AFRICA HEALTHTECH SUMMIT

HEALTHTECH SUMMIT

2023

DIGITAL HEALTH

Empowering People, Transforming Communities

October 17-19, Kigali Convention Center

MWC
GSMA

AFRICA HEALTHTECH SUMMIT (AHTS 2023)

REPORT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The success of the second edition of the Africa HealthTech Summit (AHTS) was made possible by the collaborative efforts of numerous partners, institutions and leaders.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the Government of Rwanda, more specially the Ministries of Health and of ICT & Innovation.We are grateful for the partnership with GSMA, the Africa and MWC Kigali Teams.

Special thanks to our institutional co-hosts, Africa CDC and Smart Africa, along with our lead partners - now called the G4 - The Mastercard Foundation, The Commons Project, GIZ, and UNICEF.

We also express our thanks to all other partners, speakers and participants for their invaluable support in making the 2023 edition a remarkable success.

H.E Dr. Jean Kaseya
Director-General of
Africa-CDC

Hon. Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana
Minister of Health - Rwanda

Hon. Paula Ingabire
Minister of ICT & Innovation
- Rwanda

Mats Granryd
Director-General,
GSMA

Lacina Koné
Director-General,
Smart Africa

Our AHTS 2023 Partners

African Union · AFRICA CDC Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Safeguarding Africa's Health · smart africa CONNECT.INNOVATE.TRANSFORM

mastercard foundation · The Commons Project · giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH · unicef

IQVIA · Google · WORLD BANK · BETTER THAN CASH ALLIANCE · ZENYSIS

THE GLOBAL FUND · psi · World Health Organization · I-DAIR · DCCC Digital Connected Care Coalition · FIND Diagnosis for all · Transform Health

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM · Rwanda Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution · SALIENT · amref health africa · PATH · RESOLVE TO SAVE LIVES · SpeakUpAfrica. · AHB AFRICA HEALTH BUSINESS

About the Summit

The Africa HealthTech Summit 2023, co-located within MWC Kigali, was the pinnacle of healthcare innovation and digital transformation.

Under the theme *"Digital Health: Empowering People, Transforming Communities"* the summit aimed to revolutionize healthcare delivery throughout Africa.

The second edition successfully convened industry leaders, visionaries, and policymakers, fostering transformative partnerships to drive impactful change and inspire innovation within the healthcare sector.

Connected Diagnostics	Africa Integrated Disease Surveillance And Response	Digitized Primary Care
Digital Medical Supply Chain And Logistics	Africa Digital Health Index	Health Data Governance
Digital Workforce Development	Pan African Health Informatics Network	Public Health Informatics Fellowship

Artificial Intelligence For Health In Africa	African Women In Digital Health
Healthconnekt Africa	Human Data Science
Data and Innovation Sandbox	Financing Digital Health

The AHTS Journey
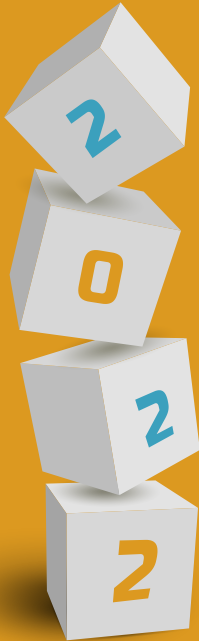
Theme: Digitalization – Towards universal quality care and resilient health systems

600 Delegates	**200+** + Institutions	**75** Speakers
45+ Countries	**11** Sessions 7 Plenary sessions 10 Parallel sessions	

- Introduction of the Africa CDC digital strategy and flagship initiatives

The AHTS Journey
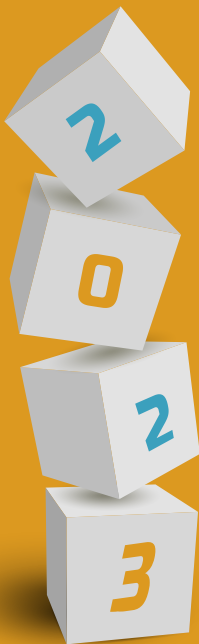
Theme: Digital Health: Empowering People, Transforming Communities

1000 + Delegates	**1473** + Institutions	**123** Speakers
78+ Countries	**26** Sessions 11 Plenary sessions 13 Parallel sessions	**2** Co-creation workshops

• Private sector representation

• Launch of the African Youth in Digital Health Network (AYiDHN)

• Public Consultation on the Africa Digital Health Network (ADHN)

Opening Ceremony

In his opening ceremony remarks, H.E. Paul Kagame thanked everyone present for the continued dedication and commitment to contribute to the growth and development of the African continent.

More importantly, he highlighted the key role the Covid - 19 pandemic has played in accelerating the transition towards a more digital future and emphasized the importance of togetherness, and collaborations to seek common solutions during times of crisis.

"It is indubitably that digital health technology has the potential to revolutionize healthcare access,and through it address the critical gaps that exist."

- H.E. Paul Kagame,
President of Rwanda

Why are we in Kigali today? We want to hear from Africa. Africa's voice is crucial, and Rwanda was chosen to host AHTS 23 for its commitment to addressing health challenges and build a global pandemic-coping ecosystem."

- H.E Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director-General,
Africa CDC

"We are committed to enabling innovation and investment through collaboration with the public and private sectors."

