For over two decades, there has been an increasing emphasis on the importance of local production and related technology transfer in the context of promoting equitable access to medicines and other health technologies. Progress has been made in promoting local production and improving access; however, many challenges remain, and new challenges have emerged, such as the lack of affordability of new health products and the lack of sufficiently trained personnel.

The World Local Production Forum: Enhancing access to medicines and other health technologies (WLPF) is a global community comprising foremost governors, leaders, technology experts, industry, the international community, and other stakeholders under the auspices of WHO, for public health impact.

The WLPF is a regular forum for the global community to stimulate engagement, dialogue and collaborate on opportunities and mechanisms for the promotion of local production and technology transfer, as part of health technology programmes and in line with global health needs. The WLPF aims to call Member States’ attention in aligning the production of health products as essential long-term infrastructure akin to food, water and energy as safeguards to protect national, regional and global security.

The COVID-19 pandemic has focused attention on diversifying production capacity geographically to contribute to the global production and supply of COVID-19 and other essential health products. The first WLPF will serve as a platform to identify the challenges and opportunities in promoting local production and technology transfer to improve access during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. This first WLPF will be convened virtually, organized by the WHO with the support of Member States and our partners. The first WLPF includes plenaries, panel discussions, presentations and participatory discussions amongst invited speakers and forum attendees.

Objectives

- Provide a global platform to discuss challenges in promoting local production and technology transfer to improve access to quality, safe and effective health products and technologies, and to safeguard global, regional and national health security
- Identify priority health technologies with greatest need for transfer to LMICs to address e.g., shortages, high prices, monopolies, etc.
- Explore mechanisms and opportunities to promote/facilitate the transfer and local production of high priority technologies in LMICs
- Identify key areas of training that support capacity building for local production and technology transfer
- Promote partnerships and business linkages in the areas of technology transfer and local production
- Provide recommendations and access for implementation by stakeholders

Provisional agenda

21 June

13:00-15:15 (CEST) Opening Remarks **
Plenary Session **
13:00-14:15 (CEST) Session 1
Building the business eco-system for local production
14:15-15:30 (CEST) Session 2
Unlocking global manufacturing potential through licensing and technology transfer
14:15-15:30 (CEST) Session 3
Building capacity to enhance access to vaccines and biologics for COVID-19 and beyond
14:15-15:30 (CEST) Session 4
Leveraging innovation, AI and the digital revolution in the health products industry

22 June

13:00-14:15 (CEST) Session 5
Unlocking global manufacturing potential through licensing and technology transfer
14:15-15:30 (CEST) Session 6
Expanding access to affordable capital

23 June

13:00-14:15 (CEST) Session 7
Getting regulatory systems pandemic ready
14:15-15:30 (CEST) Session 8
Promoting policies and practices to increase local production
14:15-15:30 (CEST) Session 9
Safeguarding access to local production

24 June

13:00-15:00 (CEST) Session 10
Promoting the use of local production in LMICs
14:15-15:30 (CEST) Session 11
Promoting the use of local production in LMICs

25 June

13:00-14:15 (CEST) Session 12
Getting regulatory systems pandemic ready
14:15-15:15 (CEST) Session 13
Safeguarding access to local production
14:15-15:15 (CEST) Session 14
Expanding access to affordable capital

CEST: Central European Summer Time. Please verify your local time. ** Interpretation available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.

Partners

Access to Medicines and Health Products Division (MHP)
Regulation and Prequalification Department (RPQ)
Local Production & Assistance Unit (LPA)
WHO Regional Office for Europe (RO-E)
WHO Regional Office for Africa (RO-A)
WHO Regional Office for the Americas (RO-AMR)
WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (RO-SEAR)
WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (RO-EMRO)
WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific (RO-WPR)
WHO/Polska
World Health Organization
World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe
WHO Regional Office for Africa
WHO Regional Office for the Americas
WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
Cepi
Access Here