

**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

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Executive Summary	4
2025 Snapshot: A Year of Decisive Action	5
Four Pathways to Progress: GLN's Year of Strategic Gains for WCAH	6
1. Increase investments in women's, children's, and adolescents' health	6
1.1 Endorsing the Public-Private Partnership Health Accelerator	6
1.2 Strengthening Domestic Resource Mobilisation	6
2. Promote progressive lawmaking to uphold sexual and reproductive health	7
2.1 Standing firm for WCAH and SRHR at the AU	8
2.2 Brokering a Strategic Partnership for Post-Abortion Care in Liberia:	8
2.3 Strengthening regional supply chains for SRHR	9
2.4 Facilitating South-to-South Peer-Learning	9
3. Prioritise women, children and adolescents in the rollout of UHC	10
3.1 Grounding WCAH in the UHC global agenda on the margins of the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9)	10
3.2 Strengthening accountability through formal review process to deliver UHC for women, children, and adolescents	11
4. Sustain political will and commitment	11
4.1 World's largest economies reaffirm the critical importance of WCAH	12
4.2 Global Leaders Network sustained political leadership for WCAH during the UNGA	13
4.3 Expanding and Deepening Membership	14
4.4 Ensuring women, children, and adolescents are a priority: Amplifying GLN thought leadership and raising visibility through champions	15
Country spotlight stories	18
About the Global Leaders Network	19



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 TICADs”



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 2030, 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”



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”



Executive Summary

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

G20 Breakthrough: WCAH Formalised 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 recognised 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 Mobilisation webinar series to foster cross-country learning and increase fiscal space for WCAH. Additionally, following the UN General Assembly, the GLN and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) committed to collaborating on a gap-filling financing mechanism to protect WCAH investments. The GLN also provided political backing for Botswana's proposed Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Health Accelerator to address the \$66 billion-dollar 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 and publicly championed by South Africa's Health Minister during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May, it was reinforced by Senegal and Kenya during the African Regional Committee Meeting. After being called for by South Africa again during the G20 Social Summit, members of the GLN have committed to 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. New members include H.E. President Bassirou Diomaye Faye of Senegal and H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia. This growth has solidified the GLN as a stronger network of Heads of State, backed by champions such as 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 and 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, through sustained engagement with media personnel, the GLN has landed stories that caught the attention of other countries, partners, the global health community, and the Ministers of Finance.

Overall, 2025 positioned the GLN as a stronger, more trusted and 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



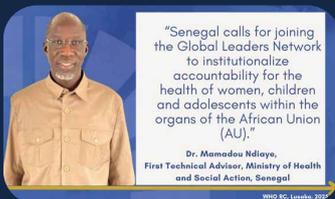
A GLN-supported ministerial side event reaffirmed collective commitment to the health-related SDGs, linking national reporting to the Network's accountability agenda.

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:

- Increase investments in women's, children's, and adolescents' health
- Promote progressive lawmaking to uphold sexual and reproductive health
- Prioritise women, children, and adolescents in the rollout of UHC
- 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 the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) 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 with WCAH.

1.2 Strengthening Domestic Resource Mobilisation

Responding to strong country demand for practical approaches to expanding fiscal space and financing WCAH, the GLN, in collaboration with the South African National School of Government and PMNCH, launched a six-part webinar series to foster cross-country learning on domestic resource mobilisation. 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 best-proven 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 mobilised 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 their own health care. Nearly half of all abortions worldwide are unsafe, accounting for up to [13%](#) of maternal deaths globally. This is 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 organisations (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 compare proven, context-specific solutions, encouraging 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, as well as sustained domestic and international financing to safeguard both WCAH and 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. Additionally, severe cuts to development funding and growing global pushback against sexual and reproductive health and rights have made it more challenging 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.

Recognising 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.





2.3 Strengthening regional supply chains for SRHR

Delivering on sexual and reproductive health and rights depends on reliable access to essential medical supplies. Yet in today's shifting donor landscape, funding for SRHR, particularly for family planning commodities, is increasingly uncertain. It places 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 regarding 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.

