GS1 Healthcare Newsletter
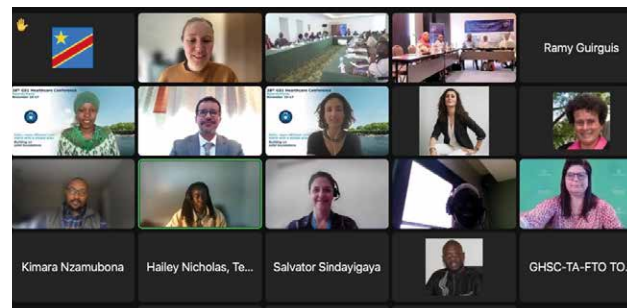
GS1 Healthcare Africa

June 15, 2022

2022 Francophone Africa GS1 Healthcare Summit brings together participants from Francophone African countries to discuss pharmaceutical traceability

On May 10-12, a 3-day hybrid (virtual and physical) Francophone Africa GS1 Healthcare Summit co-organised with USAID gathered 240 people. The delegates, government representatives from 22 African countries, development partner organisations and solution providers reignited the drive to set up pharmaceutical traceability, based on the Lagos Call to Action, using GS1 global standards especially for countries in Francophone Africa.

The summit featured speakers from African countries that have come far in their national pharmaceutical traceability's journey system using global standards, including Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Rwanda. These inspired

Attendees posing for a virtual photo

the other countries to act. Other countries, like Malawi and Burundi, shared their perspectives on the preliminary steps in establishing pharmaceutical traceability highlighting the importance of government leadership and a regulatory framework that effort.

Speakers from USAID, GS1 and the World Health Organisation (WHO) shared global perspectives, trends, experiences, and resources available for countries to move forward with pharmaceutical traceability.

Industry representatives, including Pfizer, Roche and Johnson & Johnson, shared their experiences in supporting countries to implement pharmaceutical traceability and in particular, confirmed their willingness to support countries in Africa in those endeavours.

Key messages that were unanimous across all speakers included:

- Starting small would provide an opportunity for the country to learn and better adjust procedures, policies, and guidelines in-line with global standards

- Government leadership is an important pillar without which it would be impossible to sustainably trace pharmaceuticals in countries,

- Countries need to learn from one another and share experiences to reduce the learning curve and avoid challenges that were already experienced and overcome by other countries that had started the process earlier

- Frequent, continuous, and comprehensive collaboration and advocacy with country-level stakeholders throughout the process of setting up pharmaceutical traceability in the country is important for success

The countries in francophone Africa responded positively to the summit, some including Congo DRC and Togo (Write up) shared reflections with their local stakeholders demonstrating that francophone countries are now better prepared to implement pharmaceutical traceability with the knowledge, advice, and resources from the summit. They will continue the regional collaboration to enhance patient safety and promote supply chain security and efficiency. The summit recordings and PowerPoint decks used are available on the event website. Follow the social media dialogue on LinkedIn and Twitter using the #GS1FrancophoneSummit2022.

It's time for Africa! Here is an inspiring video that showcases two African regulatory authority leaders talking about the importance of traceability and the importance of action by African authorities.

The recordings are available on YouTube: Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, and PowerPoints presentations are available on the event website to download.

Stakeholders in Togo attended the summit together from Togo

Ulrike Kreysa retires, Géraldine Lissalde-Bonnet to succeed her as Vice President Healthcare

After over 17 years of leading GS1 Healthcare activities, on Friday 29 April, the GS1 Healthcare

team bid farewell to Ulrike Kreysa as she headed into retirement. Géraldine Lissalde-Bonnet, formerly Global Director Healthcare at GS1 Global Office will take over the role of leading the GS1 Healthcare team as Vice President Healthcare.

