

Dates: January 27–29, 2026
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Venue: Safari Park Hotel & Conference Centre

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2nd Eastern Africa Regional Global Health Security Summit (EARGHSS) 2026 is to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, on January 27th – 29th, 2026. EARGHSS 2026 is curated to advance the success of the inaugural *EARGHSS 2025 held on January 28th–30th, 2025*, in Mombasa, Kenya and its resolution ('communiqué') to hold a successive summit in 2026 and establish EARGHSS as an annual Eastern Africa Regional summit.

Structured around the theme ***"Catalyzing Collaboration & Local Manufacturing of Health Commodities for Africa's Sovereign Health Security."***, the 2nd annual summit will bring together 1000 – 1500 delegates of world leaders, health experts, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to address pressing challenges and collaborative opportunities in global health security for the Eastern Africa region. The 2026 convening will focus on facilitative discussions on Africa's Health Security priorities through keynotes, panels, workshop breakouts, exhibitions and plenaries across the three-day sub-themes: (1) Day-1 Catalyzing Collaboration, (2) Day-2 Enabling Local Manufacturing and (3) Day-3: Sustainable Financing.

The EARGHSS 2026 is a collaborative action of the EARGHSS 2025 emergent institutional formation of the **Africa Centre for Global Health Security (ACGHS)** partnership network: Kenya Vision 2030, Africa CDC's Eastern Africa Regional Coordination Centre (EA-RCC), Ministry of Health, Kenya, Kenya Biovax Institute, Amref International University, University of Nebraska Medical Centre – Global Centre for Health Security (UNMC-GCHS), Kenya Defence University, University of New Mexico – Project ECHO, Amref Health Africa and Dalberg.

The 2026 summit builds on the EARGHSS 2025 program execution. With three thematic areas, each engagement will seek to advance **Africa CDC's New Public Health Order for Africa** with commitments on collaborative actions.

The key expected outcomes of EARGHSS 2026 include: (i) Eastern Africa Regional report on implementation progress of the 2025 commitments; (ii) knowledge sharing and networking among Africa Global Health Security partners; (iii) launch of the Africa Center for Global Health Security as a collaborative catalyst; (iv) amplification of regional local manufacturing champions; and (v) collaborative actions and strategic partnerships among governments, academia, and industry, with binding commitments documented in the 2nd EARGHSS 2026 Communiqué.

Eastern Africa Regional Global Health Security Summit 2026 Secretariat

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BACKGROUND: BUILDING ON EARGHSS 2025 SUCCESS

The 2025 Eastern Africa Regional Global Health Security Summit (EARGHSS 2025), held in Mombasa from *January 28–30, 2025*, brought together key stakeholders from government, academia, healthcare, industry, and international organizations to tackle critical health security challenges in the region. The summit resulted in nine binding commitments from member states and established a firm foundation for an annual regional platform.

The 2026 edition advances this institutional progress by expanding partnerships, refining strategies, and deepening engagement across the triple helix of governments, academia, and industry. By translating dialogue into measurable progress, the 2026 summit seeks to drive sustainable solutions for local manufacturing, health system resilience, and the realization of Africa's New Public Health Order.

East Africa continues to face significant health security threats. In 2023 alone, Marburg virus outbreaks in Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea, Ebola flare-ups in Uganda, and recurrent cholera outbreaks underscored the fragility of existing systems. Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), which are home to nearly 30% of the population, are experiencing prolonged droughts that disrupt routine immunization and heighten risks of zoonotic diseases. South Sudan's flooding emergencies continue to displace populations, hinder vaccination, and strain fragile surveillance networks.

Globally, the post-COVID context has seen a sharp decline in international health financing, with donor priorities shifting. At the same time, climate-related health threats have seen a rise from vector-borne diseases as a result of extreme weather impacts on health infrastructure. Without urgent collective action, these overlapping challenges could reverse progress toward Universal Health Coverage and derail preparedness for future pandemics.

It is with this commitment to regional health security coordination that the Africa CDC, in collaboration with the Government of Kenya and the Eastern Africa Regional Coordination Centre (EA-RCC), through the generous support from development partners, will host the 2nd EARGHSS in Nairobi, Kenya, in January 2026.

