

**GLOBAL
LEADERS
NETWORK**

for Women's, Children's
and Adolescents' Health

We support the Sustainable Development Goals



Global Leaders Network for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa

Republic of South Africa Host and Chair of the Global Leaders Network on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

“

We must stand firm against the reversals we are witnessing in sexual and reproductive health and rights... We believe that every woman has autonomy over her sexuality and reproductive choices. Every adolescent should get comprehensive sexual education.

”

Sidelines of TICAD9



His Excellency President Duma Boko

Chair of the Africa Leaders Malaria Alliance and President of the Republic of Botswana

“

“We need a private-public partnership Health accelerator that will drive the whole of society's progress towards the SDGs through sustainable, high-value health investments. For us in Africa, this will help us deliver the Africa we want.”

”

Sidelines of UNGA80



H.E. President William Samoei Ruto

President of Kenya and Member of the Global Leaders Network on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

“

As we look to Agenda 2023, our shared vision of a healthy and prosperous continent, we must confront a clear reality that Africa cannot build resilience on borrowed solutions and resources. The future of Africa's health financing lies in our hands”

”

Sidelines of UNGA80



Executive Summary

The Global Leaders Network for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health (GLN) had a consequential year in 2025, strengthening its political standing, expanding its membership, and securing critical global commitments for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health (WCAH).

G20 Breakthrough: WCAH Formalized in Leaders' Declaration: The GLN achieved a significant breakthrough at the G20 Leaders' Summit in November 2025, where the Declaration affirmed the "critical importance of investing in the health and well-being of all, including women, children and adolescents" and formally recognized the leadership of the GLN. Furthermore, GLN advocacy at the G20 Social Summit led to the inclusion of a call for mandatory SDG reporting via the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to enhance accountability.

New Financing Mechanisms Amid Funding Crisis: In response to the global health funding crisis and projected cuts to Official Development Assistance, the GLN launched a six-part Domestic Resource Mobilization webinar series to foster cross-country learning and increase fiscal space for WCAH. Additionally, following the UN General Assembly convening, the GLN and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) committed to cooperating on a gap financing mechanism to protect WCAH investments. The GLN also provided political backing to Botswana's proposed Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Health Accelerator to address the US\$66 billion health financing gap required for the SDGs. The PPP Health Accelerator is now a G20 legacy project and moving towards implementation.

Multi-Country Push for WCAH as Permanent AU Agenda Item: A core advocacy theme throughout 2025 was the continued momentum to secure WCAH as a standing agenda item at the African Union (AU) Summit. Initially proposed by Tanzania, publicly championed by South Africa's Health Minister during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May, reinforced by Senegal and Kenya during the African Regional Committee Meeting, and further called for by South Africa during the G20 Social Summit, members of the GLN have successfully called for stronger regional accountability for the health of women, children, and adolescents.

GLN Growth and Leadership: The network expanded its global reach to eleven confirmed Heads of State and Government, surpassing the initial target of ten, with new members including H.E. President Bassirou Diomaye Faye of Senegal and H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia. This growth has solidified the GLN as stronger network of Heads of State backed by a strong network of champions including Ministers of Health and Senior Technical Focal points as key entry points for technical and diplomatic advocacy.

Peer Learning Driving National Action: The network fostered crucial South-to-South learning, facilitating policy engagement between Liberia and South Africa on abortion policy reform, and enabling Malawi to plan the launch of the *m-mama* emergency referral system based on Tanzania's successful model.

Increasing Media Presence Ensuring Sustained WCAH visibility : The GLN has garnered an impressive mainstream media presence. It is extremely difficult to break through the current regional and global media environment, however, due to a strong and highly attentive communications team as well as strategic behind the scenes relationship building with

journalists and executive producers, the GLN has landed stories that have caught the attention of other countries, partners, the global health community, even ministers of finance.

Overall, 2025 positioned the GLN as a stronger, more trusted and more valued global health partner, moving WCAH commitments to a lasting priority on the global and regional political agenda.