- Hon. Paula Ingabire,
Minister of ICT & Innovation - Rwanda

"860 million people lack mobile internet access. Collaboration among leaders and industries is the key to universal connectivity in healthcare."

- Mats Granryd , Director General, GSMA

AHTS OPENING PLENARY

The New Africa Digital Health Deal: Stronger Health Security Through Digital Innovation

In Partnership with

The New Africa CDC Digital Health Deal aims to harness technology to strengthen Africa's pandemic preparedness, response, recovery and resilience while advancing universal healthcare objectives.

Giving his opening remarks *Jean Philbert Nsengimana*, highlighted it is the first time that the summit will birth the Digital Health Communities of Practice aiming at advancing the digital transformation of the health sector in the continent through holistic engagements with governments, private sector, civil society, academia, and startups.

'' The call to action is clear: a collective effort is essential to build upon existing foundations and propel Africa's digital health landscape into a future defined by seamless connectivity and impactful innovation."

- H.E Dr. Jean Kaseya,
Director-General - Africa CDC

"It is also the first time that the summit has significantly attracted the private sector who play a pivotal role in augmenting existing partnerships."

- Jean Philbert NSENGIMANA,
Chief Digital Advisor - Africa CDC

In his keynote address, *H.E Dr. Jean Kaseya*, emphasized the profound impact of digital transformation on digital health, anchored in the 4Cs—Communities, Commodities, Cash, and Connectivity.Acknowledging the pivotal role of the youth, he highlighted challenges, including the crucial need for interoperability. Africa CDC's commitment was reaffirmed to amplify support for interoperability and enhance digital capacity across the continent through flagship initiatives.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Policies must be community-centric and adaptable, aligning with evolving community needs to tailor initiatives to unique demographics while considering various factors such as geographical and infrastructural challenges.

- Engaging development partners is crucial to support government digital transformation, bridge the digital divide, ensure connectivity, and coordinate sustainable investments across sectors.

- Development partners are instrumental in shifting the continental narrative to an integrated enterprise. They sustain support for feasibility assessments, ensuring solutions are tested within the country context.

Speakers

Yacine Diop Djibo
Executive Director,
SpeakUp Africa
Moderator

H.E Dr Jean Kaseya
Director General, Africa CDC

Amb. Belén Calvo Uyarra
E.U Ambassador to Rwanda

Hon Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana
Minister of Health , Rwanda

Jean Philbert Nsengimana
Chief Digital Advisor,
Africa CDC

Dr. Huyam Salih
Director of AU I-BAR,
African Union

Prof. Julio Rakotonirina
Director of Health and Humanitarian
Affairs,Africa Union Commission

Dr. Francis Ohanyido
Director-General,
West African Institute of Public Health

Julia Dae Battle
Chief of Health,UNICEF

Funmilola Aderemi
Co - founder and Chief
Products Officer, Pharmarun

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Putting People First: The State and Future of Person-centered Digitized Primary Health in Africa

In Partnership with

At AHTS 2022, the Commons Project Foundation (TCP) and the Mastercard Foundation highlighted the importance of digitising primary care for the benefit of individual people and their continuity of care, and to help health systems run more efficiently and effectively.

This session revisited those ideas but also discuss how TCP and Mastercard Foundation recently undertook a project to understand countries' readiness for a person-centred health model and countries' maturity in the digitalization of primary care.

"Prioritizing primary healthcare digitization is paramount for effective digital healthcare"

**- Zhenya Lindgart, CEO
The Commons Project Foundation**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Achieving a digitized healthcare system in Africa requires addressing issues relevant to primary healthcare based on protections of data privacy, open standards and interoperability, capacity building of students, health workers and patients, and digitally enabling primary health teams.

- Latest innovations of today's health technology can be leveraged to accelerate the continent's healthcare sector transformation through advanced diagnostic tools, predictive analytics, AI,wearable technology, telehealth and remote monitoring.

- The implementation and utilization of open standards (HI7, FHIR, ICD10 etc.) inhealthcare interoperability vary across countries. Hence the need to exert more efforts to streamline initiatives aiming at improving standardization of open standards across the continent.
  Many countries have some kind of personal data protection policies. But the problem of awareness across countries and communities is still a hinderance.

Speakers

Zhenya Lindgart
CEO, The Commons Project
Foundation
Moderator

Dr. Richard Gakuba
Africa Program Director,
The Commons Project Foundation

Philip Lule
CEO, s4consulting

Dr. Henry Mwanyika
Regional Director Center of Digital
and Data Excellence, PATH

Dr. Josephine Nabukenya
Associate Professor/Chair, Health Informatics
Research Makerere University

Rebecca Cherop
Youth Advisory for Health
Board Member,
Africa CDC

Alex Ntale
CEO, ICT Chamber

From Detection to Action: Optimizing Africa's Disease Intelligence Systems for Stronger Pandemic Preparedness

In Partnership with

Africa confronts distinctive healthcare challenges, and recent global crises have accentuated the necessity for robust pandemic preparedness.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of timely detection, data-driven decision-making, and coordinated responses. Africa's Disease Intelligence Systems are indispensable in achieving these objectives for better, pandemic preparedness.

"At Africa Union, we're dedicated to advancing African healthcare through capacity building, policy advocacy, and global data coordination for a healthier future."

**- Dr. Huyam Salih,
Director of AU - IBAR**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Harnessing data, community engagement, and multi-stakeholder collaboration are essential for addressing pandemics in Africa effectively.

