



# 2026 EPI MANAGERS MEETING

East and Southern Africa

*Charting a Resilient Roadmap for Immunization*

**HARARE, ZIMBABWE · 27 – 30 JULY 2026**

Venue: Cresta Lodge, Harare

**DAY 1** THE DIAGNOSTICS

**DAY 2** THE MECHANICS

**DAY 3** THE GOVERNANCE



**World Health  
Organization**



# Meeting at a Glance

Five days, one shared roadmap — plus a two-day workshop, 31 July–1 August

**PRE-MEETING**

Mon 27 July · AM

**Gender TA Session**

Showcasing achievements from the Gender Technical Assistance initiative, with country experience from Ethiopia, Lesotho, and Kenya.

**PRE-MEETING**

Mon 27 July · PM

**Africa CDC CIS & Regional Roadmap**

SA-RCC member states align and sign off on the Southern Africa regional roadmap ahead of the main meeting.

**DAY 1**

Tue 28 July

**The Diagnostics**

Opening ceremony, IA2030 mid-term audit, sustainable financing, and parallel sessions on the future of Gavi support.

**DAY 2**

Wed 29 July

**The Mechanics**

Operational barriers, life-course delivery, social & behavioral change, and health workforce gaps.

**DAY 3**

Thu 30 July

**The Governance**

Surveillance and outbreaks, partners forum, and formal adoption of the Harare Roadmap.

# Gender and Immunization: Sustaining Progress and Accelerating Action under Gavi 6.0

## GENDER PRE-SESSION AGENDA

|                      |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                        |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10:00 – 10:10</b> | Welcome, Opening Remarks and Session Objectives                                                                                                 | <i>Moderator –</i>                                                                     |
| <b>10:10 – 10:25</b> | Gender Technical Assistance Initiative: Key Achievements, Lessons Learned and Sustainability                                                    | <i>GAVI/UNICEF COE</i>                                                                 |
| <b>10:25 – 10:45</b> | Country Experiences — Lesotho: institutionalizing gender within EPI; Ethiopia: integrating gender into immunization planning and implementation | <i>Ministry of Health/EPI &amp; Gender TA Representatives (Lesotho &amp; Ethiopia)</i> |
| <b>10:45 – 11:10</b> | Gender and SBC Measurement Initiative — progress on gender-responsive indicators, implementation experience and opportunities under Gavi 6.0    | <i>Ministry of Health/EPI Kenya, UNICEF CO &amp; UNICEF COE</i>                        |
| <b>11:10 – 11:30</b> | Panel Discussion: Sustaining Gender Integration Beyond the TA                                                                                   | <i>Ministries of Health, Ministries of Gender, Gender Specialists &amp; Partners</i>   |
| <b>11:30 – 11:55</b> | Coordination for Sustainable Gender Integration under Gavi 6.0 – Next Steps                                                                     | <i>Facilitated Discussion</i>                                                          |
| <b>11:55 – 12:00</b> | Key Messages, Agreed Actions and Closing Remarks                                                                                                | <i>Moderator</i>                                                                       |

**12:00 -13:00      LUNCH BREAK**

# Session Overview

## Africa CDC · Continental Immunization Strategy (CIS) — Southern Africa Regional Roadmap

|               |                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13:00 – 14:00 | <b>Arrivals &amp; Registration</b><br><i>Africa CDC Secretariat</i>                                                               |
| 14:00 – 14:15 | <b>Opening Session</b><br><i>Dr Peter Kumpalume, SA-RCC Director · Keynote — Dr Folake, Director of Immunizations, Africa CDC</i> |
| 14:15 – 14:45 | <b>Setting the Scene</b><br><i>Continental Immunization Strategy updates, with Q&amp;A — Dr Chris, Africa</i>                     |
| 14:45 – 15:15 | <b>Southern Africa CIS Roadmap Presentation</b><br><i>Presentation of priority actions, with Q&amp;A — Faith</i>                  |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | <b>Formal Consensus</b><br><i>Sign-off &amp; joint photo — Frank · SA-RCC Member State Representatives</i>                        |
| 15:30 – 16:05 | <b>Vaccine Manufacturing &amp; Closing Remarks</b><br><i>Dr Okwo-Ebele · Dr Peter Kumpalume</i>                                   |