2025 Snapshot: A Year of Decisive Action

38th African Union Summit



On the margins of the summit, GLN members Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, and Kenya reaffirmed their commitment to WCAH alongside regional partners.

G20 Health Working Group



First Senior Technical Focal Point meeting with the GLN Troika. Members agreed on four strategic priorities: UHC, domestic financing, SRHR, and sustained political commitment.

Strengthening Diplomatic Reach



First Ambassadorial Convening by H.E. Mr. Mxolisi Nkosi, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN in Geneva, to introduce the network, and discuss opportunities for advancing WCAH.

78th World Health Assembly



GLN members (Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa) joined a high-level side event at WHA78, collectively calling for WCAH to become a standing agenda item at the African Union.

High-Level Political Forum



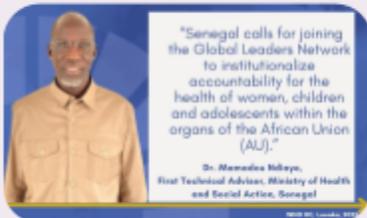
A GLN-supported ministerial side event reaffirmed collective commitment to the health-related SDGs, linking national reporting to the Network's accountability agenda.

TICAD9



GLN Chair H.E. President Ramaphosa issued an urgent call to counter the global pushback against SRHR, calling on counterparts to affirm every woman's right to reproductive health and bodily autonomy.

WHO Regional Committee for Africa



At the 75th WHO Regional Committee for Africa, Senegal called on African Ministers of Health to join the GLN and formalise WCAH as a standing AU agenda item.

UNGA 80



The GLN's third annual UNGA convening brought together four Heads of State and development leaders who reaffirmed unwavering commitment to WCAH and SRHR.

G20 Health Ministers' Meeting



The GLN convened a high-level event which established accountability pathways that would culminate in the landmark G20 Leaders' Declaration the following month

Four Pathways to Progress: GLN's Year of Strategic Gains for WCAH

To drive progress for women's, children's and adolescents' health at the highest political levels, the Global Leaders Network for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health focused its advocacy and diplomacy around four bold strategic priorities:

1. Increase investments in women's, children's, and adolescents' health
2. Promote progressive lawmaking to uphold sexual and reproductive health
3. Prioritize women, children and adolescents in the rollout of UHC
4. Sustain political will and commitment

1. Increase investments in women's, children's, and adolescents' health

In 2025, the Global Leaders Network anchored its advocacy and diplomacy around a clear message: investing in women's, children's, and adolescents' health is a moral, economic, and national development imperative.

The GLN backed country leadership across the Global South to protect and increase domestic investment, elevating South-led solutions through a domestic resource mobilisation webinar series and providing political support for the Public-Private Partnership Health Acceleration in partnership with H.E President Duma Boko.

1.1 Endorsing the Public-Private Partnership Health Accelerator

To respond to the growing global health financing gap, the GLN provided political backing for a new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiative led by H.E. President Duma Boko of Botswana. The PPP Health Accelerator is designed to mobilise private sector and diaspora investment in support of country priorities, focusing on four high-impact areas: expanding community health workers, strengthening health data systems, digitising supply chains, and eliminating preventable maternal, neonatal and adolescent deaths.

Endorsed in partnership with African Leaders Malaria Alliance and [reinforced by the leadership of the GLN](#) during the United Nations General Assembly, the Accelerator, an official G20 legacy project spearheaded by South Africa during its 2025 presidency, has gained strong momentum as a practical, Southern-led solution to sustain progress WCAH.

1.2 Strengthening Domestic Resource Mobilization

Responding to strong country demand for practical approaches to expanding fiscal space and financing WCAH, the GLN in collaboration with the South Africa National School of Government and PMNCH launched a six-part webinar series to foster cross-country learning on domestic resource mobilization. The first four sessions in 2025 drew more than 750 participants, including

government representatives and civil society, to explore practical strategies for expanding fiscal space for health.

