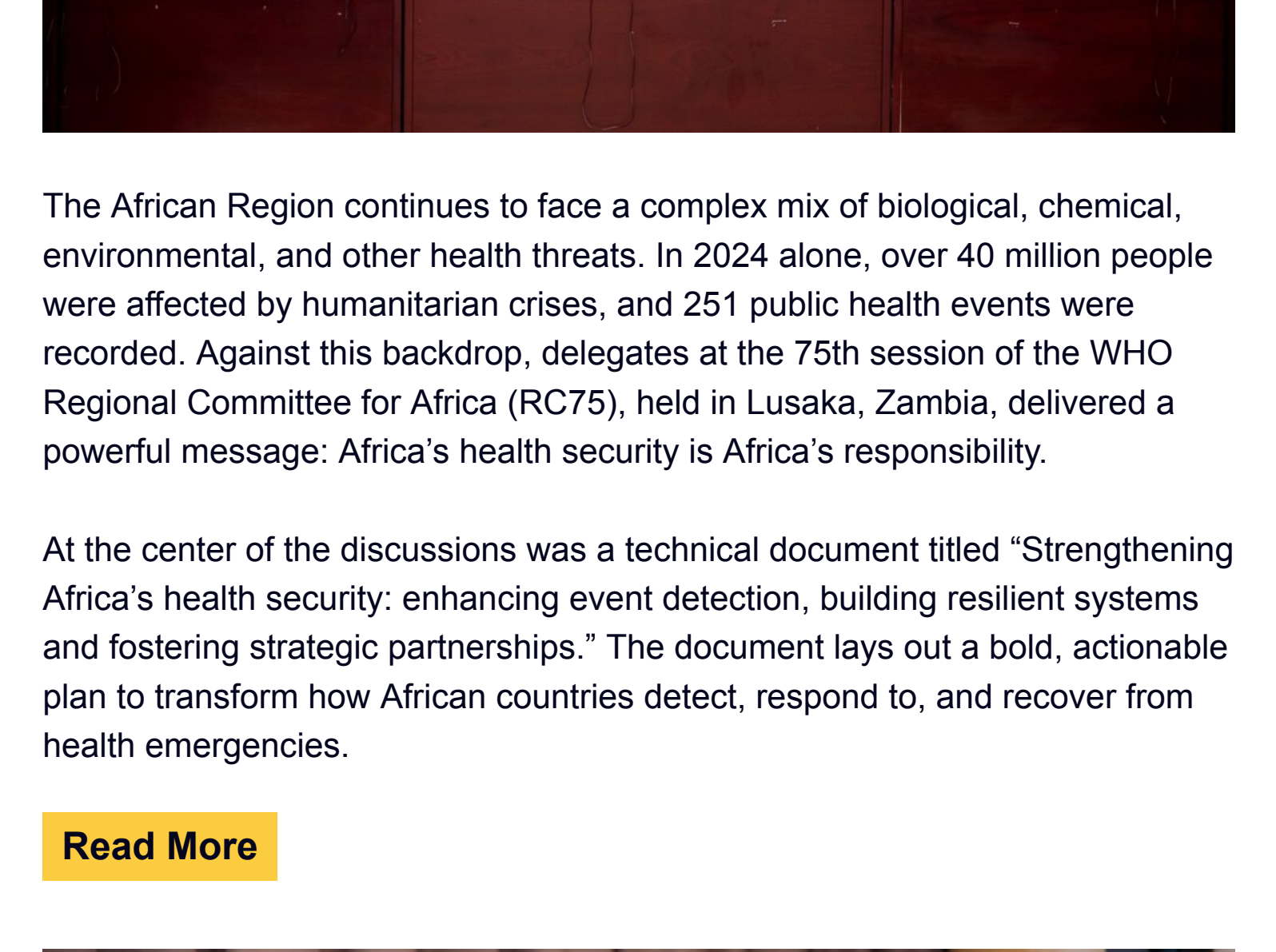


"Malaria took my five-year-old son on a rainy night. There was no clinic nearby, and by the time we made it to the city, it was too late." — Maria, displaced mother in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. Maria's story is just one of millions echoing across the continent. In 2023, malaria claimed 597,000 lives, 95% of them in Africa. Every minute, an African child dies from a disease that is preventable and treatable.

At the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, held in Lusaka, Member States heard not only statistics, but were driven to remember testimonies that humanise the numbers and demand urgent action.