*Precedes the main plenary meetings: Day 1 The Diagnostics · Day 2 The Mechanics · Day 3 The Governance*

### SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES (SA-RCC)

- Botswana
- Eswatini
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



**DAY 1**

# The Diagnostics

Tuesday, 28 July 2026 · Harare, Zimbabwe

**DAY EPI MANAGER LEADS**

**Ms. Clara Mashiringo**

EPI Manager, Zimbabwe

**Mr. Abdulhamid Saleh**

EPI Manager, Zimbabwe



HARARE SKYLINE

# Session 1 · Detailed Schedule

| SESSION 1 · OPENING CEREMONY |                                                                                          | Chair: Clara Mashiringo, EPI Manager, Zimbabwe                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:30 – 09:00                | Participant Arrival and Registration                                                     | EPIMM Secretariat                                                |
| 09:00 – 09:15                | Welcome, Context Setting and Objectives                                                  | UNICEF Nairobi CoE / WHO IST-ESA                                 |
| 09:15 – 09:20                | Opening Remarks from WHO-AFRO                                                            | Dr Kalu, VPD Team Lead, WHO-AFRO                                 |
| 09:20 – 09:40                | Opening Remarks from Country Representatives                                             | WHO Representative & UNICEF Representative                       |
| 09:40 – 10:00                | Keynote Address: Operationalizing National Ownership in a Constrained Fiscal Environment | Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe |
| 10:00 – 10:20                | Photo Session & Coffee Break<br><i>Market Place – Poster Viewing Window</i>              | All Participants                                                 |

# Session 2 · Detailed Schedule

| SESSION 2 · IA2030 MID-TERM AUDIT & SUB-REGIONAL PERFORMANCE |                                                                                                                               | S2 CHAIR: EPI MANAGER, MOZAMBIQUE            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 10:20 – 10:50                                                | Review of 2025 EPIMM Recommendations and Progress Made to Date                                                                | <i>Dr Goitom Weldegebriel</i>                |
| 10:50 – 11:20                                                | Sub-Regional Progress Report & Global Review Data: Confronting the Stagnation of Routine Immunization — 2025 WUENIC Estimates | <i>WHO / UNICEF Joint Presentation</i>       |
| 11:20 – 12:20                                                | Interactive Case Studies — see following page                                                                                 | <i>Session Lead &amp; Selected Countries</i> |
| 12:20 – 12:45                                                | Vaccine Supply Chain and Logistics Update for ESA Countries                                                                   | <i>Timothy Ikeh</i>                          |
| 12:45 – 13:45                                                | Lunch Break<br><i>Market Place – Poster Viewing Window</i>                                                                    | <i>All Participants</i>                      |

## Session 2 (cont.): Addressing Sub-National Immunity Gaps

11:20 – 12:20 · Interactive Case Studies · Session Lead & Selected Country Presentations

*Using data to ensure equity across diverse country contexts — a deep dive into the concentration of zero-dose children in remote, fragile, and conflict-affected settings.*

01

**South Sudan**

ROUND ROBIN · 15 MIN

02

**Mozambique**

ROUND ROBIN · 15 MIN

03

**Rwanda**

ROUND ROBIN · 15 MIN

04

**Comoros**

ROUND ROBIN · 15 MIN

05

**Eritrea**

ROUND ROBIN · 15 MIN

**Recap Session (10 min):** Synthesis of common bottlenecks and country-specific approaches to reaching zero-dose and under-immunized children.



## Session 3 · Sustainable Immunization Financing in a Context of Multiple Transitions

### SESSION 3 · SUSTAINABLE IMMUNIZATION FINANCING

LEAD: EPI MANAGER, ZANZIBAR · CHAIR: EPI MANAGER, SEYCHELLES

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                   |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 13:45 – 14:00 | Reflections from Session 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <i>All Participants</i>           |
| 14:00 – 14:15 | National Immunization Strategy (NIS) Peer Review: Integrating costed financial requirements into the broader national health sector strategy                                                                                                             | <i>WHO Headquarters</i>           |
| 14:15 – 14:30 | Linking Polio Transition and Other Transitions within NIS Development · Open discussion (10 min)                                                                                                                                                         | <i>Terna Nohwangwe, AFRO PEP</i>  |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | High-Level Panel on Sustainable Financing: PHC health financing within national planning (10 min); moving from donor cycles to protected national budget lines (10 min); country examples — Kenya, Tanzania, Eswatini (15 min); open discussion (20 min) | <i>HSS / Finance Focal Points</i> |