Each webinar highlighted proven best practices from member states. During webinar three,



"Demystifying Blended Financing," Kenya showcased four practical models: the Transform Health Fund, the Open Doors African Private Healthcare Initiative, the Medical Credit Fund, and a UN-supported performance-based financing pilot, that collectively mobilized over \$175 million for healthcare SMEs, strengthening primary care, addressing supply chain gaps, and expanding access to underserved populations. During webinar four,

"Innovative Financing for WCAH: Leveraging Social Impact Bonds to Strengthen DRM," South Africa presented the Imagine Social Impact Bond, demonstrating how SIBs can achieve unprecedented HIV prevention and contraceptive uptake among adolescent girls and young women in under-resourced schools while transferring performance risk to private investors and limiting government payments to independently verified outcomes.

The series continues to support countries to translate political commitment into actionable, country-led solutions. Building on this momentum, the Global Leaders Network is exploring a follow-on initiative to provide more targeted support to countries seeking to apply the approaches highlighted in the series.

2. Promote progressive lawmaking to uphold sexual and reproductive health

Access to sexual and reproductive health services saves lives and underpins women's autonomy, health, and economic participation. While global unintended pregnancy rates have declined by nearly 20% in the past three decades, millions of women and adolescents still lack access to essential SRHR services. Based on UNFPA's latest estimates, in [69 countries](#) one in four women cannot make decisions about her own health care. Nearly half of all abortions worldwide are unsafe, accounting for up to [13%](#) of maternal deaths globally. a stark reminder that rights denied are lives put at risk.

Amid growing anti-rights pushback and the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule, which prohibits international Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) receiving U.S. funding from providing abortion services, counseling, or referrals, the Global Leaders Network continued championing sexual and reproductive health and rights as a core priority in 2025. Under the leadership of GLN Chair, H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa, the network positioned progressive

lawmaking to uphold SRHR as both a moral and economic imperative, underscoring gender equality, strong returns on investment, and broader social and economic benefits.

In 2025, the GLN advanced SRHR by brokering strategic partnerships to expand access to lifesaving services, facilitating South-to-South peer learning to scale proven, context-specific solutions, amplifying political leadership to counter growing pushback against reproductive rights and strengthening regional supply chains to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential commodities for women, children and Adolescents.

2.1 Standing firm for WCAH and SRHR at the AU

Immediately following the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule and deepening cuts to development assistance, the Global Leaders Network stood firm for women's, children's and adolescents' health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, at the African Union Summit. On the margins of the Summit, GLN and PMNCH convened senior political leaders and partners to reinforce the urgency of protecting SRHR amid shrinking resources and growing political resistance.

The Global Leaders Network Focal Points, including Honourable Minister Dr Mekdes Daba of Ethiopia, Honourable Minister Dr Austin Demby of Sierra Leone, and Kenya's Director of Family Health, Dr Issak Bashir, reaffirmed the need for decisive political leadership and sustained domestic and international financing to safeguard WCAH, including SRHR. Discussions underscored that fiscal constraints, aid volatility and anti-rights pushback cannot derail progress on UHC or the fulfilment of SRHR. Instead, leaders called for smarter use of limited resources, innovative and predictable financing, and stronger accountability to ensure that women, children and adolescents are not left behind.

2.2 Brokering a Strategic Partnership for Post Abortion Care in Liberia:

Liberia faces one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, with 742 women dying for every 100,000 live births. Unsafe abortion remains a leading, yet preventable, cause of these deaths. At the same time, severe cuts to development funding and growing global pushback against sexual and reproductive health and rights have made it even harder to expand lifesaving services. Despite the urgent need, only 28% of health facilities currently provide post-abortion care, leaving many women and adolescents without access to essential treatment.

Recognizing this critical gap, the Global Leaders Network brought together government leaders

and health partners to help strengthen access to care. In 2025, the GLN supported the creation of a key partnership between Liberia's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and Seed Global Health to expand post-abortion care services across the country.