Géraldine and the GS1 Healthcare Team will continue the trusted collaboration with healthcare stakeholders, furthering GS1 Healthcare's mission of improving patient safety worldwide using global standards. Read a heartfelt farewell note from Ulrike in the March 2022 GS1 Healthcare Newsletter

Nigeria publishes draft guidelines for master data

In April 2022, Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) published on their website draft guidelines for the management of master data. This is part of the suite of guidelines and policy documents that are expected to be issued by NAFDAC providing guidance on how pharmaceutical traceability will be handled in Nigeria. The Agency is working closely with its partners and stakeholders to review this document and publish approved version over the next months.

Ethiopia FDA publishes additional guidelines for the Ethiopia Traceability System

Towards the end of 2021, the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) developed and published the pharmaceutical products barcoding guideline. The EFDA conducted a workshop with local stakeholders to provide feedback and share perspectives on this document.

It aims to provide guidance to manufacturers and supply chain stakeholders on the barcoding requirements and on how the Authority requires products to be labeled before their distribution. The guideline is developed in alignment with global GS1 standards.

The authority requires the pharmaceutical products importers to encode in a GS1 DataMatrix the unique data elements such as the GTIN, batch number, expiry date and the serial number The data must also be available on the pack in human readable interpretation (HRI). Read more on the GS1 Application Identifiers on the GS1 General Specifications.

Further, the EFDA officially announced and published the guidelines for product barcoding and location allocation. These guidelines describe the rules, requirements and management of GTIN and GLN allocation. All pharmaceuticals shall be uniquely identified by their GTIN and all master data required by national laws and guidelines shall be shared to the EFDA as stated in the Master Data Guideline (2nd edition, 2022). Access the full suite of guidelines issued by EFDA on the EFDA website.

The published guidelines form part of the supplementary guidelines to the directive published in 2019, an important milestone also outlined in Ethiopia's national traceability implementation strategic plan developed and authorised in 2018.

Stakeholders in Ethiopia discussing during the guidelines review workshop

For additional information about traceability developments in Ethiopia visit the **EFDA website** and email questions to **traceability@efda.gov.et**.

Ghana inaugurates traceability governing bodies

In January 2022, the Ghana Ministry of Health (MOH) with the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) collaborated with its public and private partners to develop the Ghana National Pharmaceutical Traceability Vision and Strategy. Their vision is: "To ensure the availability and appropriate use of quality medicines and medical products to improve the health status of all people living in Ghana". In support of this vision, the MoH established a Traceability Steering Committee in January 2022 to spearhead its traceability agenda. Concomitantly, the GS1 Pharmaceutical Traceability Secretariat and the Technical Working Group were also launched.

These bodies will help shape the conversations and will enable a collective decision-making process that will support the set-up of a pharmaceutical traceability in the country addressing local needs.

The selection of the Traceability Steering Committee was informed by a series of initiatives including assessment of how global standards in health care can improve pharmaceutical traceability and data visibility in the supply chain.

The steering committee appointed in January 2022 for Ghana's pharmaceutical traceability

Since 2019, Ghana's government has continued to raise awareness for the use of GS1 global standards supporting national health care objectives through a series of collaborative workshops with strategic private and public sector partners. The Traceability Steering Committee consists of multi-disciplinary partners that developed this strategy and high-level roadmap for implementing global standards with the goal to "promote, restore, and maintain good health for all people living in Ghana."

Stakeholders in Malawi meet to reignite foundational conversations for pharmaceutical traceability

On March 15th and 16th, some stakeholders in Malawi revamped the conversations to set up local pharmaceutical traceability. While the pharmaceutical traceability strategy was signed in 2019, staff shifts, and administrative changes have slowed down its execution. However, the efforts to set up a national product catalogue have been ongoing, and implementation is expected to continue in the course of 2022. With this new milestone and a re-energized team, the implementation of the other aspects of the pharmaceutical traceability strategic activities are expected to continue. It will include the important regulatory work required to lay the foundation for pharmaceutical traceability.

