



EGYPTIAN VACCINE MANUFACTURERS ALLIANCE
التحالف المصري لمصنعي اللقاحات

The **Vac**ci-Nation Hub

Newsletter
ISSUE 2 - OCT. 2025



BEYOND THE BLUEPRINT: EVMA'S PROGRESS IN VACCINE LOCALIZATION



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Dr. Hisham Stait
Chairman of the Unified
Procurement Authority (UPA)

A UNIFIED VISION FOR AFRICA'S HEALTH FUTURE

The Unified Procurement Authority (UPA) is playing a central role in turning Egypt's vision for healthcare into a reality. Our mission goes beyond just securing medicine and supplies for Egypt; we act as a bridge connecting Egypt's national goals with the aspirations of the entire African continent. From the very beginning, we have understood that health leadership is built through careful planning and concrete action.

In recent years, Egypt has made remarkable progress in localizing vital industries, with vaccine manufacturing being a prime example. This aligns with Africa's clear goal of building strong, resilient, and equitable healthcare systems based on self-reliance.

The Africa CDC Health Strategy 2063 aims to empower public institutions, enhance health security, and achieve universal health coverage across the continent. In support of the African Union's goal to locally cover 60% of the continent's vaccine needs by 2040, the UPA launched the Egyptian Vaccines Manufacturing Alliance (EVMA).

Egypt is proud to have six vaccine manufacturing facilities, making it a key partner in the continent's health project.

UPA's pioneering efforts as a resilient procurement entity also position it to support the African Pool Procurement Mechanism (APPM), contributing to a more robust and self-sufficient African health landscape.

These achievements are in line with the African Authority's vision for institutional capacity building. As a testament to this, the UPA was chosen as a regional center for the RCCCN network in North Africa, in partnership with the Pasteur Institute in Morocco. This initiative aims to build and coordinate public health and biomanufacturing capacities.

Our goals are deeply rooted in Egypt's health strategy, which is founded on the pillars of quality, equity, sustainability, and governance.

Egypt extends its hand in sincerity to build a healthy future that meets the aspirations of its people.

Let us work together to empower Africa to meet its own needs and shape a healthy future with its own



Dr. Ali Al-Ghamrawy
Head of the Egyptian Drug
Authority (EDA)

EGYPTIAN DRUG AUTHORITY POWERING EGYPT'S VACCINE MANUFACTURING FUTURE

In the dynamic world of biomanufacturing, building local capacity is key to a healthier future. As Chairman of the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA), I'm honored to share our progress and participation in strengthening Egypt's position as a leader in vaccine production.

Our partnership with the Egyptian Vaccine Manufacturers Alliance (EVMA) is central to realizing Egypt's national objectives: increasing local vaccine production, achieving self-sufficiency, and establishing a robust presence in new export markets. The Egyptian Drug Authority is actively engaged in developing a dynamic regulatory framework that empowers our leading vaccine and biological product manufacturers to enhance national capabilities and accelerate Egypt's emergence as a regional powerhouse in biomanufacturing.

Furthermore, our commitment extends to fostering a skilled workforce that meets global standards. We are reinforcing our collaborative endeavors with the Regional Capability and Capacity Networks for Biomanufacturing workforce development (RCCN), an initiative operating under the Africa CDC. This strategic partnership provides essential training and capacity-building for technical and regulatory professionals according to WHO standards. This is a pivotal step toward achieving Africa's continent-wide vaccine manufacturing ambitions.

Together, we are not only strengthening our nation's health security but also solidifying Egypt's position as a leader in healthcare innovation and production on the African and global stages.



Dr. Amr Kandeel
Deputy Minister of Health
and Population

VACCINATIONS... THE SHIELD OF SOCIETY AND THE SECRET OF HEALTH SECURITY

Vaccinations are one of the greatest achievements of modern public health. They have directly contributed to protecting millions of lives and have successfully controlled diseases that once posed a serious threat to both children and adults, which acts as the first line of defense against outbreaks.

The Ministry of Health and Population ensures vaccine coverage rates remain above 95% at all levels in 27 provinces through the National Expanded Program of Immunization. To strengthen this success, the sector established the Children's Immunization Digitization Program, which links vaccination records with the national birth database, allowing real-time monitoring, quick identification of gaps, and timely action to protect every child.

Immunization digitization is more than an administrative tool; it is a strategic effort to promote health equity and ensure every child's right to protection. It also provides decision-makers with precise data that can shape future policies and strengthen the health system's ability to handle epidemic challenges.

Investing in vaccinations is truly investing in the future. The digitization program illustrates Egypt's commitment to using modern technology to serve children's health and protect society from infectious diseases, making sure the nation remains strong and secure, reducing morbidity and mortality rates, but also by strengthening community immunity.



By Dr. Hesham Badr
Vice Chairman
Unified Procurement Authority (UPA)

EVMA: A MILESTONE IN EGYPT'S JOURNEY TOWARD VACCINE SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The establishment of the **Egyptian Vaccine Manufacturers Alliance (EVMA)** marks a defining milestone in Egypt's pursuit of **vaccine self-sufficiency and health security**.

EVMA was born of a shared national determination to ensure that **safe, effective, and affordable vaccines** are accessible to every Egyptian — and to our African neighbors.

Launched under Egypt's **National Strategy for Localizing Vaccine Production (2024–2030)**, the EVMA ecosystem unites the country's leading vaccine manufacturers, national authorities, and international technology partners. It embodies Egypt's transition from reliance on imports to a model of **sustainable, knowledge-driven manufacturing**, reinforcing preparedness for future health emergencies and strengthening supply-chain resilience.

During its first year, the Alliance has moved decisively from concept to action. Under the leadership and coordination of the **Unified Procurement Authority (UPA)**, EVMA has concluded several **strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with international technology providers and regional partners. These partnerships lay the foundation for **technology transfer, regulatory strengthening, and advanced workforce development** across Egypt's manufacturing base. This progress is further supported by the **European Union's technical cooperation**, ensuring alignment with global quality and regulatory standards.

EVMA has also elevated Egypt's **regional leadership**. The Alliance is actively engaged in continental cooperation mechanisms — including the **African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM)** consultations, the **Africa CDC's harmonization initiatives**, and Egypt's participation in the **Regional Center for Regulatory Capacity Networking (RCCN)** for North Africa. Through these efforts, EVMA contributes directly to the African Union's vision of producing **60 percent of the continent's vaccines by 2040**, positioning Egypt as both a producer and a **trusted partner** in advancing Africa's collective health resilience.

As EVMA enters its second year, we take pride in the solid foundations laid — yet remain focused on the challenges ahead: **expanding production pipelines, achieving WHO prequalification, and deepening African market access**.

EVMA's strength lies in its **collaborative foundation** — where public and private sectors, national expertise, and international partnerships work in concert toward a single goal: a **self-reliant and regionally connected Egypt**.

This Alliance is more than an industrial platform; it is a **national mission** that reflects Egypt's leadership, scientific excellence, and enduring commitment to its people and its continent.

Together, we are building the future of vaccine manufacturing — for Egypt, for Africa, and for generations to come.

Egyptian Drug Authority Powering Egypt's Vaccine Manufacturing Future



Reflecting Egypt's strategic goals of increasing local vaccine production, achieving self-sufficiency, and expanding into new export markets, **the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) has intensified its collaboration with the Egyptian Vaccine Manufacturers Alliance (EVMA)**. This alliance, comprising Egypt's leading vaccine and biological product manufacturers, is working with the EDA to foster a supportive regulatory framework, enhance national manufacturing capabilities, and accelerate Egypt's emergence as a regional leader in vaccine innovation and production.

In an effort to advance Egypt's role in vaccine regulation and biomanufacturing, the **Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA)** is continuing to **strengthen its collaborative endeavors** with **the Regional Capability and Capacity Networks for Biomanufacturing workforce development (RCCN)**. This initiative empowers technical and regulatory professionals through focused training programs. By leveraging RCCN's function as a **regional hub** for training and capacity building, operating under the aegis of **the Africa CDC**, this partnership is instrumental in **supporting EVMA members** and other regional stakeholders. Its aim is to **facilitate the adherence to WHO standards** and contribute significantly to the realization of **Africa's vaccine manufacturing aspirations**.

Strategic Collaboration for Enhanced Vaccine Production & Self-Sufficiency:

- In February 2025, Egypt hosted **the 2nd vaccine and other health products manufacturing forum** for **African union member states** which held to ensure that sustainable efforts to manufacture vaccines and other priority health products in Africa are effectively coordinated and discuss vaccine production plans and capacities for localized vaccine production.
- Egypt was selected as **a Co-host for Regional capability and capacity networks for Biomanufacturing workforce development (RCCN)** in partnership with Morocco.
- Egypt has successfully secured support of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to establish a **regional biomanufacturing hub** for North Africa.
- The Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) offers comprehensive **technical and procedural support** to companies manufacturing vaccines and biological products. Currently, there are around **23** production lines for biological products. In **the first half of this year**, approximately **122** batches of imported or locally produced vaccines were released. Furthermore, **3** vaccines were registered and **15** vaccines are currently under registration during the same period.