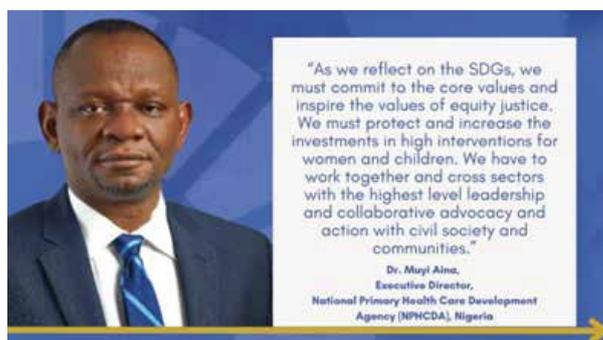
Using its trusted relationships and political influence, the GLN convened with partners and supported a country-led response to address this urgent challenge. This collaboration is helping to expand services in high-need areas and promote more equitable access to care for women and adolescents most at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

This helped 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, and adolescents' health, the GLN continued to prioritise peer-learning between countries, highlighting achievements and progress. Public advocacy forums have provided opportunities to emphasise innovations and solutions. For example, Nigeria's Head of State Dashboard, as shared by Dr. Muyi Aina, Executive Director / Chief Executive Officer of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), during the High-Level Political Forum. A second example is 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, as well as Liberia's strategy to integrate post-abortion care (PAC) into the national maternal health system.





Furthermore, closed-door, peer-learning among 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 bilateral peer-learning between Liberia and South Africa to share lessons from successful experiences regarding 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, plans to launch a pilot district following this peer-to-peer exchange are underway.

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

Prioritising women's, children's, and adolescents' health is essential for achieving universal health coverage (UHC). UHC is not only about expanding coverage, but about delivering integrated, high quality, people-oriented services across different age groups. This includes 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)



Recognising 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 goal to promote WCAH integration in the new global partnership on UHC. H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa positioned UHC as a cornerstone of Africa's development agenda, and called for a prioritisation 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 a formal review process to deliver UHC for women, children, and adolescents

Strong regional accountability is essential for improving the health of women, children, and adolescents in 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 involved throughout the process, including [Senior Technical Focal Points](#) who participated in the Health Working Group's agenda-setting meeting in Durban, reinforcing the GLN's emphasis on Southern leadership.

"We recognise the critical importance of investing in the health and well-being of all, including women, children, and adolescents, as a foundation for sustainable development and call upon all partners to intensify coordinated action and efforts to accelerate progress towards UHC."





The GLN Social Summit high-level event gathered over 800 participants, with strong representatives of the civil society community

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 by 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](#), emphasizing: “Together, let us rise to this moment. Let us prove that resilient health systems are the cornerstone of dignity, security, and prosperity.”