Attendees for the pharmaceutical traceability meeting in Malawi

GS1 Kenya works with MAUL and MAPAC

In the healthcare sector, GS1 Kenya has initiated working collaborations with several entities to ensure that traceability of medicines and medical devices are being implemented within the region. In this regard, Medical Access Uganda Limited (MAUL), a not-for-profit organization, contracted GS1 Kenya to support the implementation of GS1 Traceability Standards in healthcare. While this project is still ongoing, some of the anticipated outcomes include improved management of product information and mostly introduce supply chain efficiencies.

The organization is in a progressive collaboration with Kenya's Medicine Affordability and Pricing Advisory Committee (MAPAC) in developing standards for

monitoring pharmaceuticals, medical devices and managing prices in the medical supply chain with the aim to promote patient safety and increasing access to affordable medicines.

GS1 staff at Bunga Warehouse, Kampla-during warehouse feasibility study in November 2021

To learn more about the projects GS1 Kenya is engaged in, contact **info@gs1kenya.org**. Follow GS1 Kenya on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **LinkedIn** or **YouTube** to stay up to date with progress and projects they are working on.

Egypt's supreme council of university hospitals requires GTIN in a decree published

In April 2022, The supreme council of university hospitals in Egypt published a decree requiring all its suppliers to uniquely identify their products using a Global Trade Item Number (GTIN). This requirement is to be enforced by late July 2022.

This represents an important first step in promoting patient safety and introducing supply chain efficiencies into the university hospitals.

To learn more about how GS1 standards can help hospitals improve their supply chain processes and ensure patient safety, read the Netcare Hospital implementation case study in South Africa and many others in the GS1 Healthcare Reference books library.

Questions about Egypt's council of university hospitals can be addressed to GS1 Egypt via **healthcare@gs1eg.org**. Follow GS1 Egypt on **LinkedIn** or **Facebook** to stay up-to-date with developments and projects in the country.

GS1 South Africa joins pharmaceutical manufacturers and others during SAPHEX 2022

GS1 South Africa participated in this year's SAPHEX show held in Sandton after a 2-year absence due to COVID -19. SAPHEX unites the forever-growing pharma manufacturing industry in South Africa and SADC under one roof across the 2 days aiming to redefine the pharmacy industry for the better.

GS1 South Africa exhibited at the event and made excellent connections through the mix of high-quality decision-makers who attended the event, from Brand owners, Hospitals, Regulators, Pharmacists, Solution providers, Distributors & students across South Africa, and the region. They demonstrated GS1 standards solutions and benefits in promoting patient safety and traceability, migration from Linear (1 dimensional) barcodes to two dimensional barcodes, master data management, and the benefits of a single source of trusted data.

Various photos taken during SAPHEX 2022 in Sandton Johannesburg

Follow GS1 South Africa on **LinkedIn**, **YouTube**, **Tik Tok**, or **www.gs1za.org** to stay up-to-date with developments and projects in the country.

Save the date:

37ᵗʰ GS1 Healthcare Conference November 15-17, 2022, in person and online!

> **GS1 Healthcare Conference is back physically in Paris and online.**

Save the date and join other global standards enthusiasts as they share successes, challenges and discuss strategies for the future of patient safety. To stay up to-date with the event news, follow GS1 Healthcare on **LinkedIn**, **Twitter** or check the **events page** on the GS1 Healthcare website.

GS1 Healthcare Conference 2022
Building on solid foundations
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About GS1 Healthcare

GS1 Healthcare is a neutral and open community bringing together all related healthcare stakeholders to lead the successful development and implementation of global GS1 standards, enhancing patient safety, and operational and supply chain efficiencies.

The development and implementation of GS1 standards is led by the experts who use them: pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, group purchasing organisations, hospitals, pharmacies, logistics providers, solution providers, governmental and regulatory bodies, and trade associations. Evidence available from industry implementations shows that GS1 identification, data capture and data sharing standards in healthcare deliver tangible benefit to all stakeholders. Global members of GS1 Healthcare include more than 100 leading healthcare organisations worldwide.

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