"Our partnership with the Global Leaders Network opened doors for strategic collaborations like the one with Seed Global Health helping us integrate post-abortion care into our maternal health strategy and bridge a \$6 million funding gap left by USAID. GLN's technical support is guiding us toward resilient, country-owned solutions."

H.E. Dr. Louise M. Kpoto,
Minister of Health and Social Welfare,
Republic of Liberia

Government of Liberia Senior Leadership Meeting

Using its trusted relationships and political influence, the GLN convened partners and supported a country-led response to address this urgent challenge. This collaboration is helping expand services in high-need areas and promote more equitable access to care for women and adolescents most at risk.

2.3 Strengthening regional supply chains for SRHR

Delivering on sexual and reproductive health and rights depends on reliable access to essential medicines and supplies. Yet in today's shifting donor landscape, funding for SRHR, particularly for family planning commodities, is increasingly uncertain, placing hard-won progress at risk.

In response, the Global Leaders Network made sustainable financing and stronger supply systems a key advocacy priority throughout 2025, working closely with African Union institutions to advance regional solutions. This reflects the GLN's belief that political commitments alone are not enough: lasting progress requires resilient financing, stronger regional supply chains, and greater self-reliance in access to essential health commodities.

In June, the GLN participated in a key agenda-setting meeting convened by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to support the development of the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism. Through high-level advocacy, strategic engagement, and thought leadership, the GLN championed stronger regional procurement and local manufacturing systems, helping reduce costs, prevent supply disruptions, and strengthen African health sovereignty while ensuring continued access to critical SRHR commodities.

2.4 Facilitating South-to-South Peer Learning

As the first and only Southern-led diplomatic initiative for women's children's health, the GLN continued to prioritize peer learning between countries, and spotlighting achievements and progress. Public advocacy forums have provided opportunities to spotlight innovations and solutions, such as Nigeria's Head of State Dashboard, as shared by Dr. Muyi Aina, Executive Director / Chief Executive Officer, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) during the High-Level Political Forum, or Tanzania's reduction in maternal mortality by 80% within 7 years through stronger political commitment, an expanded health workforce, improved referral networks, and systematic maternal and perinatal death reviews,] and Liberia's strategy to integrate post-abortion care (PAC) into the national maternal health system .

Furthermore, closed-door, peer learning between countries has been a valued opportunity for members to dig deeper into pathways to create lasting change for women, children and adolescents.

In 2025 GLN facilitated a bilateral peer learning between Liberia to South Africa to share lessons from its successful experience in abortion policy reform, providing a valuable roadmap for rights-based legislative change. Similarly, the GLN facilitated South-to-South learning between Malawi and Tanzania, supporting Malawi to adapt lessons from Tanzania's successful m-mama

emergency referral and transportation system, with plans underway to launch a pilot district following this peer-to-peer exchange.

3. Prioritize women, children and adolescents in the rollout of UHC

Prioritising women's, children's and adolescents' health is essential to achieving universal health coverage (UHC). UHC is not only about expanding coverage, but about delivering integrated, high-quality, people-centred services across the life course, including sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services. When WCAH is not prioritised, health inequities deepen and health systems become less effective and less equitable.

In 2025, the GLN sought to influence major global partnerships, political strategies and multilateral forums to better align political commitments on the UHC agenda, with explicit prioritisation of women, children and adolescents. By championing investments in primary health care and a life-course, intersectional approach to UHC, the GLN advanced a vision in which every woman, child, and adolescent can access high-quality, equitable and affordable health services.

3.1 Grounding WCAH in the UHC global agenda on the margins of the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9)

Recognizing Japan's leadership on UHC and its role in shaping the global development agenda and in supporting the achievement of UHC, the GLN engaged at the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) with a view to promoting WCAH integration in the new global partnership on UHC. H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa's positioned UHC as a cornerstone of Africa's development agenda, and called for a prioritization of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (SRMNCAH) interventions – calling explicit attention to SRHR at a time when political pushback against gender and SRHR was rising.

