



**GLOBAL ALLERGY & AIRWAYS**  
PATIENT PLATFORM  
Africa & the Middle East Alliance

## PRESS RELEASE

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### RESPIRATORY DISEASES REPRESENT A GLOBAL BURDEN ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA

In 2021, lung diseases were among the 3 leading causes of mortality causing over 18 million deaths globally<sup>(1)</sup> and having devastating consequences for patients and families. But the situation in Africa seems especially alarming, 1 in 10 children in Africa have asthma symptoms<sup>(2)</sup>, making it the most common non-communicable disease (NCD) in children and adolescents in Africa<sup>(2)</sup>. In Cameroon<sup>(2)</sup>, pollution and disease stigma are still significant barriers to achieving asthma control. In Nigeria<sup>(2)</sup>, where the prevalence is high, the cost of asthma medicines not being subsidized is still a barrier to therapy. On the contrary, in South Africa<sup>(2)</sup>, despite the availability of asthma medications lack of efficient diagnosis is a barrier to care, leading this country to have the highest prevalence of childhood asthma in the African continent.<sup>(2)</sup> Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the third leading cause of death worldwide.<sup>(3)</sup> and an important cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Smoking is an important risk factor for COPD in SSA, and this exposure needs to be reduced.<sup>(3)</sup>

### GAAPP – GLOBAL ALLERGY AND AIRWAYS PATIENT PLATFORM – AND THEIR 16 LOCAL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS CREATE “AMEA”, AN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST REGION ALLIANCE

GAAPP - Global Allergy & Airways Patient Platform - is a global umbrella organization linking member organizations worldwide with a common interest: supporting and improving the quality of life for people around the globe who suffer from allergic, airways, and atopic diseases. 16 local member organizations unite to create AMEA, a regional alliance, to address lung health issues:

- Allergy and Asthma Organization - Kenya
- Amaka Chiwuike Uba Foundation - Nigeria
- Association Santé Meilleure Vie Meilleure SM-VM - Togo
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of West Africa - Gambia
- Asthma and Allergy Patient Association - Ethiopia
- Asthma Relief Campaign Project - Nigeria
- (The) Asthma Foundation - Sierra Leone
- Community and Family Aid Foundation - Ghana
- COPD Foundation - South Africa
- Frontiers for Hemophilia and Bleeding Disorders - Sierra Leone
- Helping Hands Foundation - Pakistan
- Hope Life International - Gambia
- National Asthma Education Program - South Africa
- NCD Alliance - Kenya
- Permian Health Lung Institute - Gambia
- V- Life savers Foundation - Gambia

Together, the AMEA Alliance aims to:

- **Raise Awareness:** Educate the public about respiratory and allergic conditions, their symptoms, and the importance of early diagnosis.
- **Encourage Medical Consultation:** Empower individuals experiencing symptoms such as difficulty breathing, chest pain, or similar issues to seek medical advice.

- **Advocate for Better Care and Treatment:** Call for improved access to medical care, and research funding to improve the quality of life of patients living with allergic and respiratory conditions in the region.
- **Support:** Push for increased investment in research, advocacy, and medical education, especially in African & Middle East regions where respiratory diseases remain largely overlooked.

## **AMEA, GAAPP AFRICAN & MIDDLE EAST ALLIANCE, ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST EVER REGIONAL MEETING ON THE 23<sup>rd</sup> OF AUGUST 2025 IN LAGOS, NIGERIA**

**Lagos, Nigeria, 23rd August 2025**– The Global Allergy and Airways Patient Platform (GAAPP), together with its affiliate, the African & Middle East Alliance (AMEA), is proud to announce the first ever regional meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, **2025**. This milestone marks a significant step in creating opportunity for members across the region to converge, collaborate, share best practices, discuss challenges and develop strategies for improving allergy and airways diseases care in Africa & the Middle East Region.

*“Allergy and respiratory diseases are often misunderstood or misdiagnosed, leaving many patients suffering without proper treatment. By organizing this meeting, we hope to bring much-needed attention to this condition and advocate for change on a regional scale, we call on the Nigerian Government and the entire African/ Middle East Leaders to support this move”* said **Perpetual Obiageri Nwangoro, African & Middle East Regional Alliance Administrator at GAAPP.**

For more information and how to get involved

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Sources :

- 1- [Extract of the Lung Health Resolution Draft : B156 CONF5-en.pdf](#)
- 2- [https://globalasthmaareport.org/resources/Global\\_Asthma\\_Report\\_2022.pdf](https://globalasthmaareport.org/resources/Global_Asthma_Report_2022.pdf)
- 3- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39019625/>
- 4- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8886964/>

