

USP Access for Africa: Frequently Asked Questions

- 1 What is the USP Access for Africa initiative?**

The USP Access for Africa initiative is a new program which aims to support African manufacturers, regulatory authorities, laboratories, and academic institutions to advance the shared goal of expanding production of and access to quality medicines and vaccines in Africa by providing complimentary access to key USP resources.
- 2 What offerings can be accessed through this program?**

This program offers complimentary access to the *United States Pharmacopeia National Formulary* (USP-NF) and USP's library of self-paced, online courses through December 31st, 2026 to eligible stakeholders in Africa.
- 3 Who is eligible for this initiative?**

Stakeholders based in Africa who are a part of the pharmaceutical ecosystem (i.e., manufacturers, regulatory authorities, control laboratories, and academic institutions) and who have not previously subscribed to USP-NF or USP Education are eligible for the USP Access for Africa initiative.
- 4 How do I enroll in this program?**

To enroll in the Access for Africa initiative, please go to <https://www.usp.org/accessforafrica> and complete both the initial interest form and subsequent survey which will be used to confirm your eligibility. Upon completion of the survey, you will be contacted via email by USP. If you have any questions prior to completing this form, please email: USPAccessforAfrica@usp.org.
- 5 How is this initiative different from other programs USP already has in place that offer free or discounted access to its products and content?**

USP offers complimentary access to its documentary standards (including USP-NF) and select USP Education courses to all national regulatory authorities and national control laboratories in Africa as well as access to complimentary and discounted reference standards through our Preferential Access for Regulators (PAR) program. Through the PAR program, USP has provided nearly \$4 million USD in free or discounted reference standards. USP also offers complimentary access to documentary standards to academic institutions.

This initiative reflects an expansion of complimentary access to USP-NF and self-paced USP Education courses to Africa-based manufacturers who are new users. This program also extends complimentary access to self-paced USP Education courses to all academic institutions in Africa.
- 6 Does this initiative apply to other USP offerings such as reference standards and live USP Education courses?**

This program does not provide complimentary access to USP reference standards. National regulatory authorities and control laboratories interested in obtaining USP reference standards through USP's Preferential Access for Regulators program should [apply here](#). Other stakeholders, including manufacturers, can purchase USP reference standards through [our store](#) or via your local authorized distributor. For support with reference standard purchases, please visit our [Support page](#). To inquire about USP's in-person or livestreamed trainings or to inquire about receiving technical assistance, please reach out to education@usp.org or visit <https://education.usp.org>.

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Are existing subscribers of USP-NF or USP Education eligible for this initiative?

This initiative only applies to new subscribers.

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How does this initiative build on other African-led initiatives to expand production of and access to quality-assured medical products?

In Africa, there is growing momentum to advance supply chain resilience by expanding the pharmaceutical manufacturing base, stemming in part from the tragic delays in receiving essential medical products experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. With several enablers being put into place, including the African Continental Free Trade Area and the African Medicines Agency (AMA), the manufacturing base appears poised for growth. This initiative represents an expansion of USP's decades-long efforts to expand access to quality medicines in Africa and support for several African-led initiatives to increase local production of quality medical products, such as the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the New Public Health Order for Africa.

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How does the initiative build on existing USP work in Africa?

For more than three decades, through USP's own investments and donor-funded global health programs, including the USAID-funded Promoting the Quality of Medicines Plus (PQM+) program, USP has been working in Africa to help advance supply chain resilience by strengthening health systems and supporting regulators, laboratories, and manufacturers to reach international standards. Through our global health programs, we work across the pharmaceutical ecosystem in Africa, including partnering with more than 30 national regulatory authorities, 29 manufacturers, and the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative, the precursor to AMA.

USP remains committed to advancing this body of work and recognizes that this is a critical and exciting moment for the continent as it builds momentum towards substantially and sustainably growing resilient pharmaceutical and vaccines production on the African continent. As a standard-setting organization committed to advancing access to quality medicines for all, USP is committed to doing its part and believes that the ability to utilize and apply quality standards is an important tool for stakeholders within the pharmaceutical ecosystem.

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What happens at the end of the program?

USP expects that regulators and quality control laboratories will continue to be able to access these offerings free of charge. Academic institutions will continue to be able to access USP-NF free of charge and will receive discounts for subsequent USP Education offerings. Other stakeholders, including manufacturers, who wish to re-subscribe will have to opportunity re-enroll at substantial discounts from list prices.

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How will USP engage me throughout the life of the program?

USP may engage you via periodic surveys to get your feedback on the initiative and to better understand your needs. USP may also share occasional email communications on topics that may be relevant to your area of work, to which you may unsubscribe at any time. USP hopes that your entry into this program will mark the beginning of a long-term engagement and dialogue lasting well beyond the life of the program.

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Where can I reach out with questions?

For general questions or if you're having issues enrolling in the Access for Africa initiative, please email: USPAccessforAfrica@usp.org.