## Parallel Sessions

15:00 – 17:00 · Alliance Partners: WHO / UNICEF / Gavi

CHAIRS: EPI MANAGER MALAWI & MAURITIUS

### GAVI-ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

*Discussion on how the Alliance model may evolve in 10–15 years to best suit the needs of AFRO ESA countries.*

- Context setting for all participants (plenary + Q&A)
- Unpacking key questions and trade-offs — e.g., Gavi vaccine portfolio and eligibility criteria evolution, scope of cash and TA support, type of support for large-scale emergencies (breakout groups; one group for former-Gavi / non-Gavi countries)
- Share-back and group reflections (plenary)

*Facilitators: Alliance Partners (WHO / UNICEF / Gavi)*

**17:00 – 17:10** Meeting Close & Recap of Day 1

### MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES (MICs)

*Prioritizing resources and addressing stagnant immunization progress / maintaining sustained progress for MICs.*

- Overview of current immunization trends in MICs over the last decade
- Deliberate on how to strategically prioritize resources (domestic vs. external donor funding)
- Discuss mechanisms to address stagnated routine immunization and coverage backsliding, with country examples
- Coalesce actionable recommendations from breakout sessions to bridge the equity gap

*Facilitator: Sarah Wanyoike*

DAY 2

# The Mechanics

Wednesday, 29 July 2026 · Harare, Zimbabwe

DAY EPI MANAGER LEAD

**Dr. Chamsa Halidi**

EPI Manager, Comoros



VICTORIA FALLS · MOSI-OA-TUNYA

Session 4 · Detailed Schedule

| SESSION 4 · BREAKING OPERATIONAL BARRIERS |                                                                                               | CHAIR: EPI MANAGER NAMIBIA                     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:20                             | Re-Cap from Day 1                                                                             | <i>Session Chair</i>                           |
| 09:20 – 09:35                             | Regional Overview of Measles-Rubella Elimination                                              | <i>Dr Balcha</i>                               |
| 09:35 – 09:55                             | Plenary Discussion                                                                            | <i>Chairperson</i>                             |
| 09:55 – 10:15                             | Country Experience Sharing: Measles/Rubella Elimination Strategies in Botswana and Madagascar | <i>EPI Managers, Botswana &amp; Madagascar</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:30                             | Plenary Discussion                                                                            | <i>Chairperson</i>                             |
| 10:30 – 11:00                             | Coffee Break<br><i>Market Place – Poster Viewing Window</i>                                   | <i>All Participants</i>                        |

## Session 5 · Detailed Schedule

| SESSION 5 · CLOSING THE GAPS: LIFE-COURSE HEALTH DELIVERY |                                                                                                               | CHAIR: EPI MANAGER TANZANIA                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>11:00 – 11:30</b>                                      | Microplanning for Primary Health Care: Implementation Guide for Reaching the Unreached                        | <i>Laura Nic Lochlainn, WHO-HQ</i>                          |
| <b>11:30 – 11:45</b>                                      | HPV Performance Update in the ESA Sub-Region                                                                  | <i>Nosheen Sadfar</i>                                       |
| <b>11:45 – 12:00</b>                                      | Leveraging School Platforms for Immunization Delivery in Zanzibar                                             | <i>EPI Manager, Zanzibar</i>                                |
| <b>12:00 – 12:15</b>                                      | Cost-Effectiveness of Integrated Vaccination Outreach in Eswatini                                             | <i>EPI Manager, Eswatini</i>                                |
| <b>12:15 – 12:35</b>                                      | Discussion                                                                                                    | <i>All Participants</i>                                     |
| <b>12:35 – 13:45</b>                                      | Integrated Service Delivery and VPD Surveillance with special focus on Fragile and Conflict Affected settings | <i>Daudi Manyanga/Casimir Manengu<br/>WHO, IST-ESA/AFRO</i> |
| <b>13:45 – 14:45</b>                                      | Lunch Break<br><i>Market Place – Poster Viewing Window</i>                                                    | <i>All Participants</i>                                     |