A Focus on Capacity Building:

- In May 2025, **Africa CDC, partnering with RCCN and EDA**, launched new biomanufacturing and industrial **fellowship programmes**. These initiatives will train **a top-tier workforce** and **leaders** for Africa's biomanufacturing sector.

The Industrial Fellowship Programme in Vaccine Manufacturing will equip graduates with technical skills vital for **scaling vaccine R&D** and **production** to meet the PAVM 2040 goal of quadrupling the workforce to **12,500 full-time employees**. Concurrently, the Biomanufacturing Fellowship Programme will enhance professionals' capacity across Africa with advanced, practical training in biomanufacturing, focusing on vaccines and therapeutics.

- **The Africa CDC Biomanufacturing Fellowship Programme** aims to build a group of knowledgeable **African professionals**. These individuals will lead the way in **innovation and management in vaccine and biologics manufacturing**. This important initiative seeks to bring about **a new era of self-sufficient biotechnological growth** on the continent, supported by local talent and forward-thinking leadership.

● EVMA RCCN Steering Committee Meetings:

- The EVMA RCCN Steering Committee held **its first online meeting** on May 5, 2025. Stakeholders collaborated to define **the committee's framework and responsibilities**. Key directives included:
 - Developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to outline cooperation.
 - Identifying experts for upcoming programs.
 - Proposing a guiding manual for the EVMA RCCN network to detail frameworks, activities, responsibilities, and workflows for fellowship programs.
- **The second meeting**, on May 19, 2025, involved **reviewing and providing feedback** on Africa CDC's submitted fellowship programs.
- On June 12, 2025, the committee met at the Unified Procurement Authority where discussions focused on **clarifying feedback regarding Africa CDC's programs** and **finalizing the MoU** for a workshop scheduled for June 26-27 during the Africa Health Excon.
- **The EVMA RCCN workshop**, held during the Africa Health ExCon on June 26–27, 2025, focused on clarifying **the roles of institutions within the North Africa Regional Center for Capabilities and Networking (NA-RCCN)**. The first day featured interactive discussions from **Egyptian entities and presentations from Moroccan counterparts**. Across both days, stakeholders engaged in panel discussions that led to key agreements:
 - Prioritizing job roles from the Africa CDC curricula based on training needs and feasibility in Egypt and Morocco.
 - Defining the NA RCCN's organizational structure, with both countries proposing frameworks to guide joint training implementation.
- To further assist companies, the EDA provides **technical guidance** for obtaining World Health Organization Prequalification (WHO PQ) and other international certifications.

The ongoing collaboration between **the EDA and EVMA** stands as **a model of industrial development**, and **regional leadership in vaccine manufacturing**. Through strategic initiatives—including regular coordination, technical capacity building, and follow-up for technology transfer—the partnership is laying a strong foundation for sustainable growth. With upcoming fellowship programs and training initiatives, Egypt continues to invest in the future workforce needed for Vaccines Localization.



EVMA'S GLOBAL REACH: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FUELS LOCAL HEALTH INITIATIVES



A €500,000 Boost for Vaccine Localization



In a significant development for Egypt's healthcare future, the Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement and Medical Technology Management (UPA) and the European Union, represented by the European Commission Delegation to Egypt, have signed a Statement of Declaration. This crucial agreement earmarks €500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Euros) from the EU Commission to bolster the development of Egypt's National Strategy for Vaccine Manufacturing Localization.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of International Cooperation, this collaboration signifies a robust commitment to achieving self-sufficiency in health products for Egypt. The UPA is entrusted with the implementation of this vital strategy, with the EVMA serving as its executive arm.



The overall objective of this initiative is to sustainably implement national plans aimed at achieving local self-sufficiency in health product manufacturing and ensuring equitable access for the population, thereby contributing to the Global Health Strategy. Specifically, this partnership will support the demand and supply of locally produced goods, including forecasting, procurement, and distribution of health products.

The EU Commission, with the support of the UPA, will be responsible for the successful execution and delivery of the National Strategy for Vaccine Manufacturing Localization. This includes overseeing and ensuring the completion of several key deliverables, such as:

- An updated Egypt National Strategy for Vaccine Manufacturing Localization (2024-2030) and its implementation plan.
- Development of a detailed implementation plan outlining annual financial capital costs, investment strategies, technology transfer frameworks, and procurement roadmaps.
- Strategic recommendations for aligning regulatory frameworks with WHO, EMA, and Africa CDC standards to expedite vaccine approvals.
- Establishment of a framework to support sustainable Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) with legal structures for technology transfer and investment protection.
- Development and implementation of comprehensive training initiatives to enhance regulatory competence and manufacturing capabilities, including EU-Africa knowledge exchange.
- Formulation of a digitalization strategy, including a plan for digital tools and platforms to support technology transfer, regulatory compliance, and knowledge-sharing.
- Development of strategies for expanding Egypt's vaccine market within AfCFTA and COMESA regions, leveraging the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM).
- Submission of key reports and deliverables as detailed in the Terms of Reference.

Both the EU Commission and the UPA have committed to close collaboration and coordination throughout this initiative to ensure its effective and efficient implementation. This Statement of Declaration underscores the mutual understanding and commitment of all parties towards the successful development and implementation of the National Strategy for Vaccine Manufacturing Localization in Egypt.



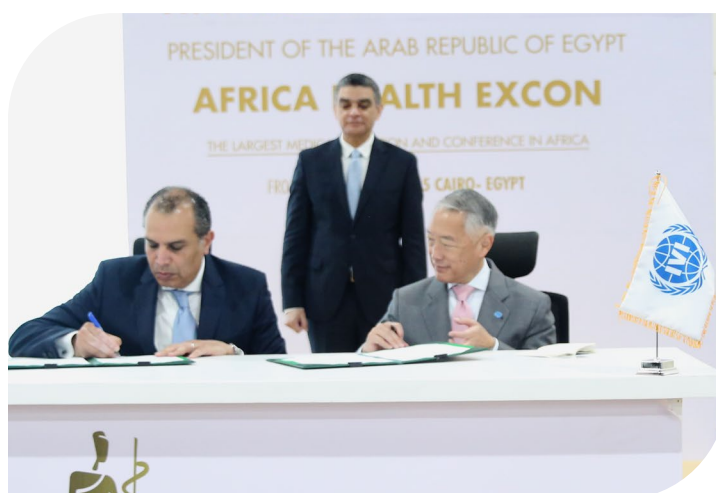
This landmark partnership, combined with EVMA's continued efforts, marks a significant step forward in securing Egypt's and the region's health future through robust local vaccine manufacturing.

UPA and IVI Sign Memorandum of Understanding



The Egyptian Vaccine Manufacturers Alliance (EVMA) is pleased to announce a significant stride in enhancing Egypt's healthcare capabilities and global health initiatives. The Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement, Medical Supply and Medical Technology Management (UPA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI). This non-binding MOU sets the framework for a collaborative relationship aimed at strengthening global health through human capital development, technology transfer, joint resource mobilization, and regional capacity building.

The International Vaccine Institute (IVI), an autonomous not-for-profit international organization established in 1997 by the United Nations Development Program, is exclusively dedicated to vaccine research and development in developing countries to accelerate the availability of needed vaccines. The UPA, a public economic authority established under Law No. 151 of 2019, manages and executes procurement processes for pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and human medical appliances for all governmental bodies and public authorities in Egypt. The UPA's core objective is to ensure equitable, timely, and sustainable access to safe, effective, and quality-assured medicinal and health products across the country, committed to a robust, transparent, and efficient supply chain.



Both Parties share a common vision of fostering sustainable partnerships, leveraging complementary expertise, and promoting equitable access to health technologies. This MOU outlines several key areas of cooperation:

- Human Capital Development and Capacity Building:** This includes the joint implementation of training programs and technical workshops, as well as support for institutional and workforce capacity strengthening.
- Technology Transfer Support:** The MOU facilitates knowledge and technology exchange and supports the scale-up and localization of relevant technologies.

Resource Mobilization through Joint Grant Applications: The parties will jointly identify funding opportunities and co-develop and submit grant proposals to secure financial resources.

Support for Pooled Procurement Mechanisms: This involves exploring opportunities to enhance pooled procurement systems and promoting equitable access to essential public health commodities.

