

**sharp**  
Solutions for Supporting Health Systems  
**Newsletter**

25th February 2026



## Access to Medicines Platform is in Lusaka-Zambia

### 1) Why this conversation mattered

This discussion brought one message into sharp focus: Africa’s health future will be shaped by domestic choices, not only external support. With [official development assistance \(ODA\)](#) reportedly down by around 50%, participants noted the real-world impact on health systems, especially vertical programmes like HIV and AIDS. The room agreed that we need to talk about health differently and plan differently.

### 2) Reframing health as an economic issue

A core theme was the need to position health as an economic and productivity agenda, not just a social sector cost. The argument was simple: [when health financing is treated as an “expense,” it gets squeezed.](#) When it is treated as an investment that protects the workforce, stabilizes households, and supports growth, it becomes easier to justify sustained domestic funding.

Participants explored health financing “what-if” scenarios, including the idea that even a 1% increase of GDP allocation toward health (or a comparable uplift in fiscal space for health) could translate into meaningful gains in outcomes, coverage, and system resilience, depending on how funds are targeted and managed.

### 3) The debt squeeze and the fiscal reality

Public debt came up repeatedly as a major constraint. Many countries are facing a tight fiscal environment where debt servicing crowds out health and other social investments. The discussion leaned toward a more strategic response, including:

- [Debt restructuring](#) where feasible
- Better use of concessional assistance
- Stronger negotiation for financing terms that protect essential social spending
- More active parliamentary scrutiny to avoid budgets that underfund health because of debt pressures

*AMP Team*

In this newsletter you can expect:
Why NEAPACOH Matters
Day 1 key areas of discussion \$\$\$
Photo Session
What Next?
About MeTA Kenya
Day 1 Recommendations and Action Points



## Our Team Met with the MPs Present

The **informal sector** was also flagged as a continuing challenge for revenue collection and insurance contributions, yet it remains central to economic life across the continent. Participants emphasized that reforms must be designed with this reality in mind..

The conversation emphasized moving away from fragmented, short-cycle projects and toward multi-year, capitalized programmes that can be financed, managed, and scaled.

### 4) Financing health infrastructure: moving from short-term projects to long-term assets

The second major focus was **health infrastructure financing** and how African countries can build investable pipelines that attract long-term capital.



### 5) Spotlight: innovation and examples from practice

One participant referenced Nigeria's Future Generation Capital as an example of emerging approaches to mobilizing capital for development priorities, alongside other innovative financing solutions across the region.

The broader takeaway was that **innovation is not only about new money, but also about better structures, stronger project preparation, and reduced investor risk.**



**25th February 2026**

### 6) The shared goal: UHC through investable, de-risked projects

The discussion aligned around a **practical ambition**: catalyze private-sector investment by making health sector projects more investable and less risky. This includes working with:

- Development finance institutions (DFIs)
- Philanthropic partnerships
- Bilateral partners and blended finance platforms
- to help countries move from ideas to bankable transactions that deliver real services.

# Photo Sessions



## About AtMP

We collaborate with partners and engage with multiple stakeholders to make meaningful contributions and advocate for robust health systems.

Our efforts encompass a range of initiatives, including but not limited to: expanding access to life-saving commodities for sexual and reproductive health, boosting investment and accountability for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health among women, girls, and vulnerable groups, and advocating for policy changes to ensure the availability, affordability, and timely supply of medicines and health commodities.





## Recommendations and Call to actions Made

The tone of the conversation was frank but forward-looking: Africa can protect health gains and move faster toward UHC, but it will require economic framing, smart fiscal choices, and serious investment architecture that turns health priorities into long-term, financeable national assets.

- Develop a plan to shift short-term projects into multi-year, capitalized strategic development investment vehicles to **catalyze private-sector investment in health infrastructure** (define structure, financing instruments, and intended outcomes).
- Strengthen project preparation support using member-country funding and DFIs to create bankable, **scalable health infrastructure projects** ready for private-sector syndication.
- **Map and assess domestic financing sources** (pension funds, philanthropic partnerships, corporate social investment) that can be mobilized to capitalize health infrastructure projects.
- **Engage parliamentarians to scrutinize and balance national budgets** so infrastructure and social sectors (including health and education) are not crowded out by rising debt, and to ensure budget debates reflect this focus.
- Design and promote de-risking mechanisms (partial risk instruments, sovereign guarantees, blended finance structures) to **attract institutional and private investors into health-sector projects**.
- Collect and **share South–South** technology and regulatory **best practices**, including telehealth, digital solutions, and technology transfer examples from Asia, for adaptation across African countries.
- Encourage non-participating member states to join the PPP platform and **explore strategic purchasing, insurance programmes, and long-term infrastructure financing options**.
- Initiate focused discussions and mobilize action on national health insurance reforms (NHIS) and related legislation to **strengthen resilience and sustainability of domestic health financing**.

### Reach Out

+ (254) 737 108 766  
 info@atmplatformkenya.org  
 www.atmplatformkenya.org  
 X: @MeTAKenya2018  
 LinkedIn: Access to Medicines Platform