

3rd World Local Production Forum – Advancing Local Production for Health Equity, Global Health Security, and Sustainable Development

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Recommendations

The global healthcare landscape has faced unprecedented challenges, particularly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, revealing vulnerabilities in access to essential healthcare products. In response, the World Health Assembly resolutions laid the foundation for the establishment of the World Local Production Forum (WLPF) by the World Health Organization (WHO) to serve as a pivotal platform for enhancing access to quality-assured health products, promoting sustainable local production, and safeguarding global health security. The inaugural WLPF (2021) and the 2nd WLPF (2023) consistently underscored the importance of stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and strategic initiatives to strengthen local production ecosystems.

The 2nd WLPF recommended four actions for the global community to bolster local production capacities and financial sustainability to improve timely, equitable access. It is important to continue implementing and monitoring these recommendations to lay the foundation for national, regional, and global ecosystems to promote and sustain local production during peacetime and pandemics. The development of the global database on production capacities & capabilities, market demand & intelligence, and other data is critical to increase demand predictability, identify supply chain vulnerabilities, and enable governments and industry to build resilient production capability and agility in responding to emerging outbreaks. Enabling and coherent policies and ecosystems, and synchronized training of the workforce to ensure there is timely availability of a sufficiently skilled workforce are crucial as local production is strengthened.

As the world contends with existing health threats, new ones loom in the distance. Non-communicable diseases and prices of health products are on the rise. Climate change is emerging as one of the major threats to human health, creating new health risks that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable. Antimicrobial resistance is another health threat. The 3rd WLPF continues to catalyze strategic, coordinated, and collaborative efforts within the global community. The 3rd WLPF recommends the following actions are taken and monitored to strengthen local production for equity, security, and sustainable development toward the 4th WLPF:

1. Encourage and provide support to phased efforts in strengthening local production of quality-assured health products with **alignment to national and regional priorities, strategies and initiatives**, such as the **Expanding equitable access to medical products flagship initiative for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the PAHO Platform for innovation and regional production of medical products and PAHO's Regional Revolving Funds**. Encourage evidence-based ecosystem strengthening, data-sharing, use of interoperability standards, technology transfer with appropriate intellectual property protection, R&D in collaboration with academia & institutions to improve local production of quality assured health products that mainly address national and regional health challenges, regulatory systems strengthening and harmonization, diversified supply chains and purchase of locally produced products. Coordination and collaboration at national, regional and global levels are imperative to avoid duplication and deliver impactful results in local production and enhanced access. Regional pooled procurement mechanisms can contribute to generating stable demand and improve efficiency while enabling targeted actions to address regional health priorities.
2. **Encourage and support countries to leverage digitalization** across the health product value chains, integrating sustainability developed artificial intelligence (AI), big data, and digital technologies at every

stage of the production process—from research and drug discovery to manufacturing, quality control, storage, and distribution. Facilitate capacity building to ensure all stakeholders (governments, manufacturers, regulators) can effectively utilize and maintain these tools to reduce R&D and production costs, increase innovation, improve supply chain efficiency, enhance product quality, and prevent the entry of substandard or falsified products.

3. **Support global, regional, and national initiatives and ecosystems for green production** to reduce the carbon footprint and impact on health and climate. It is imperative to align the initiatives and its outcomes with political declarations and global frameworks on climate change, such as the Declaration at the COP28¹ and WHA resolutions². Encourage the implementation of energy-efficient technologies, promote production that reduce emissions, and promote sustainable raw material sourcing in manufacturing processes. Promote cross-sectoral cooperation, especially between health (human and animal), environment, energy, and industry sectors, to create a cohesive approach to environmental impact and integrating best practices. Encourage the development and monitoring of a set of measurable environmental standards and accountability mechanisms to report the impact of green production practices on both public health and the climate.
4. Foster new and strengthen existing **partnerships across different sectors and financial models to bring innovative and sustainable public health-oriented financing to manufacturers and other stakeholders** in need. Bridging gaps in understanding among governments, financial providers, industry, and other key stakeholders should be promoted and supported to increase investment in R&D, new technologies, digitalization, manufacturing workforce capacity building and other areas to strengthen local production capacities. In parallel, existing financial instruments should be leveraged further, appropriate incentives could be provided to encourage investments, and investment projects should be prioritized based on health equity and its potential for a strong internal rate of return (IRR). Standard financial due diligence protocols could be applied to evaluate IRR. A blended finance model could be established using advanced funding mechanisms to share risks and rewards with private investors.

¹ Declaration of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28, Dec 2023, UAE)

² For example, resolutions WHA77.14 on Climate and Health (2024) and WHA76.17 on Impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health (2023)