Support to Regional Capacity and Capability Networks: The collaboration aims to strengthen regional manufacturing and research networks and provide strategic input and technical assistance to regional platform technologies.

While the MOU is largely non-binding, certain provisions, such as confidentiality, limitation of liability, governing law, dispute resolution, intellectual property, and force majeure clauses, are legally binding. The MOU has an initial term of five years from the effective date of the last signature, unless terminated sooner.

This collaboration between UPA and IVI signifies a strategic alignment to advance public health goals, particularly in vaccine development and accessibility. Through these joint efforts, Egypt is poised to further enhance its capabilities in vaccine manufacturing and contribute significantly to global health security.



BOOSTING VACCINE LOCALIZATION

EVMA MEMBERS LANDMARK COLLABORATIONS FROM AFRICA HEALTH EXCON



AFRICA
HEALTH
ExCon

VBC and Sinopharm Sign Landmark MOU at Africa Health ExCon to Boost Egypt's Vaccine Production



In a major step towards strengthening Egypt's vaccine manufacturing capabilities, **Vaccines and Biotechnology City (VBC)**, a member of the Egyptian Vaccine Manufacturers Alliance (EVMA), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **China National Biotech Group Company Limited (CNBG) - Sinopharm**. The signing took place on June 25, 2025, during the EVMA Day event at Africa Health EXcon, with the EVMA operating under the auspices of the Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement (UPA).

The MOU outlines a strategic partnership focused on the **technology transfer and local manufacturing of several human vaccines** in Egypt. This collaboration is set to significantly contribute to the national strategy for vaccine localization and enhance the country's self-sufficiency in crucial health products.



The signing ceremony was a high-profile event, attended by key figures from both sides. **His Excellency Dr. Hesham Stait**, President of the Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement (UPA), was present to witness the milestone. Representing VBC were **Major General Dr. Mohsen Azouz**, VBC Chairman, and **Dr. Esraa Refaat**, Technical Assistant to the Chairman and CEO. From CNBG - Sinopharm, the delegation included **Ms. LI Xiuling**, Vice President; **Ms. XU Tianfang**, Country Business Manager, Global Business Unit; and **Mr. XU Ye**, Deputy Manager, International Cooperation Dept. of Beijing Institute Biological Products Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of CNBG.

This partnership is a testament to the growing global recognition of Egypt's potential as a regional hub for vaccine production and supply. The technology transfer from Sinopharm will enable VBC to leverage advanced expertise and accelerate the local manufacturing process, ultimately ensuring a more secure and accessible supply of vaccines for the Egyptian population and beyond.



Gennvax Forges Strategic Global Alliances to Bolster Egypt's Vaccine Self-Reliance



Gennvax, an active member of the Egyptian Vaccines Manufacturers Alliance (EVMA) operating under the leadership of the Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement (UPA), has significantly advanced Egypt's 2030 localization vision with a series of landmark agreements signed at Africa Health ExCon. These partnerships with global leaders in vaccine manufacturing—Vacsera & Minhai (China), AJ Vaccines (Denmark), and Zydus (India)—are designed to strengthen Egypt's self-reliance, enhance regional supply security, and expand equitable access to life-saving immunizations across Africa. The collaborations represent pivotal steps toward sustainable vaccine manufacturing in Egypt and align with continental goals to ensure Africa's ability to meet its own public health needs.



1st Agreement | Toll manufacturing agreement with Vacsera

Gennvax Egypt has signed a toll manufacturing agreement with Vacsera for the local production of the PCV13 conjugate vaccine in bulk, ready-to-fill form. This marks the first phase of a comprehensive technology transfer agreement between **Gennvax and Minhai**, one of China's leading vaccine manufacturers, extending up to the upstream production stage. Additionally, under the terms of the signed agreement, Minhai has granted Gennvax the rights to export the vaccine to African markets, reinforcing Gennvax's commitment to expanding access to high-quality vaccines across the continent.



2nd Agreement | Localization agreement with AJ VACCINES

Gennvax has signed a strategic agreement with AJ Vaccines, a leading Danish biopharmaceutical company, a technology transfer agreement to start as a first phase by the supply of bulk ready-to-fill inactivated polio vaccine (IPV - Salk). The agreement was signed in the presence of Dr. Hesham Sayed Setat, Head of the Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement (UPA); the Chargé d'Affaires of the Danish Embassy in Egypt; Dr. Nibal Dahaba, Co-founder and General Manager of Gennvax; and Mr. Ole , CEO of AJ Vaccines. This collaboration represents a key milestone in the broader technology transfer agreement between both parties, and includes provisions for export to African markets, reinforcing Gennvax's role in advancing local manufacturing and regional vaccine accessibility.

3^{ed} Agreement | Localization agreement with ZYDUS

Gennvax Expands Strategic Collaboration with Zydus to Strengthen Vaccine Supply in Egypt and Africa

Gennvax has signed an expansion to its collaboration agreement with Zydus, one of India's leading pharmaceutical companies, to enhance regional vaccine access and manufacturing capabilities. The amended agreement activates the supply of bulk ready-to-fill bulk for inactivated vaccines and introduces secondary packaging services for live attenuated vaccines. Additionally, the contract's territorial scope has been extended from Egypt to include the entire African continent.



This expanded partnership covers six essential vaccines and sera:

- Rabies vaccine (one of only three WHO-prequalified rabies vaccines globally)
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- MR (Measles, Rubella)
- Tetanus-Diphtheria
- Typhoid
- Bivalent Monoclonal antibodies - Rabies



The agreement was signed in the presence of Dr. Hesham Setaat, Head of the Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement (UPA); the Ambassador of India to Egypt; the Global Commercial Head of Zydus; and Dr. Nibal Dahaba, Co-founder and General Manager of Gennvax.

This milestone reflects Gennvax's ongoing commitment to strengthening vaccine self-reliance in Egypt and Africa, leveraging strategic partnerships to ensure sustainable and equitable access to life-saving immunizations.

Sanofi & Biogeneric Pharma Advances Technology Transfer With Influenza Vaccine Localization Agreement



Sanofi & BGP takes the Localization vision into action with the first step in the influenza vaccine technology transfer process in Egypt

Introduction

In June 2025, Sanofi and Biogeneric Pharma signed an agreement to kick off phase 1 of Influenza vaccine localization after signing MoU during EVMA kick off in Nov 2024. This agreement acts a significant milestone in influenza Vaccine technology transfer journey in Egypt with phased steps approach. Sanofi and BGP are proud to announce that the first batch doses were delivered to Ministry of Health stores to start using prior to Flu season 2025/2026 after only 3 months of signing this agreement.

This agreement represents the first concrete step in building local capabilities for influenza vaccine production, reinforcing Sanofi's & BGPs commitment to supporting Egypt's public health priorities and advancing regional vaccine self-sufficiency inline with Egypt Healthcare Vision 2030 under guidance of the *EVMA and MoH vision 2030*.

Key Highlights

1 First Step in Technology Transfer

This agreement lays the foundation for not only influenza vaccine technology transfer process but also paves the way for expansion of other Vaccines product that will enables local operations to adopt international quality standards and best practices while developing critical expertise and workforce development in the local pharmaceutical sector.

2 Successful Economic Partnership model

This milestone witnesses the first real application of Economic Partnership model. Future phases will expand collaboration, scale up manufacturing processes, and ensure greater vaccine security for Egypt and the region.

3 Commitment to Public Health

By initiating the technology transfer process, Sanofi reaffirms its dedication to strengthening Egypt's healthcare infrastructure and ensuring timely, reliable access to essential vaccines for the population.



BGP Secures Strategic Partnership to Advance Biomanufacturing in Saudi Arabia



In **July 2025**, BioGeneric Pharma (BGP) formalized a major **Strategic Partnership with GWM Saudi Arabia**. This landmark agreement is crucial to the **localization of vaccine and biologics manufacturing** capabilities, providing direct support to the national objectives of **Saudi Vision 2030**.



The core focus of this alliance is to:

- **Transfer Technology:** Execute comprehensive technology transfer for vaccine production, leading to the development and construction of a new, advanced manufacturing facility within the Kingdom.
- **Access Markets:** Secure BGP's formal and sustainable entry into the Saudi market.
- **Collaborate on Development:** Jointly create innovative licensing and local manufacturing models.

BGP and GWM share a unified commitment to elevating local industry, accelerating innovation, and positioning Saudi Arabia as a **leading regional biomanufacturing hub**, ultimately enhancing public health security throughout the wider region.

BGP Successfully Advances in WHO mRNA Technology Transfer Programme

In August 2025, BGP successfully completed a critical phase of the WHO-supported mRNA Technology Transfer Programme, working in close collaboration with Afrigen Biologics in Cape Town, South Africa. This milestone signifies a pivotal step toward establishing robust regional capacity for the manufacturing of next-generation vaccines and therapeutics.