- Prioritizing capacity building, advocating for pertinent policies, and fostering global data coordination are critical for advancing health.

- Identifying the source of the next pandemic is pivotal for public health protection, necessitating collaboration among all stakeholders and active community participation.

Speakers

Kyeng Mercy
Lead, Epidemic intelligence, Africa CDC,

Moderator

Dr. Huyam Salih
Director, AUI-BAR

Sean Broomhead
CEO, HISP-SA

George Sie Williams
Lead Public health intelligence,
WHO Afro

Sean Blaschke
Senior Health Specialist, UNICEF

Dr. Sameen Babur
Director health informatics,
Clinton Health Access Initiative

Dr. Helene-Mari Van Der Westhuizen
Global Health Fellow ,Global Health Security
Consortium & Oxford University

Digital Innovations for Community Health: Advancing Equity and Sustainability

In Partnership with

IQVIA   Google   SALIENT

The continent's public sector's distribution systems in the healthcare supply chain remain overburdened with many consumers still accessing essential medicines through fragmented private sector supply chains.

There is need to bolster efforts in improving the public sector supply.The session underlined the path to equitable and sustainable healthcare solutions through digital innovation. Collaboration and accessibility at the top of it all.

"Partnerships with innovators especially through collaborative models with global development partners and donors will improve access and public health outcomes..."

- Alexandre de Carvalho,
General Manager, IQVIA West Africa

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Improve access and equity by minimizing supply chain fragmentation.

- Lower prices by reducing the existence of multiple layers along the distribution chain improving quality of services and products.

- Whilst EHR systems are widespread throughout the continent, their degree of use and data quality are still limited.Thus, more needs to be done to ensure such and similar systems are standardized and prioritized across the continent.

- Africa's digital maturity is less dependent on financial resources, but rather on governance, skilled workforce, and collaboration. Hence the need for more buy-in from leaders, capacity building and more collaboration in the continent to boost digital health.

Speakers

Cyril Seck
Strategy Advisor,
Africa CDC
Moderator

Alexandre de Carvalho
General Manager,Sub-Saharan Africa,
IQIVIA

Remi Adeseun
Director - Africa ,Salient Advisory

Celeste Grade
Health AI Business Development,
Google Health

Beyond the Build: Nurturing a Skilled Digital Health Workforce in Africa

Human resource capacity is a key factor for implementing and sustaining digital health interventions in Africa.

However, challenges hinder the development of a skilled health workforce that can effectively develop, use and manage digital health technologies. This session allowed participants to provide input and discuss priorities for the Africa CDC Digital Health Capacity Flagship Initiative.

This initiative aims at supporting African Union member states to build the digital health capacity of the health workforce, thereby enabling the effective design, implementation, and sustainability of digital health interventions.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Creating a competitive framework, and equipping citizens with skills, knowledge, and digital health data is vital for health systems worldwide, not just in Africa.

- Political will is crucial. African leaders' involvement and vision are key to achieving successful digital health workforce.

- Regular and ongoing training and retraining of the current health workforce are essential to advance Africa's digital health maturity.

Speakers

Sheila Mutheu
Lead, Market Facilitation and
Digital Health Partnerships, PSI
Moderator

Dr. Bonheur Dounebaine
Senior Technical Officer,
Africa CDC

Wycliffe Waweru
Head, Digital Health & Monitoring,
PSI

Willie Ngumi
Deputy Digital Learning Director,
AMREF Health Africa

Alice T. Liu
Global Partnerships Lead and Capacity
Development Director,
Health AI (formerly I-DAIR)

Dr. Tom Oluoch
Deputy Branch Chief -
Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics, CDC

Fostering Digital Health Excellence:Public Health Informatics (PHI) Fellowship Program

In Partnership with

Africa CDC is developing a pan-African applied Public Health Informatics Fellowship Program (AES-PHI) to train digital health leaders for Africa.

The two-year applied program, with a mix of didactic (20%) and practical (80%) training, focuses on nine informatics competencies prioritised by Africa CDC's Technical Advisory Group. As a minimum requirement, fellows will also conduct short-term technical-assistance and capstone projects, and prepare a manuscript.

Upon graduation, fellows will be able to develop, manage, and lead public health organisations such as NPHIs to become Informatics-savvy Health Organizations (ISHOs) with relevant capabilities in the areas of policy, governance, workforce, and information systems.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Africa CDC is committed to empower African health practitioners with digital health skills.

- The AES-PHI program aims to equip individuals for leadership roles in public health organizations, preparing them to effectively manage and lead towards the designation of ISHOs (Integrated Service Health Organizations.)

Speakers

Dr. Muzna Mirza
Medical Epidemiologist,
Disease Control and Prevention,
US-CDC
Moderator

Bonheur Dounebaine
Senior Technical Officer,
Africa CDC

Dr. Tadesse Wuhib
Medical Officer , US-CDC

Cyril Seck
Strategy Advisor,
Africa CDC

Africa Youth in Digital Health Ministerial Breakfast

In Partnership with

The Youth in Digital Health Ministerial Breakfast, hosted by Africa CDC and the Mastercard Foundation, brought together young health-tech leaders and officials to discuss and enhance youth engagement and opportunities in the field.

The event, which also marked the launch of the Africa Youth in Digital Health Network, celebrated digital health innovation, including the unveiling of the 2nd edition of the Innovator Awards in Africa.