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

The 2nd EARGHSS 2026 is anchored on five strategic objectives that drive accountability and deliver on the commitments set during EARGHSS 2025, while catalyzing collaboration across the triple helix model. These objectives directly align with the Africa CDC's New Public Health Order, the Lusaka Agenda, the Abuja Declaration, and the WHO Pandemic Accord, positioning East Africa as a coordinated regional actor in global health security.

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OBJECTIVE 1: ACCOUNTABILITY & PROGRESS ON EARGHSS 2025 COMMITMENTS

Present a comprehensive Eastern Africa Regional Report demonstrating progress on the nine binding commitments from EARGHSS 2025, and establish a standardized monitoring framework for tracking Member State implementation through 2026–2027

OBJECTIVE 2: CATALYZE GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE & STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION

Foster global knowledge exchange and networking across the triple helix through facilitated discussions, sectoral partnerships, innovation showcases, and South–South collaboration, and formalize these engagements through documented partnerships and collaboration agreements with binding follow-up mechanisms.

OBJECTIVE 3: LAUNCH ACGHS AS A PERMANENT TRIPLE HELIX COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM

Officially launch the Africa Centre for Global Health Security (ACGHS) as a permanent institutional platform uniting government, academia, and industry and establish the ACGHS Secretariat co-located with Africa CDC EA-RCC in Nairobi and activate all four strategic pillars: Exchange Summits, Academy, Policy/Research Hub, and GHS Fund.

OBJECTIVE 4: ADVANCE AFRICA'S LOCAL MANUFACTURING AGENDA THROUGH THE AMPLIFICATION OF AFRICA'S CHAMPIONS FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURING AND SELF-RELIANCE

To strengthen regional manufacturing and health-commodity self-reliance through the amplification of Africa's local manufacturing champions. This objective seeks to position East Africa's leadership in advancing coordinated manufacturing partnerships, establish a regional manufacturing roadmap, and mobilize member states to commit to scaled manufacturing and joint investment by 2030.

OBJECTIVE 5: ESTABLISH COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS & BINDING COMMITMENTS

Formalize collaborative actions and strategic partnerships across government, academia, and industry through the EARGHSS 2026 Communiqué. Document binding commitments with specific accountability mechanisms and establish an implementation roadmap (90-day and 2026 – 2030), and create follow-up structures through the ACGHS Secretariat.

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THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

1. CATALYZING COLLABORATION

This theme operationalizes regional collaboration by convening all 14 East African member states to review implementation progress on the 2025 Mombasa commitments, harmonize national health security policies, introduce critical workforce development initiatives, and showcase youth-led innovation. It establishes collaborative governance structures that enable the 14 member states to function as a coordinated system aligned with Africa CDC's New Public Health Order.

The Africa GHS Academy—with bootcamps, fellowships, and executive masterclasses at AMREF International University and partners with global centers of excellence—institutionalizes workforce development as permanent regional functions. This directly advances Africa CDC's New Public Health Order Pillars #1 (Strengthened African Public Health Institutions) and #2 (Strengthened African Public Health Workforce), ensuring that regional coordination is supported by resilient institutions and skilled health workers capable of sustaining Africa's health sovereignty. The theme also advances Pillar #5 (Respectful and Action-oriented Partnerships) through formalized multi-stakeholder engagement across governments, research institutions, industry, and civil society, demonstrating how collaborative approaches to policy harmonization, research, innovation, and youth engagement create the foundation for Africa-led health security solutions.

2. ENABLING LOCAL MANUFACTURING

This theme amplifies regional manufacturing champions through an opening keynote on Africa's manufacturing sovereignty vision, advancing the pathway to regional health commodity self-sufficiency. It convenes governments, manufacturers, and development partners to establish "buy local" commitments and operational partnerships that leverage the Kenya Biovax Institute model and the WHO Maturity Level 3 framework. The day examines enabling policies, triple-helix collaborations, digital health systems, and coordinated procurement that create viable manufacturing ecosystems.

The theme addresses regulatory harmonization and collaborative research on priority diseases, including antimicrobial resistance and neglected tropical diseases. Through structured engagement on policy frameworks that enable government-academia-industry partnerships, the convening establishes mechanisms for knowledge sharing and technical support across the 14 East African member states. This directly advances Africa CDC's New Public Health Order Pillar #3 (Expanded Local Manufacturing of Vaccines, Diagnostics and Therapeutics) and operationalizes commitments from the Lusaka Agenda and Kenya Vision 2030, positioning the region to transition from external dependency toward domestic ownership of health commodity manufacturing.