3.2 Strengthening accountability through formal review process to deliver UHC for women, children and adolescents

Strong regional accountability is essential to improving the health of women, children and adolescents and achieving both the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063. While many political commitments exist, progress often slows because follow-up, reporting, and peer review mechanisms remain weak or inconsistent.

In sub-Saharan Africa, where maternal and child mortality rates remain the highest, progress on WCAH is not regularly reviewed through key African Union decision-making forums. As a result, commitments are not consistently tracked, lessons are not widely shared, and political momentum can fade between high-level meetings.



To help close this gap, the GLN made regional accountability a core priority in 2025, advocating for WCAH to become a standing agenda item within African Union (AU) processes. The GLN advanced this effort across global and regional platforms, including the World Health Assembly (WHA), the High-Level Political Forum, the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, and G20 discussions, helping to align political leadership with stronger systems for monitoring progress and sustaining action.

This coordinated advocacy approach helped translate regional demands into global accountability gains. Building on growing political momentum for institutionalised regional reporting, GLN advocacy at the [G20 Social Summit](#) contributed to the inclusion of a call for mandatory SDG reporting through the High-Level Political Forum. This outcome represents a concrete step towards reinforcing accountability for WCAH, linking African regional leadership with global monitoring mechanisms and strengthening sustained political follow-up beyond single summits or declarations.

Looking ahead, the Global Leaders Network will maintain focused political and diplomatic efforts to secure the formal adoption of WCAH as a standing agenda item within AU processes in collaboration with Member States and partners.



4. Sustain political will and commitment

In 2025, the Global Leaders Network played a critical role in sustaining political momentum for women's, children's and adolescents' health, keeping these priorities visible across global, regional and national platforms. Through high-level engagement, including recognition at the G20 Leaders' Summit and the third annual Heads of State event at UNGA, the GLN ensured continued political attention to women, children and adolescents. Alongside coordinated advocacy, strategic communications and an expanding network of champions, the GLN reinforced the political commitment needed to safeguard progress.

4.1 World's largest economies reaffirm the critical importance of WCAH

The Global Leaders Network delivered its most significant advocacy and diplomatic achievement by securing explicit language on WCAH in the [G20 Leaders' Declaration](#), which reaffirmed *"the critical importance of investing in the health and well-being of all, including women, children and adolescents, as a foundation for sustainable development."* The Leaders Declaration, endorsed by the world's largest economies, also formally acknowledged the leadership of the GLN.

This landmark outcome was achieved through sustained, coordinated political advocacy led by the GLN, working closely with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), and aligned to key G20 political moments throughout 2025. The Partnership and the GLN implemented a sustained media strategy, generating more than a dozen high-profile interviews, complemented by a targeted letter-writing campaign to G20 leaders. Thought leadership was amplified through a joint [Bloomberg op-ed](#) by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa and former Prime Minister of New Zealand Rt Hon Helen Clark. PMNCH and the GLN also convened a [ministerial-level event](#) as part of the formal agenda of the G20 Health Working Group meeting and co-hosted a [side event](#) ahead of the G20 Social Summit, engaging more than 800 participants. Global Leaders Network members were engaged throughout the process, including [Senior Technical Focal Points](#) who participated in the agenda-setting Health Working Group meeting in Durban, reinforcing the GLN's emphasis on Southern leadership.

4.2 Global Leaders Network sustained political leadership for WCAH during the UNGA

On the margins of the [79th United Nations General Assembly](#), the Global Leaders Network convened its [third annual UNGA event](#), calling for renewed political leadership and increased financial investment in WCAH, including SRHR. Co-hosted with the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) and the PMNCH, the event brought together four Heads of State and Government alongside development leaders at a time of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