## Sessions 6–7 · Detailed Schedule

### SESSION 6 · SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL CHANGE (SBC)

**CHAIR: EPI MANAGER ESWATINI**

- |                      |                                                                                                               |                                          |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>14:45 – 15:30</b> | Evidence-Informed Programming: Mitigating vaccine hesitancy and systemic mistrust in urban and remote margins | <i>EPI Managers Tanzania &amp; Kenya</i> |
| <b>15:30 – 16:15</b> | Anticipating Demand for VPOP Process: Lessons Learned from Previous New Vaccine Introductions                 | <i>TBD</i>                               |

### SESSION 7 · HEALTH WORKFORCE

**CHAIR: EPI MANAGER KENYA**

- |                      |                                                                                                                                                                           |                        |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>16:15 – 17:15</b> | Introductory Presentation on Health Workforce Strengthening Country Experiences from Uganda<br>Moving from unstable partner-funded roles to government-salaried positions | <i>Uganda EPI Team</i> |
| <b>17:15 – 17:45</b> | Meeting Close                                                                                                                                                             | <i>Day Moderator</i>   |

DAY 3

# The Governance

Thursday, 30 July 2026 · Harare, Zimbabwe

DAY EPI MANAGER LEAD

**Ms Xolisiwe Dlamini**

EPI Manager, Eswatini



THE BIG FIVE

Session 8 · Detailed Schedule

| SESSION 8 · SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAKS |                                                                                                                                  | CHAIR: EPI MANAGER UGANDA          |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:15                          | Regional Overview of the Outbreak Situation (Cholera, Diphtheria, Ebola, Measles, Pertussis, Polio, Rubella, etc.)               | <i>Charles Okot / Patrick Otim</i> |
| 09:15 – 09:45                          | Country Experiences in Outbreak Detection, Preparedness, and Response — Ethiopia, South Africa, Madagascar                       | <i>Country EPI Managers</i>        |
| 09:45 – 10:15                          | Cross-Border Collaboration and Transition Mechanisms for Surveillance Alignment — Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Botswana | <i>Session Chair</i>               |
| 10:15 – 10:35                          | Leveraging Modern Technology & Predictive Methodologies for VPD Surveillance and Zero-Dose Identification                        | <i>AFRO GIS / TBD</i>              |
| 10:35 – 10:45                          | Discussion                                                                                                                       | <i>All Participants</i>            |
| 10:45 – 11:00                          | Short Coffee Break<br><i>Market Place – Poster Viewing Window</i>                                                                | <i>All Participants</i>            |
| 11:00 – 11:30                          | Integrating Sustainable Laboratory Networks (GPLN and GMRLN) into Broader National Health Security Frameworks                    | <i>Lab-EPI Coordination Team</i>   |

Sessions 9–10 · Detailed Schedule

| SESSION 9 · PARTNERS FORUM                       |                                                                                                     | CHAIR: EPI MANAGER ETHIOPIA             |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 11:30 – 12:00                                    | Partner Update and Priorities                                                                       | <i>Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance</i>       |
| 12:00 – 12:15                                    | Partner Update and Priorities                                                                       | <i>CHAI</i>                             |
| 12:15 – 12:30                                    | Partner Update and Priorities                                                                       | <i>Jhpiego</i>                          |
| 12:30 – 13:00                                    | Discussion                                                                                          | <i>All Participants</i>                 |
| 13:00 – 14:00                                    | Lunch Break<br><i>Market Place – Poster Viewing Window</i>                                          | <i>All Participants</i>                 |
| SESSION 10 · ROADMAP ADOPTION & CLOSING CEREMONY |                                                                                                     | CHAIR: EPI MANAGER SOUTH AFRICA         |
| 14:00 – 14:45                                    | Setting Sub-National Operational Targets & Accountability Metrics for the Second Half of the Decade | <i>EPI Managers, Collectively</i>       |
| 14:45 – 15:30                                    | Reviewing and Adopting Tangible, Time-Bound, Actionable Recommendations for 2026                    | <i>Sarah Wanyoike</i>                   |
| 15:30 – 16:30                                    | Summary of Regional Insights and Adoption of the Harare Roadmap                                     | <i>Onome Dibosa-Osador</i>              |
| 16:30 – 17:00                                    | High-Level Partner Closing Commitments                                                              | <i>WHO &amp; UNICEF Representatives</i> |