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3. FINANCING AFRICA'S HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY

This theme features keynotes on transitioning from external dependency to domestic ownership, mobilizing sustainable financing architecture through innovative mechanisms, PPPs, and the Africa GHS Fund (USD 50M+ target). It convenes governments, development partners, and private sector actors to review progress on the Abuja Declaration and Lusaka Agenda implementation and explore financing mechanisms that connect health security to national security priorities. The day establishes mechanisms for the region to negotiate stronger positions with global health initiatives, creating enduring funding streams independent of external aid cycles.

Through structured engagement on blended financing models, the convening demonstrates how coordinated regional investment strengthens the institutional and manufacturing foundations established on Days 1 and 2. This directly advances Africa CDC's New Public Health Order Pillar #4 (Increased Domestic Investment in Health) and operationalizes the WHO Pandemic Accord financing provisions and the Abuja Declaration framework. The summit concludes with the launch of the Africa Centre for Global Health Security as a permanent triple-helix platform. It establishes binding commitments documented in the EARGHSS 2026 Communiqué, anchoring the 14 East African member states in a coordinated regional response mechanism capable of sustaining Africa's health sovereignty.

KEY EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The 2nd EARGHSS 2026 will deliver measurable outcomes that advance regional health security coordination and accountability to EARGHSS 2025 commitments:

1. Eastern Africa Regional Report on implementation progress of EARGHSS 2025 commitments and alignment with the New Public Health Order for Africa, Lusaka Agenda, Abuja Declaration, and WHO Pandemic Accord
2. Global knowledge exchange and networking to strengthen collaboration and innovation in Africa – Global Health Security across the triple helix and industry sectors.
3. Official Launch of the Africa Centre for Global Health Security (ACGHS), a collaborative catalyst uniting governments, academia, and industry to transform health security across Africa
4. Political and technical leadership for local manufacturing agenda strengthened through the amplification of Africa's Champions, advancing continental efforts toward health-commodity sovereignty.
5. Collaborative Actions and Strategic Partnerships among governments, academia, and industry, with binding commitments documented in the 2nd EARGHSS 2026 Communiqué

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STRUCTURE AND APPROACHES

PRE-SUMMIT:

Africa Policy Makers Pre-Summit dialogue – December 2025 Convenes 20 African countries in Nairobi to align national and regional policy frameworks for local manufacturing. Establishes the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and secures preliminary member state commitments for summit outcomes. This preparatory forum ensures policy harmonization and institutional readiness before the main summit.

Advocacy Initiative through the Kilifi County Health Scientific Symposium (December 9-10) Launches grassroots advocacy for EARGHSS 2026, introducing the Africa Centre for Global Health Security, Africa GHS Academy programmes, and summit objectives to health professionals, county governments, and regional stakeholders. This advocacy platform builds workforce awareness and secures early professional engagement for academy programmes.

SUMMIT:

Convenes 1,000 – 1,500 delegates from 14 East African member states, academia, industry, and global health partners for a three-day collaborative gathering focused on regional health security transformation. The Summit sessions' format will include: Plenary Discussions, Panel Discussions, Breakout Sessions, Demos, Case Studies, Exhibition Pavilion and Keynote Addresses.

THREE-DAY PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Day 1 – Catalyzing Collaboration (January 27, 2026)

The summit opens by solidifying a shared regional vision and activating long-term institutional collaboration through five integrated workstreams:

- **Workstream 1.1: EARGHSS 2025 Commitments Review** – Establishes accountability for implementation of the nine Mombasa commitments and identifies progress, barriers, and revised priorities for 2026-2030 regional coordination.
- **Workstream 1.2: National & Regional GHS Policy Harmonization** – Aligns national health security policies with regional frameworks and global agreements, identifying urgent harmonization priorities across the 14 East African member states.
- **Workstream 1.3: Health Workforce Development for Health Security** – Introduces the Africa GHS Academy and Africa CDC's critical training initiatives, articulating structured capacity-building pathways, career progression, and retention strategies for regional health security professionals.