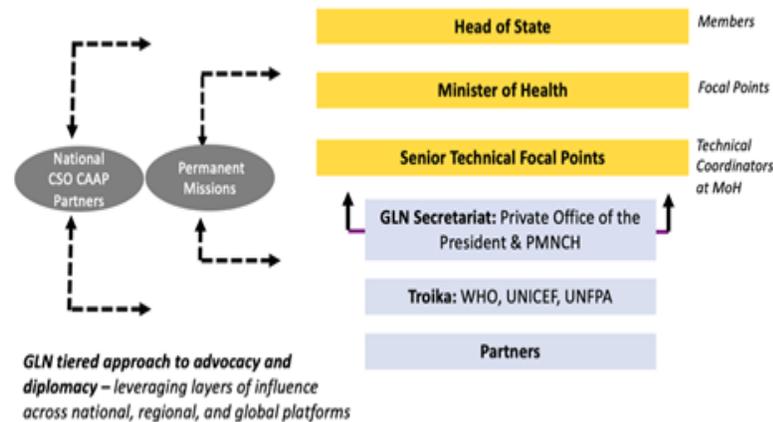
Against growing concern over stagnating progress towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, leaders underscored the need for urgent financial commitments, stronger partnerships, and coordinated action to protect the most vulnerable, including women, children and adolescents, and to prevent avoidable deaths from diseases such as malaria. GLN members reaffirmed their political commitment to their country, with [H.E. William Ruto, President of Kenya](#), emphasising: *“Together, let us rise to this moment. Let us prove that resilient health systems are the cornerstone of dignity, security and prosperity.”*

4.3 Expanding and Deepening Membership

The GLN's tiered engagement model, anchored by Heads of State and supported by Ministers of Health, Ministerial Senior Technical Focal Points, as well as Permanent Representatives, enabled sustained advocacy across political levels. Throughout 2025, regular bilateral engagements, all-country check-ins, and formal briefings ahead of major global platforms provided sustained opportunities for advocacy and diplomacy across the GLN.

The first in-person [Senior Technical Focal Point](#) brought together 10 member countries on the margins of the G20 Health Working Group. Together, the GLN reached consensus to center diplomacy and advocacy on four priorities: UHC, financing, SRHR, and political leadership commitment.

In 2025, coordinated talking points and key messages were routinely shared with members to support their engagement in decision-making forums and high-level public speaking roles. A monthly [newsletter](#) to focal points complemented these efforts by highlighting upcoming advocacy opportunities and sharing practical resources, including latest publications, research and messages on WCAH. Together, these actions strengthened the network's collective ability to elevate women's, children's and adolescents' health to the highest political level across diverse public fora.



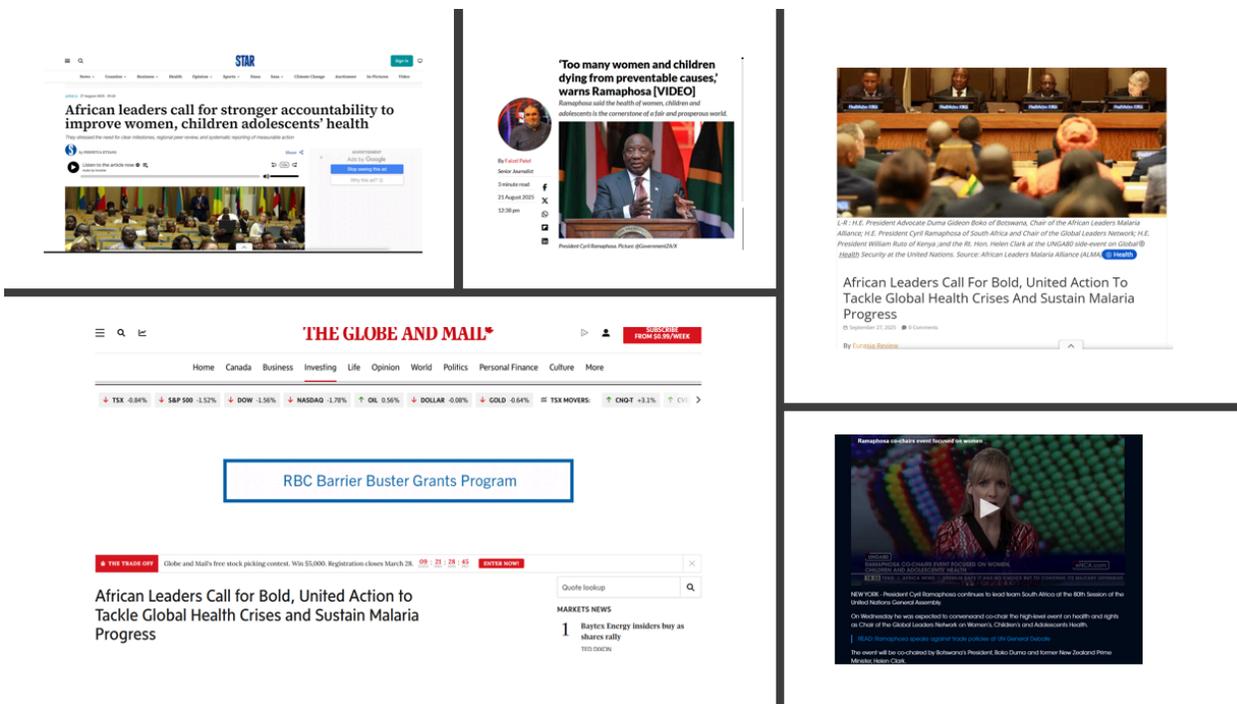
In 2025, the GLN strengthened and expanded its membership. With the confirmation of [President Bassirou Diomaye Faye](#) and [President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud](#), membership grew to eleven Heads of State and Government, exceeding President Ramaphosa's original target of ten members and reflecting growing trust in the network's mission.