WORKSHOP · DAY 1

# VPOP/CashPOP

Friday, 31 July 2026 · Harare, Zimbabwe

PARTICIPANTS

EPI Managers + UNICEF / WHO COs



HARARE SKYLINE



## Workshop Objectives

**08:00 – 17:00 · Participants: EPI Managers + UNICEF / WHO COs (Gavi countries)**

### KEY OBJECTIVE

Help EPI managers get oriented and pre-consider the cash, campaign and VPOP discussions they will lead or take part in back home.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Understand the Gavi 6.0 process and where the pain points are likely to sit
- Hands-on practice with cash portfolio and campaign optimization tradeoffs
- A shared starting point going into VPOP discussions with country teams

## Detailed Schedule

| JOINT DAY · EPI MANAGERS + UNICEF / WHO COs |                                                                                                                                   | Facilitators: Meeting Host / UNICEF / WHO / Gavi |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 08:00 – 08:30                               | Logistics: orientation to workshop content and goals; introductions for any new joiners                                           | Meeting Host                                     |
| 08:30 – 10:00                               | Overview of Decision-Making Processes and Tools for NIS, VPOP, CashPOP                                                            | UNICEF / WHO / Gavi                              |
| 10:00 – 12:30                               | Trade Offs....                                                                                                                    | Delivery Associates                              |
| 12:30 – 13:30                               | Lunch Break                                                                                                                       | All                                              |
| 13:30 – 15:00                               |                                                                                                                                   | UNICEF                                           |
| 15:00 – 16:00                               | <b>NIS Costing Tool and Campaign Optimization</b><br>Small-group simulation to identify ways to optimize and integrate a campaign | UNICEF / Facilitator TBD                         |
| 16:00 – 16:30                               | Recap and Meeting Closure                                                                                                         | Facilitators TBD                                 |

WORKSHOP · DAY 2

# WHO-UNICEF Day

Saturday, 1 August 2026 · Harare, Zimbabwe

PARTICIPANTS

UNICEF / WHO Country Offices

VICTORIA FALLS · MOSI-OA-TUNYA

## Workshop Objectives

**08:00 – 17:00 · Participants: UNICEF / WHO Country Offices (Gavi countries)**

### KEY OBJECTIVE

Set UNICEF and WHO staff up for success as they return to lead and participate in Gavi 6.0 processes.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Practical experience with the VPOP toolkit and process, building on Cape Town workshop materials
- Clear understanding of how VPOP and cash prioritization connect
- Working familiarity with available costing and facilitation toolkits



# Detailed Schedule

| CO DAY · UNICEF / WHO COUNTRY OFFICES |                                                                                                                               | Facilitators: DevCats / WHO / UNICEF           |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30 – 10:00                         | Intro: overview of day goals, recaps and logistics                                                                            | <i>Sarah Wanyoike</i>                          |
| 10:00 – 12:00                         | Building on Workshop Day 1 (Nairobi & Brazzaville Workshops) and Country Feedback on VPOP and CashPOP processes & pain points | <i>WHO + UNICEF</i>                            |
| 12:00 – 13:00                         | Lunch Break                                                                                                                   | <i>All Participants · Cresta Lodge, Harare</i> |
| 13:00 – 14:00                         | VPOP – Cash Connections: practical examples of how to link a VPOP process with a cash prioritization exercise                 | <i>Delivery Associates<br/>WHO + UNICEF</i>    |
| 14:00 – 16:00                         | Cash Tradeoffs Simulation: Bringing the Tools Together &What Needs to be Done                                                 | <i>UNICEF + Delivery Associates</i>            |
| 16:00 – 16:45                         | Resources Available for Costing and Facilitation; Roles and Responsibilities                                                  | <i>Lora Shimp (Plenary Discussion)</i>         |
| 16:45 – 17:00                         | Reflections & Workshop Close                                                                                                  | <i>Lora Shimp</i>                              |

THE HARARE ROADMAP

# Thank You

*From Diagnostics to Governance — charting a resilient roadmap for immunization across East and Southern Africa, carried forward through two days of hands-on workshop application.*

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HARARE, ZIMBABWE · 27 JULY – 1 AUGUST 2026