BGP team acquired invaluable, hands-on expertise in the core processes of mRNA production and Quality Control, culminating in the laboratory scale phase and proof of concept.

This strategic program underscores BGP's commitment to:

- Building sustainable local expertise in cutting-edge biotechnology.
- Accelerating access to innovative health technologies across the African region



Gennvax Expands African Collaboration: Strengthening Health Partnerships Across Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Kenya



Cairo – October 2025:

Gennvax, Egypt's pioneering vaccine manufacturer and a proud member of the **Egyptian Vaccines Manufacturers Association (EVMA)**, continues to advance its mission of regional vaccine self-sufficiency and health security across Africa. In coordination with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt** and national embassies, Gennvax has successfully completed a series of high-level visits to **Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Kenya**, establishing new frameworks for cooperation in vaccine access, regulatory collaboration, and sustainable development.

Zimbabwe: Opening Pathways for Vaccine Access and Regulatory Cooperation

In Zimbabwe, Gennvax signed an Expression of Interest (EOI) with the Hon. Dr. Douglas Mombeshora, Minister of Health and Child Care, to initiate a strategic partnership focused on:



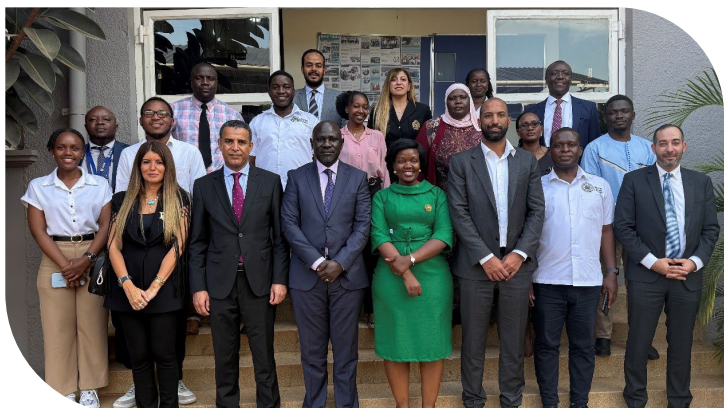
- Facilitating access to Gennvax's vaccine portfolio to meet national health needs;
- Supporting technical training and knowledge exchange for local professionals;
- Exploring opportunities for technology transfer and local capacity building;
- Enhancing regulatory and quality assurance capabilities.

The visit also included a pivotal meeting with the **Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ)**, led by **Dr. Zivanai Makoni**, where both parties agreed to pilot the first vaccine registration submission through MCAZ's newly established online platform — positioning Egypt and Gennvax as the platform's inaugural collaborators.

Gennvax also formalized collaboration with **NatPharm**, Zimbabwe's national procurement partner, represented by **Mr. Newman B. Madzikwa**, to coordinate vaccine distribution and public health initiatives.



"The Egyptian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, H.E. Hala Serag El-Din, and the embassy team extended full support to our national project, reflecting a shared commitment between Egypt and Zimbabwe toward vaccine self-sufficiency across Africa," said Gennvax representatives.



Uganda: Strengthening Health Systems Through Innovation and Capacity Building

In Kampala, Gennvax held productive meetings with the **Ugandan Ministry of Health**, represented by **Hon. Margaret Muhanga Mugisa**, Minister of State for Primary Health Care, and **Hon. Anifa Kawooya Bangirana**, Minister of State for General Duties. Both parties agreed to sign a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** formalizing future cooperation, alongside an official **letter of support** from the Ministry.

The partnership aims to:

- Improve access to essential vaccines for Uganda's population;
- Build local expertise through technical training and knowledge transfer;
- Support infrastructure development and research capacity in vaccine production.



Further discussions with Uganda's **Ministry of Science and Innovation** focused on **joint R&D initiatives**, including upgrading laboratory infrastructure, conducting clinical trials for next-generation vaccines, and enhancing **quality assurance systems** through capacity-building programs.

Kenya: Integrating Health and Sustainability



In Kenya, Genvax's engagement with the **Ministry of Health** has advanced toward a finalized **MoU** supporting national health priorities and the country's path to **vaccine self-reliance**.

Demonstrating its broader commitment to sustainable development, Genvax proudly sponsored **Kenya's Ministry of Health National Day** on October 6, in collaboration with **Dr. Mary Muthoni Muriuki**, Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards.

As part of this event, Genvax:

- **Planted 200 trees** and launched school-based awareness campaigns on environmental stewardship;
- Promoted integration of **green practices** into public health programs;
- Committed to monitoring long-term impact through growth tracking and community engagement metrics.



These initiatives reinforce Genvax's vision of linking **public health** and **environmental sustainability**, ensuring a lasting social and ecological impact.

A UNIFIED VISION

***EVMA DAY PANELS
CONNECT POLICY,
REGULATION, AND MARKET
DYNAMICS FOR
VACCINE SUCCESS***

Panel 1

The discussion centered on Egypt's strategic commitment to becoming a regional hub for vaccine production. The panel featured distinguished experts, including Dr. Hesham Badr (UPA Vice chairman), Dr. Rady Hammad (Head of preventive and public health sector-MOHP), Dr. Rasha Zeyada (EDA chairman assistant for Technical development and capacity building), Dr. Nema Saeed Abid (WHO Representative -Egypt), and Dr. Wessam Mankoula (Africa CDC -Regional director of northern RCC).



The panel was moderated by
Dr. Rania Mohsen
UPA Project Management Director

Governmental Framework for Vaccine Localization aligned with key international organizations



Dr. Rasha Zeyada
EDA Chairman assistant for
technical development and
capacity building affairs



Dr. Rady Hammad
Head of Preventive &
Public Health Sector
MOHP



Dr. Hesham Badr
UPA Vice Chairman



Dr. Nema Abd
WHO Representative
EGYPT



Dr. Wessam Mankoula
Regional Director for Northern
RCC, Africa CDC



KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

1 Fragmentation

Local vaccine manufacturing is fragmented across multiple uncoordinated facilities, which can lead to quality inconsistencies and operational inefficiencies.

2 Economic Viability

The panel discussed the economic challenges of achieving mass production and economies of scale in biological manufacturing.

3 Import Dependency

Local vaccine manufacturing is fragmented across multiple uncoordinated facilities, which can lead to quality inconsistencies and operational inefficiencies.

4 Regulatory Hurdles

The panel discussed the economic challenges of achieving mass production and economies of scale in biological manufacturing.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND COMMITMENTS

- **Strategic Collaboration:** EVMA aims to transform competition among local manufacturers into strategic collaboration, encouraging them to complement each other's capabilities to improve efficiency and resource utilization.
- **Quality and Surveillance:** The MOHP committed to cooperating with stakeholders to apply quality and surveillance expertise, ensuring the safety and effectiveness of locally produced vaccines.
- **Capacity Building:** The EDA will support EVMA and manufacturers through training and capacity-building initiatives.
- **Aligning with Continental Agenda:** The Africa CDC outlined a continental agenda to prioritize diseases and collect data on vaccine demands to direct local manufacturing efforts.

As Dr. Wessam Mankoula from the Africa CDC stated, "If you wanna go fast, you go alone But, If you gonna go far you need to go together and Africa decided to Go far"



Panel 2

The second panel, "National Manufacturers and Market Research Insights". The discussion focused on critical barriers to vaccine market access in Africa and the need for stronger collaboration and investment. Panelists included representatives from Gyptopharma, Vacsera, VBC, UNICEF, RVMC, CHAI, and Afriximbank.



Moderated by
Dr. Mostafa Ghorab
UPA

National Manufacturers and Market Research Insights



Mr. Luigi BonFatti
RVMC
Executive Advisor



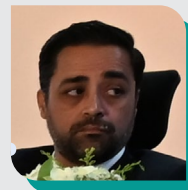
Dr. Amr Mamdouh
Chairman and CEO,
Gypto Pharma



Ms. Louise Enevoldse
UNICEF Procurement
Services Senior
Team Member



Major General Dr. Mohsen Azouz
Chairman,
VBC - Vaccines &
Biotechnology City



Mr. Oussama Zenakhari
Manager, Trade,
Investment & Corporate
Finance, Afreximbank



Dr. Basma Ismail
Director Strategic
Planning, VACSERA



KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

1 Project Fragmentation

Dr. Mohammad Badat from CHAI warned against a "long tail" effect, where an abundance of projects struggle with full commercialization.

2 Funding Gaps

There are financial gaps for "near to market" vaccines, and a high reliance on a few donors with an absence of new investors.

3 Technology Transfer

There is a shortage of actual technology transfer relative to the manufacturing capacity built, which can lead to "over-capacitization" and underutilization.