Distinguished institutions, including the Ministry of Health, Rwanda, and Speak Up Africa, showcased their impactful contributions in the digital health sector, fostering collaboration and recognition for advancements in the field.

"In the realm of digital health, the youth are not just spectators, they are the architects of transformation."

- Dr Semakula Muhammed - Ministry of Health , Rwanda

"Today's digital health landscape is an open canvas, and the youth are the artists painting the strokes of innovation, resilience, and progress. This breakfast is a celebration of their role as pioneers in this transformative journey."

- Yacine Diop Djibo , Executive Director, SpeakUp Africa

"Let us remember, the power of the youth is not just in their potential, but in their proactive contribution to shaping a healthier, digitally empowered tomorrow."

- Antoine Sebera: Chief Innovation Officer, RISA - Rwanda

FHIRing Up Of Africa's Healthcare: Interoperability in Digital Health

In Partnership with

The 55 African Union Member States, represented by the Africa CDC, have strongly advocated for standards-based interoperability of digital health technologies.

This endorsement reflects their commitment to achieving "healthy and well-nourished citizens" across the continent. Globally, the 194 WHO Member States, with 24% from Africa, have underscored the crucial role of standards-based interoperability in realizing Universal Health Coverage and promoting well-being for all.

Africa has grappled with health information systems lacking interoperability, resulting in resource wastage and increased burdens on healthcare workers. The evolution of standards-based interoperability, once deemed complex, is now practically achievable, with factors such as FHIR playing a significant role in making this a reality for digital health technologies in Africa.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Priority towards health information systems and interoperability is positively shifting as noted in the work of Africa CDC in researching and sharing information on solutions that address interoperability and standards including that of FHIR.

- WHO is also continuing to move the needle in improving healthcare systems through a global strategy on digital transformation which also calls specifically on standards and FHIR for interoperability as a starting point.
  Africa on FHIR commits to ensure that there is alignment, convergence and harmonization around policy level for interoperability through FHIR.

- Whilst FHIR is the starting point to transform healthcare systems through global open standards, three key are important to ensure unique needs of countries at family level address, and sustainability is achieved:need for capacity, need for localization and need for policy

Speakers

Steve Wanyee
President-Elect, HELINA

Moderator

Zhenya Lindgardt
CEO,
The Commons Project Foundation

Celeste Grade
Health AI Business Development,
Google Health

Dr. Garrett Mehl
Head of digital health technology unit,
WHO

Dr. Tom Oluoch
Deputy Branch Chief -
Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics, CDC

Connected Diagnostics: Enhancing diagnostic systems in Africa with proximity, speed and precision

In Partnership with

FIND ▶▶
Diagnosis for all

Connected diagnostics integrate digital technology at the point of testing, which can strengthen clinical and surveillance systems through functions such as real-time data capture and transmission, algorithms for decision support and process management, and linkage to care.

By supporting more advanced diagnosis at lower levels of care, for example, through the use of artificial intelligence for interpretation of chest x-ray readings or wearable devices for early detection of cardiovascular disease, connected diagnostics also have the potential to expand coverage of essential diagnostic services.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- **Success in connected diagnostics lies in embracing AI, digital devices, and cultivating strong ownership among key stakeholders.**

- **Addressing proximity not only speeds up processes but also enables predictive planning in healthcare.**

- **Emphasizing the importance of digital connectivity in Africa for sharing health successes, innovations, and best practices, the focus is on heightening awareness among practitioners and enhancing a nation's understanding of its extensive impact.**

Speakers

Paula Akugizibwe
Lead, Market Facilitation and
Digital Health Partnerships, PSI
Moderator

Kyeng Mercy
Division of Surveillance and Disease Intelligence,
Africa CDC

Sylvere Mugumya
IT Business Analyst,
Ministry of Health, Rwanda

Yacine Diop Djibo
Executive Director,
Speak Up Africa

Dr. Francis Ohanyido
Director-General,
West African Institute of Public Health

Indira Soundiram
Global Access Director,
Cepheid

Rigveda Kadam
Director, Digital Health,FIIND

HealthConnekt Africa: Building the Digital Health Infrastructure of the Future

In Partnership with

Healthconnekt, an initiative developed through a multisectoral approach, tackles the connectivity challenges in primary healthcare across member states.

As a flagship initiative of Africa CDC and UNICEF, it orchestrated a high-level discussion. The aim was to foster political will among member states and regional institutions, identify synergies with complementary initiatives, assess past efforts to address connectivity issues, and promote multi-sectoral opportunities.

The overarching goal is to align partners and firmly embed this initiative within national plans, ensuring a comprehensive and effective approach to addressing connectivity challenges in primary healthcare.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Enablers such as electrification, connectivity are absolutely vital to achieving the promises of a digitized healthcare ecosystem.

- Collaborative frameworks are necessary to bring onboard over 680 million people in Sub Saharan Africa who are under broadband coverage but not using the service and to find sustainable ways to find coverage for the remaining 20% of people in Africa.

- Insights from existing challenges and innovative solutions emphasize the necessity for sustained and predictable financing. This involves partnerships with communication operators, exploration of innovative funding models, and engagement with international institutions.

- The need to clearly communicate the value proposition to cater for unique needs of different stakeholders and bolster investments for digital health transformation.

