



Call to Action- Third International Conference for PEN-Plus in Africa, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 23-25 June 2026

“Advancing progress towards SDG targets for NCDs in Africa by 2030: Reflections on PEN-Plus implementation- Progress, Challenges and the future”



Strategic partner



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We the participants of the 3rd International Conference for PEN-Plus in Africa commit to:

- ➔ Elevate severe and chronic NCDs as an urgent health and development priority.
- ➔ Advance integrated early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term care at all levels for severe and chronic NCDs, with emphasis on primary and first-referral care.
- ➔ Promote people-centred care and multisectoral collaboration to reduce premature mortality from severe and chronic NCDs; leaving no one behind.

We call on Governments to:

- ➔ Fully implement PEN and PEN-Plus interventions to expand equitable access to essential services for severe and chronic NCDs in collaboration with WHO and Partners
- ➔ Uphold and finance the PEN and PEN-Plus regional strategies, ensuring access to care for individuals with severe and chronic NCDs—regardless of geography or socioeconomic status.
- ➔ Strengthen national health systems, improve surveillance and data capturing for severe and chronic NCDs and ensure availability of affordable essential medicines and diagnostics, and institutionalize prevention and care.
- ➔ Demonstrate strong leadership in public health by increasing domestic investment, and fostering inclusive partnerships with civil society, development partners, and the private sector.
- ➔ Integrate WHOPEN and PEN-Plus conditions into UHC package to alleviate the burden of NCDs on the most vulnerable populations

We urge WHO to:

- ➔ Intensify its leadership, advocacy, and convening role with Partners, Governments and the Private Sector to keep severe and chronic NCDs and Universal Health Coverage at the centre of political and development agendas.

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- ➔ Leverage their strength in normative functions to develop standards, tools and guidance documents to support the implementation of the PEN-Plus Framework in Africa
 - ➔ Support resource mobilization, promote innovations and facilitate cross-country learning and coordination.
 - ➔ Leverage existing collaboration with UN Agencies to address severe and chronic NCDs in children

We call on Development Partners, Donors other UN Agencies and the Private Sector to:

- ➔ Significantly increase investments in children and poor populations suffering severe and chronic NCDs, promote research, innovations, and local production of affordable essential medicines and diagnostics.

We respectfully request:

- ➔ The WHO Regional Director for Africa to get the Ministers of Health to affirm and present the Ministerial Communique during the 76th Session of the Regional Committee for Africa in August 2026 in Addis Ababa
- ➔ African governments to champion this Call-to-Action at the 2026 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting to galvanize global commitment and secure greater investments for severe and chronic NCDs.