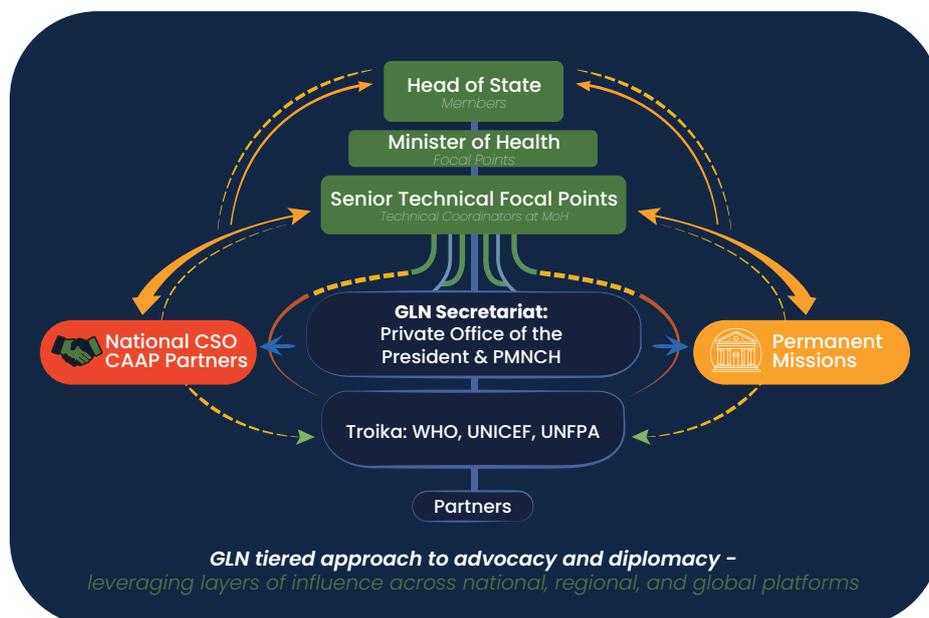




4.3 Expanding and Deepening Membership

The GLN's tiered engagement mode I, anchored by Heads of State and supported by Ministers of Health, Ministerial Senior Technical Focal Points, as well as Permanent Representatives, along with national CSO partners under the PMNCH-supported [Collaborative Advocacy](#) Action Plan (CAAP) initiative, 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 centre 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. This included the 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 reinforcing 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, children, and adolescents are 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 higher-level political and public discourses.

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.





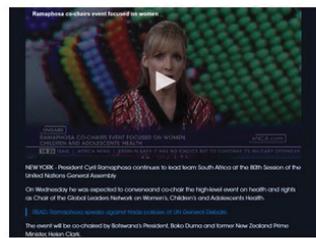
L-R: H.E. President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko of Botswana, Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance; H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and Chair of the Global Leaders Network; H.E. President William Ruto of Kenya and the Rt. Hon. Helen Clark at the UNIGAD side-event on COVID-19 Health Security at the United Nations. Source: African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA). [View video](#)

African Leaders Call For Bold, United Action To Tackle Global Health Crises And Sustain Malaria Progress

By [Tara Hilda Besebo](#)



RBC Barrier Buster Grants Program



Throughout 2025, WCAH received consistent, sustainable 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 showcased 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 leadership.



[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 global health.



[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 within the GLN.





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



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



[Anshu Banerjee](#), WHO

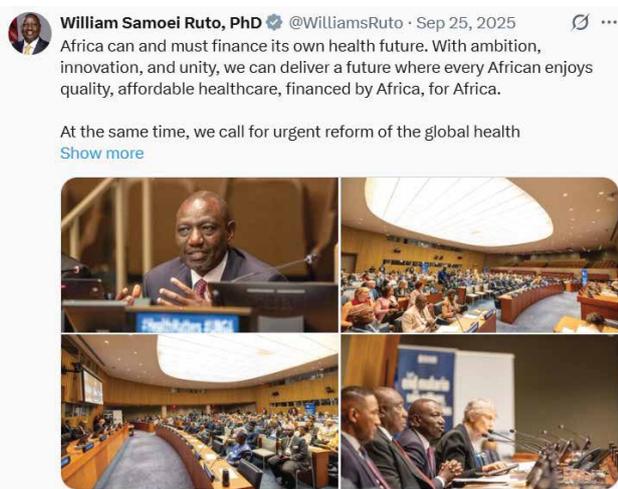


[Rajat Khosla](#), PMNCH



[Sibusiso Hlatjwako](#), PATH

The GLN's communications were deployed at key moments of political influence, demonstrating strong reach and resonance. During UNGA, the Global Leaders Network's flagship event generated 186 mentions on various media platforms, 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 institutions such as Africa CDC, philanthropic foundations, and other global health actors.



Country spotlight stories

Liberia – Youth-led leadership in family planning

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

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.

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



CATEGORIES

- Africa Nations
- Business & Innovation
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- Latest News
- Happening
- Engage & Learn

HEADLINES

Sub-Saharan LPG Expo ...

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



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, 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.

28 APRIL 2025



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 diplomatic health 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 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 Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera of Malawi, 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 Government of Malawi remains an active member in advancing the Network's shared objectives.

The Right Honorable 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 its Secretariat, comprised of representatives of the South African Presidency, South African National Department of Health, and PMNCH Secretariat.