4 WHO Pre-qualification

Local manufacturers' lack of WHO prequalification limits their access to global procurement channels, such as UNICEF.

5 Product Differentiation

Ms. Louise Enevoldsen from UNICEF highlighted the challenge of local manufacturers lacking product differentiation, which is crucial for penetrating a busy market.



PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND COMMITMENTS

Rationalization: Dr. Badat suggested rationalizing the number of projects run by Africa Vaccine Manufacturers (AVMs) to avoid a long tail of unsustainable projects.

Financial Support: Afriximbank, represented by Mr. Osama Zena Khari, committed to supporting vaccine pharmaceutical production. CHAI also recommended that funders use risk instruments to close funding gaps.

Transparency: Mr. Luigi BonFatti from RVMC emphasized that transparency among manufacturers is the foundation to achieve the goal of localizing 60% of national vaccine demand.

Technology Transfer: The panel stressed the need to strengthen technology transfer partnerships to avoid over-capacitization.

WHO PQ: Ms. Louise Enevoldsen urged local manufacturers to meet WHO prequalification requirements to gain access to global markets and procurement.

Panel 3

The third panel, "Regulatory Perspectives on Vaccine Localization," focused on the essential regulatory frameworks for successful vaccine production. The panel featured a distinguished group of participants: Dr. Djoudalbaye Benjamin from the African Medicines Agency (AMA), Dr. Heba Ibrahim, General Manager of the General Administration of Biological Products at the EDA, Dr. Heba Waly from Biogeneric Pharma (BGP), Dr. Eva Stamenova, EU Delegation Program Manager, and Dr. Mona Marrouf, WHO Pharmaceutical Focal Point - Country Office.

Regulatory Perspectives on Vaccine Localization



Dr. Djoudalbaye Benjamin

*African Medicines Agency
(AMA)*



Dr. Heba Ibrahim

*GM of the General
Administration of Biological
Products at the EDA*



Dr. Heba Waly

*Biogeneric Pharma
(BGP)*



Dr. Iva Stamenova

*EU Delegation
Program Manager*



Dr. Mona Marrouf

*WHO Pharmaceutical Focal
Point - Country Office*



KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

1 *Supply Chain Bottlenecks*

Dr. Djoudalbaye Benjamin from AMA highlighted that supply chain resilience remains a critical bottleneck.

3 *Dependence on Fill-and-Finish*

Dr. Heba Waly from BGP raised concerns about the reliance on fill-and-finish manufacturing, which contradicts the vision of achieving self-reliance.

2 *Regulatory Gaps*

There are regulatory capacity gaps in Africa, with fewer than eight cities having achieved WHO Maturity Level 3 in vaccine regulation, which delays export readiness. There is also a variation of regulatory standards among countries.

4 *Technology Expertise*

The panel identified a lack of experience in deploying new technologies, such as mRNA technology, for vaccine production.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND COMMITMENTS

- **Regulatory Harmonization:** The AMA's role is to align standards across countries to accelerate approvals and reduce import dependency.
- **Capacity Building:** Dr. Heba Ibrahim from the EDA stated that the EDA provides manufacturers with scientific services and capacity-building programs.
- **Technology Transfer:** BGP launched a technology transfer program and sent experts to South Africa for hands-on training on mRNA technology. The EDA is also developing a comprehensive technology transfer guideline.
- **EU Support:** Dr. Eva Stamenova from the EU committed to designing targeted programs to support local manufacturers and collaborate with the EDA to help Egypt achieve WHO Maturity Level 4 in regulatory systems.

The Role of the WHO Local Production Assistance Unit in Supporting Vaccine Manufacturing and Prequalification: The Egypt Experience

Equitable access to vaccines remains a cornerstone of global health security, yet vaccine manufacturing capacity is disproportionately concentrated in high-income countries. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerabilities of this model, and the inequities associated with it, leaving many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) dependent on external supply and depriving people of a life-saving vaccine. To address this imbalance, the World Health Organization (WHO) established the Local Production Assistance (LPA) Unit, which provides technical guidance to strengthen local vaccine production, ensure compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and support pathways to WHO prequalification (PQ).



Supporting Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Compliance

GMP serves as the foundation of vaccine quality, covering facility design, production processes, quality management, and workforce competence. The LPA, working with the Regulatory Systems Strengthening (RSS) unit, assists both manufacturers and national regulatory authorities (NRAs) in aligning with international GMP standards. This includes gap analyses, roadmaps for corrective action, and practical training for technical staff. These interventions ensure that vaccines produced locally meet stringent safety and efficacy requirements.

Facilitating WHO Prequalification (PQ)

PQ status is critical for LMIC manufacturers to access international procurement markets. The LPA unit provides pre-assessment support, guidance on dossier preparation, and alignment with WHO data requirements. In Egypt, for instance, WHO missions in 2020 and 2022 offered targeted support to the public-sector manufacturer VACSERA, including workshops on several topics throughout the year in 2021 and dossier preparation with participation from the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) in November 2022. These activities built both manufacturing and regulatory capacity while reducing barriers to PQ.

Egypt's Path to Maturity Level 3

Egypt has a longstanding tradition of vaccine production through VACSERA but previously faced challenges in meeting international benchmarks. With WHO support the country pursued regulatory strengthening under the Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT). In 2022, Egypt achieved Maturity Level 3 (ML3) in vaccine regulation, a prerequisite for PQ, followed by ML3 in medicines regulation in 2024, making Egypt the first country in the African continent to achieve maturity level 3 for both vaccine and medicine. This progress was enabled by improved GMP inspection capacity, adoption of risk-based regulatory processes, establishment of quality control laboratories for independent lot release, and structured collaboration between the EDA and manufacturers.

Implications and Global Relevance

Egypt's achievement of ML3 enhances national immunization security, positions the country as a regional hub for vaccine production and regulation in the Middle East and Africa, and enables integration into global vaccine supply chains. The case illustrates how targeted technical assistance in GMP and PQ, coupled with regulatory system strengthening, can advance both national health sovereignty and global vaccine equity.

Embedding LPA and RSS support into national agendas will be essential for scaling sustainable vaccine manufacturing worldwide.

A JOURNEY OF IMPACT:

HOW EVMA RCCN IS EXPANDING AFRICAN BIOMANUFACTURING

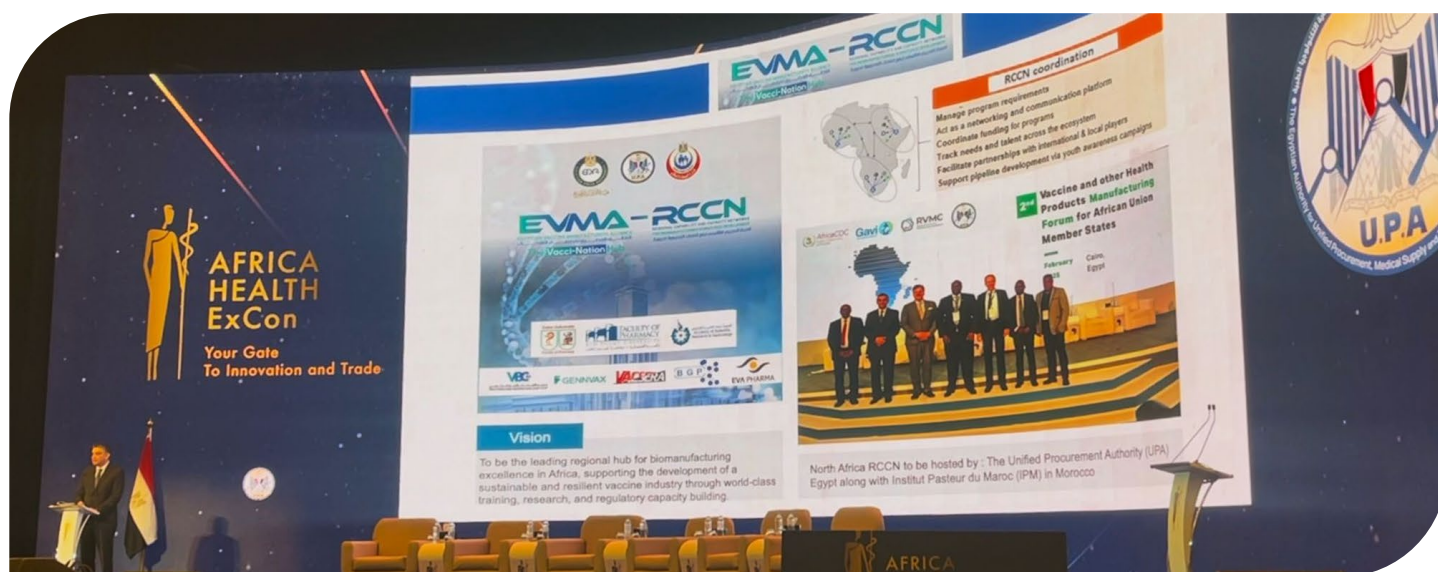
EVMA-RCCN

EGYPTIAN VACCINE MANUFACTURERS ALLIANCE
اتحاد المصنعي لقاحات مصر

The Vacci-Nation Hub

REGIONAL CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY NETWORKS
FOR BIOMANUFACTURING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
المرکز التدريبی الإقليمي لرفع القدرات التصنيعية الحيوية

A Landmark Moment for African Healthcare Workforce Development: UPA-IPM Partnership Operationalizes North Africa RCCN



Africa EXCON 2025 bore witness to a **truly significant and remarkable achievement** that forever solidifies our unwavering commitment to actionable progress towards a healthier future for Africa. The enduring story of the Egyptian Vaccines Manufacturing Alliance Regional Capabilities and Capacity Networks (EVMA RCCN) continues its distinguished chapters for Egypt, North Africa, and the entire continent: **Forging Futures in African Health Manufacturing Workforce**, as these recent achievements highlight our commitment to actionable progress.

