At a Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health in 2008, Ministers and representatives of ministries of health, science and technology, education, foreign affairs, and international cooperation from 53 countries committed to giving more priority to research for in their national strategies, budgets and research priorities. In what is popularly known as the Bamako Call to Action for Health, countries committed themselves to allocate at least 2% of national health budgets to research; and funders were called on to invest at least 5% of health sector aid to research.

The greatest driver of the region’s economy is its human capital, and there is substantial evidence that investment in health is a path to long-term economic growth and development. It is also no secret that the cost of dealing with disease outbreak in the long-term has dire financial implications on any country. Africa experiences loss of lives, loss of incomes, and heavy recurrent expenditure on disease management due to lack of vaccines and other preventative tools.

Dr John Nkengasong—the former Africa CDC Director who now serves as U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy at the U.S. Department of State—has cited the lack of locally manufactured and available diagnostics and ensuing procurement delays as a blight on health systems of majority African countries.

While the advocacy for increased domestic funding for health gains traction in Africa, the prioritization of funding for the health R&D as a critical component of public health is not clearly articulated. In principle, the region’s governments have acknowledged that health is a productive sector that contributes to socioeconomic growth and development and that domestic funding of health R&D is necessary to ensure alignment of research agendas with national and regional health priorities. However, the strong political commitment is yet to translate into increased allocations, and the question begs, **how will the region raise this money to be devoted to health R&D?** Without a strategy for raising and disbursing the additional resources required to fulfill these commitments, they will remain as nothing more than good intentions.
To build on international, continental, and regional advocacy efforts towards increasing domestic financing of R&D as a critical component of health in Africa, the Africa Health R&D Week will be an annual forum to catalyze a continental movement that builds bridges between researchers, policymakers, regulators, civil society and community members committed to Africa’s health transformation through health. Intended to bring together hundreds of global health advocates for DRM in Africa, Africa Health R&D Week 2022 is designed to recognize achievements and step up advocacy for sustainable financing of health R&D through DRM in Africa. The week will comprise a series of informative, networking, and motivational events for advocates, media, policymakers, program implementors, researchers, and funders. The week will help bring clarity to key issues and trends of domestic resource mobilization for health R&D on the continent. The content and programming of Africa Health R&D Week will be informed by the various coalitions advocating for DRM for health R&D.

The inaugural Africa Health R&D Week will to be held from 8th-11 November 2022, and for four days in the first week of November every year thereafter. During the Africa Health R&D Week, a series of virtual conferences, workshops, and networking events will be hosted to promote health R&D stakeholders connect, engage, and impact Africa’s health through sustainable R&D.

Opportunities to participate in Africa Health R&D Week will include:

- Africa Health R&D Week virtual conference
- Networking opportunities
- Policy maker perspectives
- Civil Society and Advocate perspectives

**REGISTER NOW:** https://bit.ly/AfricaHealthRnD2022