Speakers

Sean Blaschke
Senior Health Specialist,
UNICEF
Moderator

Ben Roberts
Chief Technology and Innovation Officer,
Liquid Group

Robin Miller
Founding Partner,
Axum

Olutomi Olutola
Senior Connectivity and Digital
Advisor, AFRICA, USAID

Kamal Tamawa
Director Spectrum & Industry Services,
GSMA

Keith Chibafa
ICT Manager, UNICEF

Sam Mills
Senior Health Specialist,
World Bank

Jean Philbert Nsengimana
Chief Digital Advisor, Africa CDC

Transformative partnerships for digital health: Joining forces to increase access to equitable, quality care

In Partnership with

DCCC
Digital Connected Care Coalition

The Digital Connected Care Coalition advocates for the singular path to advancing scalable and impactful digital health: collaboration.

Adopting an ecosystem approach, the coalition strategically amalgamates the strengths of public and private organizations, forging transformative partnerships. This collaborative endeavor aims to improve health outcomes for both patients and care providers.

The introduction of this approach is substantiated by three concrete examples of existing partnerships, namely on accessible health data across nine African countries, an investment fund, and the digital care delivery model. These initiatives collectively underscore the coalition's commitment to driving positive and enduring advancements in the realm of digital health.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Presented DCCC as a transformative partnership platform with a unique Way of Working, creating an interactive and energetic environment.

- Explored how the public and private sectors synergized in 'Transformative Partnerships,' providing examples: (1) VODAN, (2) MedicalCreditFund, and (3) brick&click projects, including the connection to the Swiss-RE 700k Entrepreneurs for Resilience award.

- Collaboratively explored specific priorities and actions with the audience, defining the roles of various stakeholders in the process.

Speakers

Dr. Niti Pall
Senior Mobile and Digital Health Advisor, AXA & DCCC
Moderator

Jean Philbert Nsengimana
Chief Digital Advisor, Africa CDC

Jeroen Maas
Director Access to Care Technology and Partnerships, Philips

Kennedy Okong'o
Director East Africa Medical Credit Fund, PharmAccess

Dr. Amit Thakker
Executive Chairman, Africa Health Business

Charlotte Wilming
Program Director, PharmAccess International

Strengthening Health Data Governance: Building Consensus through an African Common Position

In Partnership with

Transform Health

Stakeholders were introduced to the Africa CDC flagship initiative on health data governance.

The objective was to develop an African Common Position on Health Data Governance, fostering strengthened alignment and consensus across countries and stakeholders.

The initiative aimed to establish a model set of regulations governing the collection and use of health data, facilitating a unified and coherent approach to health data governance across the continent.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Develop minimum standards through member-state consultations.

- Ensure robust government and multi-stakeholder involvement to establish an African common position on health data governance. This includes agreeing on common standards, technical guidance, and tools for enhanced data governance.

- Formulate a data standard strategy to achieve unified, standardized data in the healthcare ecosystem, addressing challenges related to data fragmentation and exchange.

Speakers

Dr. Tom Olouch
Deputy Branch Chief - Epidemiology,
Surveillance and Informatics   Africa CDC
Moderator

Dr. Henry Mwanyika
Regional Director Center of Digital
and Data Excellence,
PATH

Mathilde Forslund
Executive Director, Transform Health

Jean Baptiste Byiringiro
Chief Digital Officer,
Ministry of Health Rwanda

Malar Veerappan
Program Manager and Senior
Data Scientist,World Bank

Brian Chirombo
WHO Representative Rwanda, WHO

One Health in the Digital Age: Harnessing Technology for Integrated Prevention, Detection, and Response Across Humans, Animals, Plants, and Ecosystems

In Partnership with

gíz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

One Health Data serves as the foundational element for constructing dependable and enduring One Health digital solutions.

Whether the planned digital intervention involves analytical tools, platforms, information systems, or Internet of Things (IoT) devices and applications, robust data stands as a prerequisite for seamless operation.

Specifically, the integration and interoperability of One Health Data are fundamental pillars, facilitating effective information sharing and coordination across One Health sectors while reinforcing One Health Management and Governance. Recent discussions within the One Health domain have introduced new conceptual frameworks, such as "One Digital Health," "Digital One Health," and "Digital Global Public Health," all sharing a common goal of harnessing digital tools to address health challenges.

"Rwanda's commitment to digital initiatives is emphasized by our focus on accessible environmental data. Initiatives such as the Biodiversity Information System and Rwanda Climate Change Portal pave the way for a carbon-neutral and resilient nation."

- Hon Mujawamariya Jeanne d'Arc, Minister Of Environment, Rwanda ,

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Establishing correlations between animal health and public health relies on sustained integrated surveillance systems, utilizing risk-based surveillance, cluster analysis, regression, or simulation models.

- Alliances like the African Union One Health Data Alliance, which foster a collaborative, data-driven approach to managing the interconnected health of humans, animals, and ecosystems, merit attention and scaling.

- Efforts to standardize the use of animal health and climatic data for forecasting public health events need augmentation. Collaborative models with global development partners and donors, particularly through partnerships with innovators, can enhance access and public health outcomes, addressing gaps and fostering higher adoption levels of digital applications in the health sector.