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- **Workstream 1.4: Enabling Policies, Research & Triple Helix Collaborations** – Explores policy frameworks that enable research and collaboration between government, academia, and industry, demonstrating proven models for government-academia-industry partnerships.
- **Workstream 1.5: Youth & Innovation** Showcases youth-led initiatives and collaborative digital platforms (Project ECHO) that accelerate pandemic preparedness and strengthen regional health security coordination

Day 2 – Enabling Local Manufacturing (January 28, 2026)

This day adopts a technical and sector-focused approach, using evidence-based analysis and expert-led sessions to strengthen Africa's manufacturing ecosystem through four integrated workstreams:

- **Workstream 2.1: WHO ML3 Assessment & Regional Roadmap** – Discusses WHO Maturity Level 3 frameworks and regional manufacturing readiness, examining the status, challenges, and pathways for scaling local vaccine, diagnostic, and therapeutic manufacturing across East Africa.
- **Workstream 2.2: Regional Coordinated Procurement Framework** – Establishes coordinated procurement mechanisms that leverage the collective buying power of 14 East African member states to create viable manufacturing ecosystems.
- **Workstream 2.3: Triple Helix Collaboration in Local Manufacturing** – Examines enabling policies, regulatory harmonization, and collaborative research on priority diseases (antimicrobial resistance, neglected tropical diseases), establishing mechanisms for knowledge sharing and technical support across the region.
- **Workstream 2.4: Digital Health & Strategic Communication** – Explores how digital health technologies and strategic communication strengthen pandemic preparedness and cross-border coordination. Examines how digital health platforms enhance real-time outbreak detection and response, the role of strategic health communication in crisis management and discusses regional best practices for implementing digital health infrastructure in resource-limited settings through panel discussions and technology demonstrations.

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Day 3 – Financing Africa's Health Sovereignty (January 29, 2026)

The final day focuses on practical resource mobilization, investment positioning, and financial negotiations through four integrated workstreams:

- **Workstream 3.1: Lusaka Agenda & Abuja Declaration Implementation** – Reviews progress on the Abuja Declaration and Lusaka Agenda implementation, connecting health security to national security priorities and positioning the region to negotiate stronger positions with global health initiatives.
- **Workstream 3.2: Africa GHS Fund Mobilization Strategy** – Operationalizes the Africa GHS Fund (USD 50M+ target) by engaging governments, development partners, and private sector investors in structured financing dialogues and blended financing models.
- **Workstream 3.3: Innovative Financing Instruments** – Explores sustainable financing architecture through PPPs, innovative mechanisms, and financial instruments that create enduring funding streams independent of external aid cycles.
- **Workstream 3.4: ACGHS Launch & Triple Helix Framework** – Launches the Africa Centre for Global Health Security as a permanent triple-helix platform and establishes binding commitments documented in the EARGHSS 2026 Communiqué, anchoring the 14 East African member states in a coordinated regional response mechanism.

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POST-SUMMIT

Immediate Activation (February–March 2026)

The TAG for Championing Local Manufacturing becomes operational with monthly implementation reviews. Summit knowledge consolidated into policy briefs and implementation roadmaps. Regional Steering Committee convenes to assign accountability for summit commitments across member states.

Medium-Term Scaling (April–September 2026)

Africa GHS Academy Launch – First cohort of 35 Pan-African GHS Fellows begins 12-month transdisciplinary learning program at Amref International University. Bootcamp and executive masterclass programs launch for subnational and industry participants.

Local Manufacturing Roadmap Implementation – Inception countries begin executing manufacturing scale-up plans with TAG technical guidance. Digital health and coordinated procurement systems operationalized.

Africa Capital Week (May 2026) – Regional financing convening mobilizes USD 50M+ for the Africa GHS Fund and catalyzes development partner commitments for health security investments.

Long-Term Institutionalization with the four ACGHS Pillars Operationalized : (September 2026–2030)

1. Africa GHS Exchange Summits – Annual regional convenings, maintaining momentum and tracking implementation progress
2. Africa GHS Academy – Permanent capacity-building hub scaling to 315 fellows by 2030 across all governance levels
3. Africa GHS HUB – Policy, research, innovation, and advisory hub informing regional decision-making
4. Africa GHS Fund – Grant-making and financing mechanism deploying USD 50M+ for regional health security priorities

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