Statement on Research for Health

76th WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC76)

Agenda item 18.12: Final progress report on Research for Health: a Strategy for the African Region, 2016-2025.

27 August 2026, Addis Ababa.

High-quality primary health care requires an evidence base that is derived from relevant African settings and populations, and not extrapolated from specialist hospitals or high-income countries in other regions.

The WHO Action Plan on Clinical Trials highlights the need for more high-quality clinical trials to be conducted in low- and middle-income countries and in primary care.

The World Organization of Family Doctors in the African Region recognizes the need for research capacity-building and a pipeline that creates more established researchers in the fields of primary health care and family medicine.

In addition to the Action Plan on Clinical Trials, research can help implement effective clinical interventions and identify best practices in service delivery, community engagement and multisectoral action.

WONCA calls on national research institutions and funders to, firstly, set priorities for research in primary health care and family medicine that address priority clinical conditions, service delivery, supportive health system structures and inputs, as well as capacitation of the workforce; and secondly, to fund research that provides an evidence base for strengthening primary health care and district-level health services throughout the Region.