Speakers

Dr. Kirstin Grosse Frie
Head of Project, One Health Data
Alliance Africa, GIZ
Moderator

Hon, Dr.Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya
Minister, Ministry of Environment,
Rwanda

Dr. Huyam Salih
Director, African
Union - Inter African Bureau for
Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

Dr. Yewande Alimi
One Health Unit Lead at Africa Center for
Disease Control and Prevention,
Africa CDC

Dr. Edison Rwagasore
Division Manager of Pandemic Health Surveillance and
Emergencies Preparedness and Response Division (PHSEPRD),
Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)

Dr. Mercy Kyeng
Epidemic Intelligence Unit Lead,
Africa CDC

Dr. Kahariri Samuel
National Epidemiologist,
Directorate of Veterinary Services

Dr. Mary Mbole-Kariuki
Technology & Innovations Specialist,
Inter African Bureau for Animal
Resources (AU-IBAR)

Building inclusive responsible digital payments ecosystems to strengthen health systems

BETTER THAN CASH ALLIANCE

The session on forging an inclusive digital payments ecosystem delved into the transition from cash to digital payments in Africa, leveraging existing financial and infrastructure resources.

Success stories and commitments were shared by Ethiopia, Ghana, and WHO, highlighting their active support for digital payment projects.

"In Ethiopia over the last 3 years, we've adapted digital payment systems in healthcare with the support of partners & investors. We now have data collection platforms & mobile payment apps, thanks to our government driving this."

- Gemechis Melkamu, Digital Health Lead Executive Officer, Federal Ministry of Health Ethiopia

"We are building bonds to harmonize projects, advocating aligned initiatives, capacity building with people at the centre, supporting youth and enabling infrastructure."

- Idil Hussein - Researcher - Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Africa's shift from cash to digital payments relies on effective collaboration between the government and the private sector, leveraging available financial and infrastructure resources.

- The demonstrated success of digital payments in healthcare across Africa necessitates its broader advancement.

- Identification of resource mobilization opportunities through the responsible digitization of health payments is unlocking financing of Healthcare evolution.

Speakers

Oswell Kahonde
Head- Anglophone Africa,
Better Than Cash Alliance
Moderator

Idil Hussein Jama
Health Digital Finance Expert,
WHO

Shruti Sharma
Digital Payments Expert,
Better Than Cash Alliance

Gemechis Melkamu
Director Digital Health Directorate,
Ethiopia Ministry of Health

Mustapha Adams Hamidu
Director of Finance,
Ghana Health Services

Adamu Wondimtekahu
Director-Research Risk Management,
Ethiopia Health Insurance Agency

The Digital Health Funding Gap: Innovative Models to Fund Digital Health in Africa

In Partnership with

Addressing a 4.1 billion funding gap over five years requires heightened investments from governments, public and private sectors, and coordinated cost-effective strategies. Digital health, integral to health systems, plays a vital role in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Recognizing the imperative of prioritizing digital health for all, challenges in the current funding landscape impede progress. These challenges encompass a lack of publicly available funding information, fragmented funding, insufficient emphasis on the enabling environment and core health system functions, and increased pressure on Official Development Assistance (ODA) due to the impacts of climate change.

The session featured fireside chats that delved into the needed strategies, the critical nature of the issue, and opportunities for improving funding.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Africa's digital maturity is less dependent on financial resources, but rather on governance,skilled workforce, and collaboration. Hence the need for more buy-in from leaders, capacity building and more collaboration in the continent to boost digital health.

- Partnerships with innovators especially through collaborative models with global development partners and donors will improve access and public health outcomes to reduce gaps and low adoption levels of digital applications in the health sector. As data become more and more important to healthcare in today's digital world, more is needed today to overcome challenges around; fractured data quality, siloed health IT systems, changing regulatory environment ,distrust of AI generated results and disconnect between data strategies and public health needs.

- Whilst EHR systems are widespread throughout the continent, their degree of use and data quality are still limited.Thus, more needs to be done to ensure such and similar systems are standardized and prioritized across the continent.

Speakers

Alice Higiro
Project Director,
Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda
Moderator

Michael Johnson
Chief Information Officer,
The Global Fund

Dr. Tom Oluoch
Deputy Branch Chief - Epidemiology,
Surveillance and Informatics - CDC

Dr. Muhammed Semakula
Head of Planning, Strategic Information,
and Health Financing,
Ministry of Health Rwanda

Dr. Dino Rech
Chief Executive Officer,
Audere

Marelize Gorgens
Lead, Digital Health Flagship Program,
World Bank

Arun Kumar
Principal Investment Officer,
African Development Bank

Dr. Garrett Mehl
Head of digital health
technology unit, WHO

Data Matters: Leveraging Data Use For Digital health transformation

In Partnership with

Effective digital transformation demands a comprehensive organizational approach to fully capitalize on technology and governance investments.

Often overlooked components crucial to success include workforce development and strategic data utilization, with a recognition of the significance of bringing data use to the forefront at subnational and community levels, closest to points of data generation.

This session featured representatives from Burkina Faso, Niger, and Malawi, sharing their experiences to underscore the transformative impact of strategic data utilization at community, subnational, and national levels.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Integrated systems enhance data sharing for health and security, supporting targeted medical responses and situational awareness.

- Routine health information, surveys, research, and supervision data play a pivotal role in ensuring preparedness for healthcare responses.

- Collaboration between private and public institutions is critical for advancing digital health access and capabilities in Africa.