UPA-IPM MOU: A Strategic Alliance to Enhance Regional Capabilities

The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between **The Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement, Medical Supply and Medical Technology Management (UPA)** and **Institut Pasteur du Maroc (IPM)** marks a highly significant milestone. This powerful strategic partnership directly enables the operationalization of the **North Africa Regional Capability and Capacity Network (North Africa RCCN)**, strengthening the foundation for talent development in the region in the field of biomanufacturing.

The MOU signing was witnessed by **Dr. Khaled Abdelghafar, Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt**, and **Dr. Hisham Stait, UPA Chairman**. The agreement was formally signed by **Dr. Hisham Badr, UPA Vice Chairman**, and **Dr. Khalid Zemzoumi from Morocco**, on behalf of **Dr. Abderrahmane Maaroufi, IPM Chairman**.



North Africa Consortium for NA RCCN: Key Stakeholders

The operationalization of the North Africa RCCN is a collaborative effort, bringing together key governmental, academic, and industrial stakeholders from Egypt and Morocco, forming a powerful consortium dedicated to advancing biomanufacturing capabilities across the region.

Egypt

- Governmental Stakeholders:
 1. Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP)
 2. Unified Procurement Authority (UPA)
 3. Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA)
- Academia (Research & Development):
 1. Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University (CU)
 2. Faculty of Pharmacy Ain Shams University (ASU)
 3. Academy for Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT)
- Vaccine Manufacturers:
 1. VACSERA
 2. Biogeneric Pharma (BGP)
 3. Vaccines & Biotechnology City (VBC)
 4. Genvax
 5. Eva Pharma

Morocco

- Governmental Stakeholders:
 - Moroccan Agency for Medicine and Health Products (AMMPS); Rabat; Morocco.
- Academia (Research & Development):
 1. African Academy for Health Sciences (AAHS); Dakhla, Morocco
 2. University Mohammed 6 for Health Sciences (UM6HS); Casablanca, Morocco.
 3. Moroccan Foundation for Advanced Science, Innovation and Research (MAScIR),
 4. University Mohammed 6 Polytechnic (UM6P); Ben Guerir; Morocco

The MOU, effective from its signing date, stipulates cooperation between the two parties to establish the necessary arrangements for the operation of this vital network. This agreement underscores a shared vision to support the work of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in the North Africa region, aiming to accelerate the continent's capacity to produce its own vaccines and other health products, drive skills development, workforce training, and research & development.

Objectives of the North Africa Regional Capability and Capacity Network (RCCN): Pillars of Health Self-Sufficiency

The main objectives of the North Africa RCCN, as outlined in the MOU, revolve around building a robust and sustainable biomanufacturing ecosystem:

- **Establish and Operate Sustainable Training Programs:** To build and maintain a skilled workforce for the vaccine manufacturing ecosystem in the regions and the continent. This includes qualifying cadres and developing their skills to align with the latest global practices.
- **Increase the Relevance of Sustainably Funded Training and Educational Programs:** To meet the evolving industry needs. This ensures that the training provided remains up-to-date with technological and industrial advancements, maximizing the acquired benefits.
- **Incentivize R&D Activities Across Africa and Minimize Brain Drain:** By providing an attractive environment for research and innovation, the network aims to retain distinguished African competencies and utilize them in developing local health solutions.

The RCCNs will operate through a network model representing different regions in Africa, with a coordinating partner in each region. These networks will comprise partnerships between training providers (local universities and technical & vocational training (TEVET) institutions), manufacturers, research and development (R&D) organizations, and national regulatory authorities (NRAs).

Impact of the Partnership: A Promising Future for Africa's Health Industry

This collaboration between UPA and Institut Pasteur du Maroc is not just the signing of a document; it is an embodiment of a strong commitment to fostering sustainable workforce development in the vaccine manufacturing industry. It represents a crucial step towards achieving health self-sufficiency in Africa, reducing reliance on external imports, and ensuring fair and equitable access for African citizens to essential medicines and vaccines.

A Continuous Journey Towards Excellence

This memorandum affirms our shared commitment to enhancing capacity building and its direct impact on improving the efficiency of the healthcare system in Egypt and the African continent. The journey of EVMA RCCN continues, and this outstanding partnership embodies the spirit of cooperation and leadership that we all aspire to achieve for a thriving health future in Africa.



Egypt Hosts The Inauguration of North Africa RCCN Workshop: Driving Innovation and Collaboration in Healthcare Capacity Building and Workforce Development

Cairo, Egypt – On June 26th and 27th, 2025, amidst the vibrant energy of Africa Health ExCon, Egypt had the distinct honor of hosting the **Africa CDC North Africa Regional Capability and Capacity Network (RCCN) Workshop**. This event marked a **truly significant and remarkable achievement**, as it was the **first workshop for all RCCNs**, laying foundational steps for the continent's health manufacturing ambitions. Through two days of focused discussions, collaborative workgroups, and engaging activities, participants successfully advanced the North Africa RCCN's initial operationalization, setting a high standard for future regional initiatives.

The workshop was inaugurated with welcoming notes from **Dr. Hisham Stait, UPA Chairman**, and **Dr. Abebe Genetu, Local Manufacturing Coordinator, Africa CDC**. The insightful workshop were moderated by a distinguished team including **Dr. Mostafa Ghorab, UPA Business Development Director**, **Rania Mohsen, UPA Project Management Director**, **Dr. Chiluba Mwila, Africa CDC RCCN Project Manager**, and **Frauke Goebel, GIZ Advisor Vaccine Manufacturing TESS MAV+**.



This impactful regional workshop, co-hosted by the Egyptian Unified Procurement Authority (UPA) and Institut Pasteur du Maroc (IPM), brought together the EVMA RCCN Network alongside our Moroccan consortium partners. It underscored a collective commitment to enhancing Africa's capacity for local vaccine and health product manufacturing.

A Collaborative Endeavor for Regional Empowerment

The workshop's main objective was to unite partner organizations within the North Africa RCCN. Specific goals included:

- **Mapping Existing Capabilities:** Identifying current training programs and capacities among RCCN partners.
- **Defining Roles:** Clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of each partner organization.
- **Prioritizing Needs:** Establishing a priority list for regional training needs and programs.
- **Fostering Networking:** Promoting stronger connections and collaborations among RCCN members.

Key outcomes of the workshop included a deeper mutual understanding among partner organizations regarding existing capacities, the establishment of a prioritized list of regional training needs, and a clear definition of partner roles and responsibilities through a co-created organogram.

Dynamic Panel Discussions: Shaping Biomanufacturing Excellence

The workshop featured two crucial panel discussions that delved into key aspects of talent development and manufacturing scalability:

Panel 1

Cultivating Competence: Harnessing Educational Institutions and Regulatory Oversight to Unlock Regional Potential for Talent Development To Achieve a Resilient African Vaccine Ecosystem

This session explored the **synergistic relationship between academic institutions and regulatory bodies** in developing a highly competent workforce for vaccine manufacturing and R&D in Africa. Experts from key Egyptian institutions, including representatives from UPA Dr Mostafa Ghorab, Dr. Asmaa Fouad from Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA), Dr. Dalia Abu Hussien from Faculty of Pharmacy at Cairo University, Dr Mahmoud Yassien from Faculty of Pharmacy at Ain Shams University, and Dr Ahmed Gabr the Academy for Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT), shared insights on integrating industry needs into academic curricula, strengthening research capacities, and ensuring regulatory frameworks support innovation and quality in talent development.