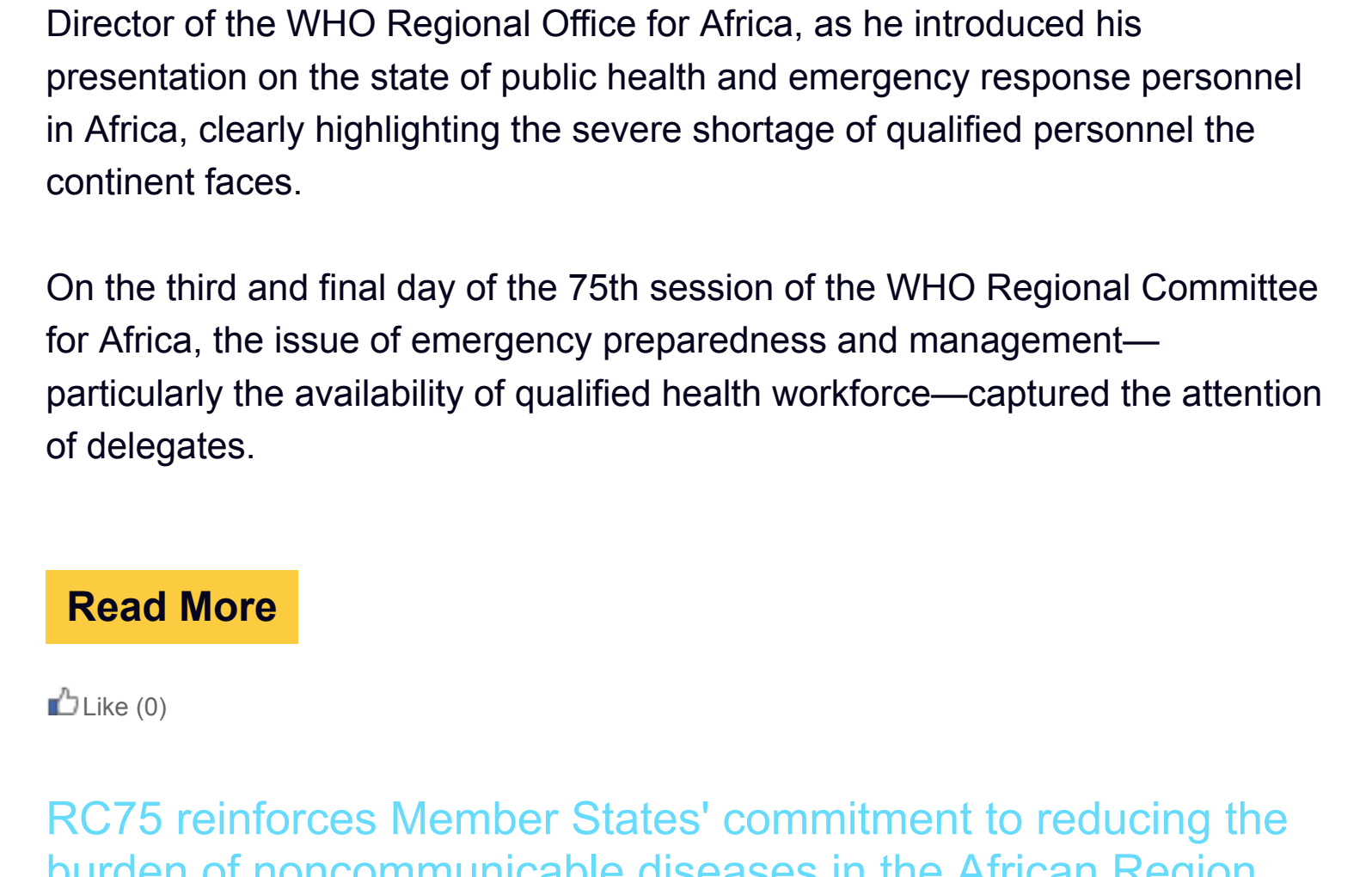
[Read More](#)

Stronger together: Africa's health security commitment



The African Region continues to face a complex mix of biological, chemical, environmental, and other health threats. In 2024 alone, over 40 million people were affected by humanitarian crises, and 251 public health events were recorded. Against this backdrop, delegates at the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC75), held in Lusaka, Zambia, delivered a powerful message: Africa's health security is Africa's responsibility.

At the center of the discussions was a technical document titled "Strengthening Africa's health security: enhancing event detection, building resilient systems and fostering strategic partnerships." The document lays out a bold, actionable plan to transform how African countries detect, respond to, and recover from health emergencies.

[Read More](#)


Qualified health workforce: the backbone of an effective response to health emergencies

"Africa's health workforce density is just 1.55 per 1000 population, barely a third of the 4.45 threshold required for achieving universal health coverage." These were the words of Dr Abdou Salam Gueye, Regional Emergencies Director of the WHO Regional Office for Africa, as he introduced his presentation on the state of public health and emergency response personnel in Africa, clearly highlighting the severe shortage of qualified personnel the continent faces.

On the third and final day of the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, the issue of emergency preparedness and management—particularly the availability of qualified health workforce—captured the attention of delegates.

[Read More](#)
 Like (0)

RC75 reinforces Member States' commitment to reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases in the African Region



In 2022, during the 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, Member States adopted the regional PEN-Plus strategy. This strategy was implemented to reduce the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the Region, which rose from 21% to 35.4% of total recorded deaths between 2000 and 2021. PEN-Plus is an approach aimed at improving the management of severe NCDs at first-level health facilities.

[Read More](#)
 Like (0)

Regional Committee



"We are building a new era for health in Africa": Delegates celebrate achievements and approve strategic recommendations at RC75

With enthusiasm, excitement, and a strong sense of mission, Ministers of Health and technical delegations from the WHO African Region gathered in Lusaka for the 75th Session of the Regional Committee (RC75). Throughout a session marked by vibrant interventions and genuine sharing, delegates reviewed and approved, by consensus, the 17 strategic documents presented, recommending their implementation with determination and a sense of urgency.

[Read More](#)
 Like (0)

Ethiopia will host the 76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in August 2026

During a special session of RC75, Member States approved by acclamation Ethiopia's proposal to host the 76th meeting of the World Health Organisation Regional Committee for Africa (RC76), which will take place from 24 to 26 August 2026.

WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Yakub Janabi, closed the proceedings with an inspiring message:

"This week was more than a week; it was a milestone. We deliberated with determination, debated with passion, and decided with unity, from health security to local production, noncommunicable diseases, and emergency preparedness. RC75 has reinforced our shared vision that all Africans deserve access to a quality, equitable, and resilient health system. WHO stands ready to continue supporting Member States, and Member States can count on WHO."

RC76 promises to continue the spirit of collaboration and commitment that marked RC75, reinforcing joint efforts to improve public health across the African region.

 Like (0)