Speakers

Steve Ollis
Senior Digital Health Advisor, JSI

Moderator

Austin Gumbo
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer,
Ministry of Health, Malawi

Dr. Mounkaila Aida
Medical Doctor, MSP

Paul Buchana
Data Science and Machine Learning Advisor,
Tony Blair Global Institute

Transforming Healthcare Delivery in Rwanda Through Digital Innovation

In Partnership with

ZENYSIS

Rwanda has demonstrated remarkable progress in advancing its healthcare system, and this session delved into the pivotal role of digital solutions in further elevating healthcare delivery.

The discussion focused on the integration and implementation of digital technologies and innovations, showcasing Rwanda's achievements in utilizing these tools to enhance healthcare accessibility, quality, and affordability on a nationwide scale.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Integrated systems enhance data sharing for health and security, supporting targeted medical responses and situational awareness.

- Routine health information, surveys, research, and supervision data play a pivotal role in ensuring preparedness for healthcare responses.

- Collaboration between private and public institutions is critical for advancing digital health access and capabilities in Africa.

Speakers

Dr. Eric Umuhoza
Assistant Professor, Carnegie Mellon University
Moderator

Dr. Muhammed Semakula
Head of Planning, Strategic Information and
Health Financing, Ministry of Health

Dr. Brenda Kaatera
Chief Innovation Officer,
RISA - Rwanda

Dr. Eric Remera
Division Manager,
Research Innovation and Data science

Dr. Jean Paul Uwizihiwe
Regional Director,
Zenysis Technologies

Dr. Jennifer Batamuliza
Lecturer & Head of Data Driven Incubation Hub &
short professional courses,
African center of excellence in
Data science-University of Rwanda

Breaking Barriers: Women shaping the future of Digital Health in Africa

In Partnership with

SpeakUpAfrica.

African women are making substantial contributions to the advancement of healthcare and policies through technology, overcoming long-standing barriers such as a shortage of skilled workforce, limited funding, and unfavorable policy environments.

Stemming from one of the most successful Africa CDC initiatives, Africa Women in Digital Health (AWiDH), the session highlighted the strides made in the initiative over the past year. It emphasized the pivotal role of women in propelling innovation and progress in the digital health sector across the African continent.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Mitigate the digital health gender gap through consistent multidisciplinary and multisectoral stakeholder engagement.

- Cultivate stronger commitment from government, private sector, civil society, and other partners to establish more favorable policies and regulations supporting women's participation in digital health in Africa.

- Facilitate effective collaboration and coordination for women's meaningful engagement and leadership in digital health.

- Establish partnerships and networks dedicated to empowering women in digital health across Africa.

Speakers

Maimouna Diop Ly
Senior Advisor for Health Policy and Financing,
Speak Up Africa
Moderator

Dr. Frances Baaba da-Costa Vroom
Lecturer,
University of Ghana

Aissatou Ba
Program officer, Women's Economic
Empowerment,
ECOWAS

Nura IZATH
Founder and CEO,
Neosave Technologies
(AYI4HA winner)

Dr. Ibrahima Khalil Dia
Coordinator of Health and Social Card, Digital
Health and Health
Observatory Unit (CSSDOS),
Ministry of Health of Senegal

Stephanie Watson-Grant
Deputy Director, CHISU/JSI

Prof Paul Lalvani
Executive Director and Founder,
Empower School of Health

AI for Health: Unleashing the next level in Digital Health Innovation

In Partnership with

Africa has emerged as a vibrant center for artificial intelligence (AI), especially in the realm of health and AI in general.

Notable events, such as the Data Science Africa, Deep Learning Indaba, and IndabaX conferences in 2017, alongside the establishment of Google AI in Ghana in 2019, and the burgeoning grassroots startup activity highlighted in the recent "State of AI in Africa 2023" report, underscore the continent's dynamic engagement in this field.

The session provided a pivotal platform for diverse stakeholders showcase their innovative solutions, strategies and initiatives, emphasizing the adaptation and implementation of AI to address challenges and foster progress.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Precision in healthcare is paramount, and minimizing errors through AI is crucial for enhancing service quality.

- African leaders should prioritize data harmonization to access cross-border datasets. Regional sharing of healthcare insights facilitates mutual learning and contributes to improved health outcomes.

- In shaping a better healthcare future, it is imperative to engage local entrepreneurs, prioritize skills development, and involve governments in regulation and financing

Speakers

Joris Cyizere
Strategy Lead Centre for the Fourth
Industrial Revolution Rwanda (C4IR)
Moderator

Alice T. Liu
Global Partnerships Lead and Capacity
Development Director,
Health AI (Formerly I-DAIR)

Rigveda Kadam
Director, Digital Health, FIND

Dr. Ann Aerts
Head, Novartis Foundation

Nneka Mobisson
CEO, mDoc

Wilfred Njagi
CEO, Villgro Africa

D.r Semakula Muhammed
Ministry of health, Rwanda

AHTS Partner Dinner

The AHTS 2023 Partner Dinner set the stage for 2024 by fostering collaboration and partnerships within the digital health ecosystem. This gathering facilitated exciting discussions and forged valuable connections, contributing to the momentum driving healthcare innovation in Africa.

Public Consultation on the Africa Digital Health Network (ADHN)

In Partnership with

The Africa Digital Health Network (ADHN) serves as a unifying force, bringing together diverse communities of practice, national digital health associations, experts, developers, healthcare providers, and other practitioners.