Panel 2

From Factory Floor to Future Leaders: Manufacturers' Role in Nurturing Talent and Scaling Production Capabilities for Africa's Vaccine Independence

This panel brought together prominent vaccine manufacturers from Egypt, including Dr Sherif elfeel from VACSERA, Dr Heba Wali from Biogeneric Pharma (BGP), Dr Mohsen Azouz from Vaccines & Biotechnology City (VBC), Mr Steve Biddulph from Gennvax, and Dr Walaa Eldin Ahmed from Eva Pharma. The discussion highlighted manufacturers' **direct involvement in talent development and capacity expansion**, exploring how they translate operational expertise into impactful training programs, foster research and development, and build sustainable supply chains. Panelists delved into real-world challenges and innovative solutions for upskilling their workforce, embracing new technologies, and establishing public-private partnerships to achieve significant production scale for African needs.

In a dedicated session, **the Moroccan Consortium for RCCN** also presented their perspectives on "Empowering Local Expertise: Biomanufacturing Training for Sustainable Vaccine Production in Africa." This speeches included valuable contributions from representatives of Institut Pasteur du Maroc (IPM), University Mohammed 6 for Health Sciences (UM6HS), Moroccan Foundation for Advanced Science, Innovation and Research (MAScIR), and Marbio, enriching the discussions with their unique insights and collaborative spirit from Dr. Khaled Zamzoumi, Dr Hind Barrada and Dr Marouan Rami.



Driving Africa's Health Future: Acknowledging Key Supporters

This critical initiative for workforce development was significantly bolstered by the leadership of Africa CDC, notably **Dr. Abebe Genetu Bayih** and **Dr. Chiluba Mwila**. Their vision and dedication are invaluable to this cause.

We extend our immense gratitude to the **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** and **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (BACKUP Health)**, along with **#TeamEuropeMAV+**. Their unwavering support in fostering talent development across the continent and for convening this inaugural workshop for the RCCNs in North Africa has been instrumental.

The North Africa RCCN workshop represents more than just a gathering; it's a testament to the power of regional cooperation in tackling Africa's most pressing health challenges. By strengthening local production capabilities and fostering a skilled biomanufacturing workforce, the RCCNs are pivotal in advancing Africa's journey towards health security and self-sufficiency. This collaborative spirit ensures that the story of African health manufacturing continues to evolve, driven by collective action and a shared vision for a healthier, more resilient continent.



EVMA RCCN Members Pioneer Industrial Fellowship in South Africa: Driving Africa's Biomanufacturing Future

Cape Town, South Africa – From March 24 to 28, the Egyptian Vaccines Manufacturing Alliance Regional Capabilities and Capacity Networks (EVMA RCCN) proudly saw its members participate in the **Industrial Fellowship Program for Biopharmaceutical and Vaccine Manufacturing**, held in Cape Town, South Africa. This critical initiative, in response to an invitation from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), marked a significant step in **forging futures in the African health manufacturing workforce** and reinforcing EVMA RCCN's commitment to actionable progress across the continent.

A Collaborative Deep Dive into Biomanufacturing Fellowships

The program brought together key experts to enhance the design and effectiveness of industrial fellowship programs. Representing the diverse expertise within EVMA RCCN, participants included:

- **Dr. Moshira Mamdouh**, Director of the Virology Laboratory at the Central Administration for Biological and Innovative Products and Clinical Studies.
- **Dr. Nourtan Abdeltawab**, Professor of Microbiology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University.
- **Dr. Ashraf Ahmed Loutfy**, Compliance Section Head at Biogeneric Pharma.
- **Dr. Dalia Mohamed Sayed Ahmed**, Director of Therapeutic BCG Manufacturing and Development from VACSERA.

During the intensive training program, participants engaged in discussions around proposals developed by Africa CDC in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and COGNOS International. The primary focus was on reviewing the content of presented methodologies for biopharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing. Workshop participants meticulously analyzed the **design of industrial fellowship programs**, as well as factors that could impact their effectiveness and long-term success.

Shaping Recommendations for Enhanced Training and Collaboration

A core outcome of the fellowship was the development of **presentations with agreed-upon recommendations** aimed at enhancing the proposed training and fellowship methodologies. These recommendations specifically sought to:

- **Clarify the roles** of the various stakeholders involved in the Egyptian Vaccine Manufacturers Alliance.
- **Support vaccine manufacturing facilities** in their efforts to build capacity.
- **Strengthen scientific research and development institutions** across the network.

The insights gained and the collaborative proposals formulated during the fellowship are poised to significantly impact the structure and delivery of future biomanufacturing training initiatives within the Africa CDC framework, reinforcing the crucial role of EVMA RCCN members in this continental effort.

EVMA RCCN: Advancing Africa's Health Security

The participation of EVMA RCCN members in this Industrial Fellowship underscores Egypt's unwavering dedication to contributing to Africa's health security agenda. By actively engaging in such high-level programs, EVMA RCCN members are at the forefront of strengthening local production capabilities, fostering a highly skilled biomanufacturing workforce, and driving Africa's journey towards self-sufficiency in health products. This collaborative spirit ensures the continued evolution of African health manufacturing, propelled by collective action and a shared vision for a more resilient continent.

Egypt Leads Africa's Biomanufacturing Revolution

EVMA RCCN Launches the Continent's First Industrial Fellowship for Vaccine Workforce Development

Cairo, Egypt — February 2025:

Egypt continues to spearhead Africa's health manufacturing renaissance, consolidating its position as a continental hub for vaccine production and workforce development. Recognized by the Africa CDC during the **Second Annual Forum on Vaccines and Other Health Products** as the **Regional Capability and Capacity Network (RCCN)** for North Africa, Egypt—through the **Unified Procurement Authority (UPA)** and the **Egyptian Vaccines Manufacturing Alliance (EVMA RCCN)**—is launching **Africa's first Industrial Biomanufacturing Fellowship Program**.

This landmark initiative translates policy into practice, transforming Egypt's national vaccine localization strategy into a continental platform for **talent development and biomanufacturing excellence**.

At the heart of this program lies one of **Africa CDC's most ambitious goals**—to expand the continent's vaccine manufacturing workforce from approximately **2,000–3,000** professionals today to **12,500 full-time experts by 2040**. The **EVMA RCCN Industrial Fellowship Program** directly supports this objective, positioning Egypt as the **training nucleus for biomanufacturing across Africa**.



Over a one-year immersive training, fellows from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, and Egypt will complete seven advanced modules: **Manufacturing Science & Technology (MSAT)**, **Operations & Production**, **Quality Assurance (QA)**, **Quality Control (QC)**, **Maintenance & Engineering**, **Automation Systems** and **Industrial Regulatory Affairs**.

Together, these modules will cultivate a new generation of professionals equipped to advance vaccine manufacturing, ensure quality standards, and support Africa's growing demand for locally produced health products.

Training will be hosted by **BioGeneric Pharma** and **VACSERA**, both flagship institutions within the **EVMA RCCN network**, offering state-of-the-art production environments and direct exposure to the full biomanufacturing cycle—from process design to regulatory oversight.



EVMA RCCN: Catalyst for Regional Excellence

As the **capacity-building arm of EVMA**, which serves as the **executive arm of Egypt's National Strategy for Vaccine Manufacturing Localization (2024–2030)**, EVMA RCCN plays a pivotal role in:

- Nurturing specialized human capital across the vaccine value chain;
- Promoting regional cooperation and shared technical standards;
- Accelerating Africa's progress toward **health sovereignty**.

Through this fellowship, Egypt stands not only as a regional leader in vaccine localization but also as a **continental hub for workforce empowerment**, enabling African talent to drive the continent's health security and prosperity.

Egypt Strengthens Africa's Biomanufacturing Workforce

24 Egyptian Experts Selected as Instructors for Africa CDC Fellowship Programs

Cairo, Egypt — 2025:

Building on its recognition as the **RCCN for North Africa**, Egypt has achieved another milestone: **24 Egyptian experts** have been appointed as instructors for the **Africa CDC Two-Year Biomanufacturing Fellowship Program**—representing **40–50 percent** of the total instructors across Africa.

This unprecedented representation underscores **Egypt's depth of expertise**, institutional excellence, and commitment to regional capacity building.

The selected instructors come from leading entities within the **EVMA RCCN network**, including: **The Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA)**, **Faculty of Pharmacy – Cairo University**, **VACSERA**, **BioGeneric Pharma (BGP)** and **Vaccines and Biotechnology City (VBC)**.

Together, they represent the full value chain of vaccine manufacturing—production, regulation, and academia—forming a comprehensive national ecosystem for biomanufacturing advancement.

Empowering a Continental Training Framework

The instructors will deliver technical modules, mentor fellows, and support hands-on industrial learning across Africa CDC's fellowship tracks. Their involvement ensures harmonization of biomanufacturing standards, fosters **cross-country collaboration**, and accelerates Africa's collective journey toward **vaccine self-reliance**.

