



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence



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In-Focus Article

BRICS Health Cooperation 2026: India Expands the Agenda for Resilient and Inclusive Health Systems

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In April 2026, India, chaired the BRICS first Health Working Group (HWG) meeting in New Delhi through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The meeting brought together representatives from nine participating countries, reflecting the re-cent expansion of BRICS and its growing relevance in global health governance.

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Key Developments in the Global South



EAM Dr S Jaishankar says India Mauritius Partnership has Seen Significant Progress

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has said that the partnership between India and Mauritius has seen significant progress over the past year. Speaking to the media after meeting Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam in Port Louis, Dr. Jaishankar said discussions covered a wide range of areas, including maritime cooperation, development partnership, health, education, capacity building and people-to-people ties.

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India Pushes for Stronger BRICS Health Cooperation, Equitable Access to Vaccines and Joint R&D

India stressed on the need for enhanced cooperation in joint research and development, equitable access to vaccines and medicines, and capacity-building initiatives among the BRICS countries. Chairing the first Health Working Group (HWG) meeting under the BRICS framework for the year 2026 in New Delhi, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava said the group meetings in recent years have paved the way for collaboration on pressing health challenges, including communicable and non-communicable diseases, strengthening of health systems, and improving access to affordable medicines.

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India: e-SafeHER to Train One Million Rural Women in Cyber Safety

India has launched a major national initiative aimed at strengthening cybersecurity awareness among women in rural communities, with a focus on enabling safe and confident participation in the digital economy. The programme, titled e-SafeHER, aims to train one million women over the next three years, building a network of “Cyber Sakhis” – trained rural women community advocates who promote cybersecurity and safe digital practices at the grassroots level.

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ICRISAT Strengthens South–South Collaboration through ISSCA and ITEC Global Training Programs

Across the Global South, agriculture is emerging as a shared challenge that demands scalable solutions, stronger partnerships, and faster knowledge exchange. Addressing this need requires science-led approaches that combine innovation, capacity building, and global collaboration. To advance this, ICRISAT hosted a series of four international training programs.

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Developing Countries Launch First-ever Borrowers' Platform, a Breakthrough in Global Finance

Developing countries took a major step to rebalance the global financial system on 15 April, launching the first-ever Borrowers' Platform during the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings, with UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) serving as its secretariat.

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Brazil Links AI and Technical Standards in Competitiveness Push

Brazil's Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade said the integration of AI and technical standardisation should be treated as a strategic issue for the country's competitiveness. The position was presented during a meeting organised by the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation, which brought together public bodies and specialists to discuss AI governance and its effects on the productive sector and on the state.

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World Bank Group Launches Initiative to Improve Water Security for 1 Billion People

The World Bank Group, in partnership with multilateral development banks, development finance institutions and key partners, launched Water Forward, a global platform to help improve water security for 1 billion people by 2030. The platform will align policy reforms, financing, and partnerships to expand reliable water services and strengthen systems against droughts and floods—essential conditions for job creation.

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Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the SCO Member States takes place in Bishkek

On April 15, 2026, the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States was held in Bishkek under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers – Minister of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic, Erlist Akunkbekov.

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Azerbaijan Advances Digital Diplomacy Agenda

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan has highlighted the growing role of AI and digital technologies in diplomacy, according to an official

publication. The discussion reflects wider efforts to modernise diplomatic practices. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan emphasised that digital tools are increasingly shaping communication, policy coordination and international engagement.

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Indonesia Eyes Fertilizer Exports to India on 1.5 Million-Ton Surplus

Indonesia is exploring urea exports to India after recording a domestic surplus of 1.5 million tons, even as the government stresses that local supply will remain the top priority. Deputy Agriculture Minister Sudaryono said the plan was discussed during a meeting with Indian Ambassador Manoj Kumar Bharti, as both countries seek to deepen agricultural cooperation.

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AfDB Approves \$200m Loan for Nigeria's Digital Infrastructure

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has approved a 200 million dollar loan to support Nigeria's digital infrastructure expansion and job creation across the efforts. The bank said the loan would fund the Digital Value Chain Infrastructure for Boosting Employment (D-VIBE) Project, a flagship initiative aimed at closing connectivity gaps and strengthening Nigeria's digital economy.

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Syria, Jordan Sign Agreements to Boost Cooperation

Syria and Jordan have signed a series of agreements aimed at expanding bilateral cooperation across key sectors. The agreements were reached during the second session of the Syrian-Jordanian Higher Coordination Council, held in the Jordanian capital, and co-chaired by senior officials from both countries.

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PAHO and CARPHA Strengthen Collaboration to Advance Health Outcomes in the Caribbean

Technical experts and leaders from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) reaffirmed their commitment to deepen collaboration in addressing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and violence-related injuries, strengthen surveillance systems, and diabetes and obesity prevention priorities and further align technical cooperation being provided to Caribbean member states.

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Kenya, Morocco Sign Health Cooperation Deal in Landmark Bilateral Agreements

The Government of Kenya has signed a series of strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Kingdom of Morocco across 11 sectors, including health, agriculture, sports, the blue economy and higher education, marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

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Morocco and Gabon Expand Digital Partnership With Focus on Skills and AI

Morocco and Gabon signed two agreements on the sidelines of the 2026 edition of GITEX Africa. The agreements reflect a shared commitment to accelerate digital transformation and develop human capital. Digital ministers Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni and Mark Alexandre Doumba signed the first agreement to structure bilateral cooperation. The framework covers knowledge sharing on digital public policies, regulatory harmonization, and the rollout of training programs aligned with sector needs.

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AGRA Urges Renewed Focus on Smallholder Farmers to Drive Africa's Agricultural Transformation

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has called for intensified efforts to scale practical solutions aimed at raising smallholder farmers' incomes, reinforcing resilient food systems, deepening investable markets, and advancing inclusive agricultural transformation across the continent. The appeal was made during a high-level meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa, convened as part of AGRA's board retreat in Ethiopia.

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DAKSHIN-RIS Event

A webinar on “Strengthening Ties and Expanding Cooperation: The Brazil–India Partnership Ahead” was jointly organized by DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India, in collaboration with the Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI), Brazil on 15th April 2026. The session brought together perspectives from both countries on deepening bilateral engagement and advancing cooperation within the broader framework of Global South solidarity.

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