1. H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa (South Africa) – Chairperson
2. H.E. Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen (Denmark)
3. H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ethiopia)
4. H.E. President William Samoei Ruto (Kenya)
5. H.E. President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. (Liberia)
6. H.E. President Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera (Malawi)
7. H.E. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (Nigeria)
8. H.E. President Bassirou Diomaye Faye (Senegal)
9. H.E. President Julius Maada Wonie Bio (Sierra Leone)
10. H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (Somalia)
11. H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan (Tanzania)

4.4 Ensuring women's, children's and adolescents' is a priority: Amplifying GLN thought leadership and raising visibility through champions

Women, children and adolescents make up the majority of the global population, yet media attention and political urgency for their health and rights remain persistently sidelined. Recognising this critical gap, the Global Leaders Network significantly scaled up its strategic communications and media engagement in 2025 to elevate women's, children's and adolescents' health within high-level political and public discourse.

Through a more deliberate, coordinated and high-impact communications approach, the GLN strengthened its role as a leading political voice in global health. The Network leveraged its diverse group of champions, including Heads of State, Ministers of Health and Senior Technical Focal Points, to deliver consistent, credible messaging across global, regional and national platforms, amplifying voices from the Global South and increasing issue salience at the moments that mattered most.



Throughout 2025, WCAH received consistent and sustained media attention across international and regional outlets. GLN champions participated in traditional media interviews, were featured in published articles, and contributed opinion pieces. These contributions reached audiences across print, digital and broadcast platforms, ensuring that the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents were reflected not only in political spaces but in wider public conversation.

Interviews



Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health of South Africa, reacts to the election of Professor Mohamed Yakub Janabi from Tanzania as the new WHO Regional Director for Africa, positioning Tanzania as a GLN member committed to regional



Dr. Kamil Shoretire reflects on Nigeria's COVID-19 response, with a focus on child malnutrition and protecting the most vulnerable. He shares Nigeria's position on the Pandemic Agreement, underscoring equity, preparedness, and global solidarity. A powerful voice from the GLN, reinforcing Africa's leadership on



Dr. Mebratu Massebo spotlights Ethiopia's leadership in evidence-based health reforms for women, children, and adolescents. Tying national efforts to global priorities at the WHA, he champions South-led, data-driven solutions. A compelling case for why Ethiopia is shaping the future of health



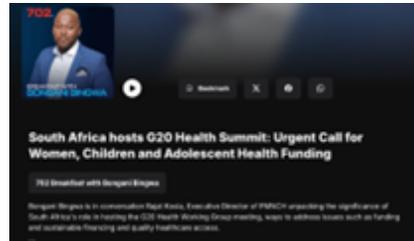
Hon Deputy Minister [Catherine Cooper](#), Liberia