This milestone also reinforces the success of **Egypt's integrated approach under EVMA and RCCN**, aligning national efforts with Africa CDC's workforce expansion strategy for 2040.

Driving the Continent's Health Sovereignty

Through its dual leadership in **training program design** and **expert instruction**, Egypt continues to shape the future of African vaccine manufacturing. These efforts demonstrate a unified national commitment—linking government, industry, and academia—to empower Africa's scientific community and build a resilient, self-sustaining health manufacturing ecosystem.

With its fellowship programs and instructor network, Egypt stands at the forefront of Africa's biomanufacturing revolution—transforming vision into capacity, and capacity into impact.





EVMA-RCN

EGYPTIAN VACCINE MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY NETWORKS
المركز المصري للمصنعين لرفع القدرات الشبكية للمصنعين

The Vaccin

LOOKING AHEAD: THE ROAD TO VACCINE SELF-SUFFICIENCY

UPA and the World Bank Align to Advance Egypt's Vaccine Strategy: A Meeting of Key Leaders



The Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement, Medical Supply and Supply, and the Department of Medical Technology (UPA) and a delegation from the World Bank Group, including key representatives from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), have held a strategic meeting to discuss ways to enhance joint cooperation and expand localization efforts in Egypt. The meeting, which took place at the UPA Premises on July 27, 2025, focused on moving beyond the successful vaccine localization initiative to a wider, multi-sectoral strategy.

The World Bank delegation included:

- Mr. Raza Mirza, Egypt Hub Lead, Manufacturing & Services, IFC and Dr. Ahmed El Bakry Upstream Investment Lead, IFC , Mr. Ayodeji Gafar Ajiboye Senior Health Economist, World Bank ,Dr. Amr Douban Consultant, IFC and Ms. Injy Sale, Egypt Country Officer, IFC

The discussion centered on mechanisms to encourage industrial investment, transfer technology, and provide the necessary technical and financial support to advance local industrialization. The ultimate goal is to enhance the national economy's strength and support the creation of sustainable job opportunities.



Key topics of discussion included:

- **Industrial Localization:** Cooperation to expand local manufacturing capabilities beyond vaccines to include Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), Biosimilars, and Medical Devices.
- **Vocational Training:** Support for programs to develop a skilled workforce and build an industrial system based on innovation and knowledge.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** The exchange of technical and administrative experiences to raise the competitiveness of Egyptian products in both local and international markets.

This partnership aims to leverage the UPA's proven leadership and successful model for vaccine localization to drive a broader strategy that involves other key public and private stakeholders.

UPA and WHO Strengthen Cooperation to Advance Regional Health Security and Vaccine Localization

Dr. Hisham Stait, Chairman of the Unified Procurement, Medical Supply and Medical Technology Department, recently received Dr. Hanan Balkhi, the Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the World Health Organization (WHO), and her accompanying delegation at the UPA's headquarters in the New Administrative Capital. The meeting, which took place in July 2025, focused on enhancing regional health security through collaboration on supply chains, strategic warehouses, and, most notably, the **localization of high-tech industries and vaccines**.

Dr. Stait underscored the importance of cooperation with the WHO to bolster Egypt's and the region's capabilities in medical supply and local manufacturing, praising the organization's role in supporting national and regional health initiatives. The meeting witnessed a comprehensive presentation on the Authority's strategic plan to advance supply chain operations and ensure the proactive capacity of Egypt, Africa, and the Eastern Mediterranean region. A key component of this plan is the localization of the medical industries, especially high-tech industries and vaccines, which is critical for achieving self-sufficiency and health security.



As a result of the meeting, an agreement was reached to form a joint working team between the UPA and the WHO to identify ways of technical and logistical cooperation to support the strategic warehouse system. The UPA also extended an invitation to the WHO's regional and international team to inaugurate the first phase of this project in February 2026.

Dr. Hanan Balkhi commended the UPA's pioneering efforts in enhancing health supply chains and its initiatives in bulk procurement and vaccine localization. She emphasized the need to benefit from and disseminate the Authority's initiatives at a regional level, as this would contribute to achieving self-sufficiency and health security for the entire region.

Attendees

The meeting brought together a distinguished group of officials from both organizations. From the UPA, attendees included Dr. Hisham Steit, Chairman; Dr. Hisham Badr, Vice Chairman; Dr. Amr Gad, Vice Chairman; Dr. Fatima Mameesh, Head of the Central Administration; Dr. Ayman Taha, Advisor for the Digital Transformation of Strategic Warehouses; Dr. Mamen Mustafa, Director of the General Directorate of Logistics Operations; Dr. Mustafa Ghorab; and Dr. Rania Mohsen. The WHO delegation was represented by Dr. Neama Abed, WHO Representative in Egypt; Dr. Gasser Gad Al-Karim, Technical Officer in Health Systems; and Dr. Mona Marouf, Medical and Pharmaceutical Officials at the WHO Office in Egypt.



Egypt's Unified Procurement Authority Highlights Leadership Role in Advancing the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM)

The **Unified Procurement Authority (UPA)** of Egypt reaffirmed its commitment to regional health collaboration through active participation in the **African Union Member States Engagement on the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM)**, held in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**, from **14–15 October 2025**.



The UPA's significant contribution was spearheaded by **Dr. Hesham Badr, Vice Chairman of the UPA and Executive Lead for the APPM Initiative**, who played a **leading and pivotal role** in articulating Egypt's comprehensive strategic vision for a continent-wide, efficient, and transparent pooled procurement system. This achievement came under the **direct guidance and full support of H.E. Dr. Hesham Stait, Chairman of the UPA**, whose leadership has been instrumental in positioning Egypt as a key partner in advancing the African health security agenda.

The engagement, convened by the **Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)**, focused on **defining and solidifying** the operational framework of the APPM, gathering essential member-state feedback, and achieving initial consensus on the roadmap toward full implementation.

Egypt's proposal—first presented to the Africa CDC following the **Africa Health ExCon held in Cairo in June 2025**—was showcased as a comprehensive model built on four strategic pillars:



- 1 Provision of the UPA's digital procurement platform** to serve as the core system for the APPM.
- 2 Utilization of Egypt's national strategic warehouse capacities**, including the upcoming central facility scheduled for launch in **February 2026**, with a total storage capacity of **360,000 pallets**.
- 3 A joint capacity-building initiative**, focusing on modern supply-chain management, warehouse operations, logistics governance, and data analytics.
- 4 Hosting the APPM headquarters in Egypt**, reinforcing Egypt's role as a continental hub for health-system strengthening.

Egypt's proposal received notable support from several member states—particularly **Namibia** and **Botswana**, proposed as pilot models for the initial implementation phase. Dr. Badr emphasized that the Egyptian offer is designed to **promote equitable collaboration**, ensuring that the benefits of pooled procurement—including lower costs, improved quality control, and stable supply—are shared across the continent.

This decisive contribution by the UPA, under Dr. Badr's leadership, underscores **Egypt's unwavering commitment and leading position in advancing regional health security and supply-chain resilience**, marking a milestone in Africa's collective efforts toward sustainable access to quality medical products.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCT.
2025**



KEMRI | Wellcome



Talent & Global Engagement

Starting from
October 2025

BGP Investing in Future African Bio-manufacturing Leaders

BGP was proudly selected by the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Workforce Development program to host an apprenticeship program the first of its kind from Africa to Africa program . This selection underscores BGP dedication to capacity building and fostering the next generation of biomanufacturing experts. Biogenerics Pharma will open its doors to 10 African scientists for 3 month hands on training program covering starting from October 2025



The objective of this program :

- Provide practical exposure to vaccine development and manufacturing.
- Strengthen career pathways for young African scientists in the vaccinology field.
- Promote skills development aligned with local and continental vaccine production goals.

**NOV.
2025**



The 2025 Inter-regional Vaccine Procurement Forum

10–11 November



VACCINE
PROCUREMENT
FORUM (VPF)

The 2025 Inter-regional Vaccine Procurement Forum will be held in Cairo on 10–11 November 2025, hosted by Egypt in collaboration with UNICEF, the Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement, and the Ministry of Health and Population. Serving as a platform for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the Forum will bring together practitioners to exchange knowledge, share practical experiences, and discuss challenges and best practices in immunization procurement. It will focus on strengthening procurement strategies, including the promotion of locally and regionally manufactured vaccines, addressing lessons from establishing local manufacturing infrastructure, engaging with the Vaccine Procurement Practitioners Network, and providing access to tools and resources that support countries in ensuring timely, affordable, and sustainable immunization supplies.



Newsletter

ISSUE 2 - OCT. 2025

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