



## PRESS RELEASE

### ***CFAO Healthcare and the OPALS Foundation are mobilizing to strengthen medicine distribution networks in Africa***

**Boulogne-Billancourt, April 07, 2025** – CFAO Healthcare, a major player in pharmaceutical distribution in Africa, and the OPALS Foundation (Organisation PanAfricaine de Lutte pour la Santé) today announce the joint publication of a white paper entitled “Securing the medicine distribution network in Africa”.

This publication aims to raise awareness of the major role of the official medicine distribution networks on the African continent by describing the main actors and networks. It highlights the importance of a reliable and secure supply to ensure the integrity of pharmaceutical products and the health of patients. It also provides an overview of the presence and impact of falsified medicines in Africa.

The white paper is based on quantitative data, expert analysis, and testimonials from professionals: national and international institutions, healthcare professionals, NGOs, and laboratories. These diverse contributions enrich the publication’s conclusions and the co-authors’ lessons for an increasingly efficient and accessible distribution system.

In Africa, several factors favor the rise of illicit channels that threaten public health and weaken healthcare systems. In particular, these parallel networks supply heavily frequented street markets, where products of unknown origin and composition circulate.

Jean-Marc Leccia, CEO of CFAO Healthcare, emphasizes, "*Protecting legal channels means protecting lives and ensuring the resilience of healthcare systems. Optimizing pharmaceutical distribution in Africa is a fundamental lever for improving public health.*" Through this publication, we are fully committed to our ambition of securing access to high-quality medicines in Africa.

Professor Marc Gentilini, President of the OPALS Foundation and Honorary President of the French Academy of Medicine, calls for "*a general mobilization of all stakeholders, at both national and international levels, to strengthen control capacities and structure the supply of quality medicines in a sustainable way.*"

The white paper is available in digital format. For more information, visit [cfaogroup.com](https://cfaogroup.com) or [cfaohealthcare.com](https://cfaohealthcare.com).

**About CFAO Healthcare**

Pan-African leader in pharmaceutical distribution, CFAO Healthcare secures access to high-quality medicines for all African countries. CFAO Healthcare supplies medicines and pharmaceutical products in 24 African countries and 6 French Overseas Territories. Product integrity is ensured throughout the logistical import logistics chain, from the storage site to the pharmacy, notably through the Laborex network, which delivers to more than 11,000 pharmacies daily in French-speaking Africa, English-speaking Africa and the French Overseas Territories. CFAO Healthcare also manufactures licensed medicines in Morocco and Algeria and assembles and distributes generic medicine kits and medical consumables for Africa.

Its expertise is built on its complete control of the supply chain, in line with the highest quality and traceability standards, from production and import to the pharmacy and ultimately to the patient.

**With Africa For Africa**

For more information, go to: [www.cfaohealthcare.com](http://www.cfaohealthcare.com)

**About the OPALS Foundation**

The OPALS Foundation (Organisation PanAfricaine de Lutte pour la Santé) is the result of combining the objectives and resources of the Chirac Foundation and the OPALS Association in order to:

- Combat the scourge of trafficking in counterfeit medicines, vaccines and medical devices,
- Denounce health fraud in all its forms, and
- Improve access to quality health care for all.

Its vocation is to fight against health inequalities and to relentlessly lead the mobilization in favor of quality medicine, for all, by qualified professionals, with approved medicines, controlled vaccines, certified medical devices.

The OPALS Foundation is a foundation protected by the Fondation de l'Académie de Médecine (FAM).

For more information: [opals.asso.fr/faux\\_medicaments/](http://opals.asso.fr/faux_medicaments/)

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