Hon Minister [Aaron Motsoaledi](#), South Africa



[Anshu Banerjee](#), WHO



[Rajat Khosla](#), PMNCH



[Sibusiso Hlatiwako](#), PATH

The GLN's communications deployed at key moments of political influence demonstrated strong reach and resonance. During UNGA, the Global Leaders Network's flagship event generated 186 media and social media mentions, driven primarily by engagement on X (135 mentions) and coverage in news outlets (41 mentions), placing the GLN's advocacy among the most prominent during General Assembly week.

Growing recognition of the GLN's leadership has also created new opportunities for strategic partnerships, including with institutions such as Africa CDC, philanthropic foundations and other global health actors.

William Samoei Ruto, PhD @WilliamsRuto · Sep 25, 2025

Africa can and must finance its own health future. With ambition, innovation, and unity, we can deliver a future where every African enjoys quality, affordable healthcare, financed by Africa, for Africa.

At the same time, we call for urgent reform of the global health

[Show more](#)

African Leaders Malaria Alliance (@ALMA_2030) · Sep 25, 2025

Yesterday, @ALMA_2030 joined forces with @GLN_Community to convene a timely forum on the sidelines of #UNGA80.

Under the theme "Uniting for Global Health Security", African Heads of State and global leaders sounded the alarm on escalating threats to health exacerbated by

[Show more](#)

Country spotlight stories

Liberia – Youth-led leadership in family planning

In Liberia, the GLN amplified youth leadership in reproductive health through the op-ed [It Starts With the Youth](#), authored from the Ministry of Health's perspective. The piece elevated youth co-leadership in family planning and reinforced the case for sustained financing of youth-driven solutions.

It Starts With The Youth: Leveraging Youth-Led Solutions To Expand Access To Family Planning Services



CATEGORIES

- Africa Nations
- Business & Innovation
- Arts, Culture & Society
- Features & Opinion
- Latest News
- Happening
- Engage & Learn

HEADLINES

Sub-Saharan LPG Expo ...

Sierra Leone – Political leadership driving results

In Sierra Leone, the GLN featured [insights](#) from its Senior Technical Focal Point, Dr Lynda Farma, highlighting how strong political leadership and targeted strategies are translating commitment into improved child health outcomes.

Sierra Leone: From Political Will to Commitment - Sierra Leone's Vision for Transforming Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health



28 APRIL 2025

OPINION

By Dr. Lynda Farma

Investing in the health of women, children, and adolescents yields significant economic returns: increased productivity, reduced healthcare costs, and a more resilient future workforce. Yet, progress is stalling. Each year, approximately **5 million children die** before their fifth birthday—nearly half of these deaths are recorded in sub-Saharan Africa. A woman loses her life to pregnancy or childbirth every two minutes, or 70% of which also occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Meanwhile, the global adolescent birth rate for girls aged 10–14 stands at **1.5 per 1,000 women**, with disproportionately higher rates in the Global South, where access to education and reproductive healthcare remains limited.

About the Global Leaders Network

The Global Leaders Network for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health is the first and only Southern-led global health diplomacy initiative to support the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals related to women, children, and adolescents.

Initiated in 2023, this unique network of Heads of State and Government is chaired by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, with the support and membership of ten sitting Heads of State and Government. Current members include H.E. Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen of Denmark, H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia, H.E. President William Samoei Ruto of Kenya, H.E. President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr of Liberia, H.E. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria, H.E. President Bassirou Diomaye Faye of Senegal, H.E. President Julius Maada Wonie Bio of Sierra Leone, H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania, and H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia.

The Rt Hon Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, supports the GLN through her role as the Board Chair of PMMCH. The GLN's work is coordinated by the GLN Secretariat comprised of representatives of the South African Presidency, South African National Department of Health and PMNCH Secretariat.