



27–30 November 2023 • Lusaka, Zambia  
Kenneth Kaunda Wing of the Mulungushi  
International Conference Center



Theme:  
Enhancing Africa's health  
security: Blood as a cornerstone  
for pandemic preparedness.

**BREAKING BARRIERS: REPOSITIONING AFRICA  
IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH ARCHITECTURE**

Date:  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Time:  
15:00 - 17:00 (CAT)  
16:00 - 18:00 (EAT)

Venue:  
Virtual

## CPHIA 2023 Official Side Event: CoBA (Concept Note)

### Enhancing Africa's health security: Blood as a cornerstone for pandemic preparedness

Despite the ongoing global health challenges, it is critical to highlight the vital role of blood in Africa's health security and pandemic preparedness. The side event seeks to shed light on the significance of a well-organized blood supply system for addressing emergencies, anaemia, post-partum haemorrhage, cancer, trauma, and ensuring overall healthcare resilience.

The Coalition for Blood in Africa (CoBA) is a platform of non-state actors that have unified to bring the issue of blood in Africa to the forefront of dialogue, policy influence and action towards adequate, safe, and sustainable blood in Sub-Saharan Africa. The vision of CoBA is to ensure that no person in Africa loses their life due to a lack of blood. The mission of the Coalition saving lives together by enabling sustainable access to safe blood in Africa.

The event will comprise a multi-stakeholder panel discussion, featuring experts from public health, private sector, and governmental spheres. This discourse will delve into key aspects:

1. The role of private sector engagement within blood supply systems, aligning with WHO's health system building blocks.
2. Challenges faced by private entities in blood collection, processing, and distribution across the continent.
3. Untapped opportunities for private sector involvement in bolstering blood availability during health crises.
4. Strategies for private for-profit enterprises to enhance access to critical blood products and technologies.

This session aligns with the New Public Health Order's principle of "Action-oriented respectful partnerships for public health in Africa" It aims to spotlight the potential of collaborative partnerships in leveraging private sector resources to fortify Africa's health security, ensuring an ample supply of blood for emergencies and pandemic response.

#### Desired outcomes from the session:

1. **Informed Perspectives:** Equip attendees with insights into the indispensable role of the private sector in strengthening blood supply systems.
2. **Networking and Synergy:** Foster connections and prospective collaborations among participants, engendering a more comprehensive approach to blood supply resilience.
3. **Practical Solutions:** Generate actionable ideas and strategies to enhance public-private partnerships in establishing strong blood supply mechanisms.

#### Programme

15:00pm – 15:15pm (CAT)  
16:00pm – 16:15pm (EAT)

Opening Remarks and  
Introduction

15:15pm – 15:35pm (CAT)  
16:15pm – 16:35pm (EAT)

Keynote speaker

#### Panel Discussion

15:35pm – 16:35pm (CAT)  
16:35pm – 17:35 pm (EAT)

##### Key areas of discussion:

- The role of private sector engagement within blood supply systems, aligning with WHO's health system building blocks.
- Challenges faced by private entities in blood collection, processing, and distribution across the continent.
- Untapped opportunities for private sector involvement in bolstering blood availability during health crises.
- Strategies for private for-profit enterprises to enhance access to critical blood products and technologies.

16:35pm – 16:45pm (CAT)  
17:35pm – 17:45pm (EAT)  
Questions & Answers

16:45pm – 17:00pm (CAT)  
17:45pm – 18:00pm (EAT)

Recap of Key Takeaways,  
Parting shots  
Call to Action and Closing  
Remarks

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