



Health for All Now!
People's Health Movement



Webinar: Enablers for local production of medical tools in LMICs

Wednesday, 3 May 2023, 1 pm - 3 pm CET

Join a virtual session on the enablers for regional and local production of essential medical tools in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The NGO and Communities delegations to the Board of Unitaid and the O'Neill Institute of National and Global Health Law are convening this session to exchange and inform efforts to improve the ecosystem and actors' commitments to facilitate regional and local production by addressing barriers and putting the right enablers in place.

Agenda

Webinar recording available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rASK6Om_WzQ

Panel 1: SETTING THE STAGE: Enablers and barriers of local production [Moderator: Mohga Kamal-Yanni]		
1:05 -1:10pm	Welcome and introduction	Lynette Mtimkulu-Eyde, Unitaid Board NGO delegation Board Member
1:10-1:15pm	In Memoriam: Zafrullah Chaudhury	David Legge, People's Health Movement
1:15-1:25pm	Overcoming barriers in Africa and Bangladesh	Padmashree Gehl Sampat, Harvard University
1:25-1:35pm	Overcoming barriers in Brasil	Jorge Bermudez, Fiocruz
Panel 2: What needs to happen: stakeholders' proposals Matheus Falcão, PHM		
1:40-2:10pm	Indonesia and Thailand	Chalerm Sak Kittittrakul, Thai Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (TNP+)
	mRNA hub and the importance of tech transfer	Lauren Paremoer, People's Health Movement (PHM) South Africa
	Biomedical R&D in LMICs	Cheikh Tidiane Diagne, Institut Pasteur de Dakar & Diatropix
	A diagnostics facility to facilitate and sustain local production	Sharonann Lynch, O'Neill Institute

Panel 3: Perspectives and positions: actors' plans and a call to action [Moderator: Sharonann Lynch]		
2:10-2:20pm	Unitaid's regional production strategy	Robert Matiru, Unitaid
2:20-2:30pm	Africa CDC perspectives	Jens Pedersen, Africa CDC
2:30-2:40pm	Civil society perspectives: principles, tensions, and call to action	Sun Kim, People's Health Institute & PHM Korea
2.40-2:55	Questions for panelists Comments from floor	
2:55-3:00pm	Next steps and close	Lynette Mtimkulu-Eyde

Background:

Most LMICs rely on a limited number of global manufacturers, usually in the global north, to supply critical drugs, diagnostics, and other health tools. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the stark inequality of access to health products and manufacturing capacity, where the needs of LMICs for access to vaccines and diagnostics were severely neglected. Crucially, it animated the discussion and galvanized efforts towards regional/local production of drugs and diagnostics to prioritize meeting the local needs. For instance, following the passage of WHO resolution on strengthening local production to improve access in LMICs at the 74th World Health Assembly, Africa's first mRNA hub was established. Nevertheless, it is essential to maintain momentum and translate the increased political rhetoric into sustained action.

Objectives:

1. The session aims to equip civil society organizations, affected communities, and influencers with a better understanding of why local production is needed to sustain equitable access to efficacious and affordable health products
2. Improve understanding of the enablers as well as current barriers to local production; and
3. Offer the different perspectives and positions of stakeholders involved in promoting this area of interest