The session marked the conclusive public consultation on the establishment of ADHN, a pioneering umbrella organization aimed at uniting digital health stakeholders across the African continent.

Founding partners and network leadership shared insights into the initiative's origins, the identified needs and gaps it intends to address, and the comprehensive consultative process involving stakeholders from various sectors and regions that shaped the network's design.

"It is the connecting agent for the Africa CDC digital health strategy and corresponding flagship initiatives, including the HealthConnekt Africa, Digitized Primary Care, Connected Diagnostics, Africa Digital Health Index, Africa Health Tech Summit, Data and Innovation Sandbox, among others."

- Jean-Philbert Nsengimana,
Chief Digital Advisor - Africa CDC

" ADHN offers to remove silo approaches to driving impact."

- Kirstin Grosse Frie,Head of Project,
One Health Data Alliance Africa, GIZ

"As digital health remains an impactful pathway that can make the African continent prosperous,healthy, and economically more vibrant, the ADHN presents an opportunity and space to build and sustain an ecosystem."

- Dr. Amit Thaker, Executive Chairman, AHB

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- The network's governance board needs to consider ways to bring onboard members from the traditional health care medicine sector.

- In Africa, the problem is not lack of strategies, but their implementation and financing. Therefore, the ADHN must ensure to tackle the challenge and gaps in the same.

- The ADHN must also ensure that information of the knowledge and outcome of ADHN must be produced in a way they can be easily consumed by leaders and governments.

Speakers

Dr. Daniella Munene
Head of External Affairs ,
Africa Health Business
Moderator

Dr. Admore Jokwiro
AHTS Fellow
Co - Moderator

Dr. Henry Mwanyika
Regional Director Center of Digital
and Data Excellence, PATH

Jean-Philbert Nsengimana
Chief Digital Advisor,
Africa CDC

Dr. Amit Thaker
Executive Chairman, AHB

Dr. Tom Oluoch
Deputy Branch Chief - Epidemiology,
Surveillance and Informatics, CDC

Brian O'Connor
Chair at Echalliance-
The Global Heath Connector

Cyril Seck
Strategy Advisor,
Africa CDC

Dr. Kirstin Grosse Frie
Head of Project, One Health Data
Alliance Africa, GIZ

Digital-in-Health: Unlocking Value for Everyone

In Partnership with

WORLD BANK

Digital solutions and data are powerful accelerators in the ongoing transformation of health systems and how healthcare is delivered for everyone. But current approaches are opportunistic, piecemeal, and fragmented. New thinking—a digital-in-health approach—is needed to get more value out of technology and data, ensuring health systems deliver care that is accessible, equitable and cost-effective.

To support countries as they change their approach to digital-in-health, a new World Bank report, Digital-in-Health: Unlocking the Value for Everyone, offers pragmatic advice for governments and stakeholders embarking on this journey, irrespective of their digital proficiency or fiscal limitations.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Digital adoption proved instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating that countries with higher digital adoption responded more effectively.

- Prioritize digital health for complex challenges and leverage digital technology in healthcare.

- Foster collaboration among stakeholders to ensure seamless services and scale digital solutions for equitable access.

Speakers

Malarvizhi Veerappan
Report Data for Better Lives & Senior
Data Scientist, World Bank

Moderator

Marelize Gorgens
Lead, Digital Health Flagship Program,
World Bank

Dr. Samuel Mills
Senior Health Specialist, Health
Nutrition and Population Global Practice,
World Bank

African Youth In Digital Health Network (AYiDHN)

In Partnership with

The global digital market, currently valued at 200 billion, is projected to quadruple in the next four years, albeit still representing only about 5% of the total healthcare market. This presents significant opportunities for the youth to actively contribute to and participate in the digital health transformation.

The session served as an in-depth introduction to the African Youth In Digital Health Network, highlighting its pivotal role in four key areas: Youth Leadership, Skills and Capacity, Job Opportunities, and Networks, emphasizing the potential impact, market size, and engagement for the youth in shaping the continent's digital health landscape.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Exposure to community challenges can be a source of inspiration.

- The youth present a significant opportunity to scale and accelerate the digital health transformation due to their tech-savviness, fresh perspectives, education and training, social influence, entrepreneurial spirit and them being early adopters, data literacy, networking, global perspective and design.

- It is important to always know that digital health is the same as Healthtech, and even e-health. It is an intersection of healthcare and technology aiming to improve health, wellbeing, and longevity.

- One key approach is to continue to scale up existing enabling platforms in the continent to accelerate impact.

Speakers

Rebecca Cherop
YAT4H Member & Mental Health
Champion, Africa CDC
Moderator

Setian Lucy
Director of digital transformation,
Novartis Foundation

Prof Paul Lalvani
Executive Director and Founder,
Empower School of Health

Dr. Chrys Promesse Kaniki
Senior technical Officer for Strategic
Programmes.,Africa CDC

Adedeli Teniola Aderonke,
Africa Young Innovators for Health
Award winner 2023 Nigeria

Ochora Moses
Africa Young Innovators for Health
Award winner 2023,
Uganda

Digital Supply Chain & Logistics

In Partnership with

unicef 🌐

Falsified vaccines and medicines cost Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) $30 billion per year and over $200 billion globally. This has a significant impact on both the health of individuals and the economies of the impacted countries.

One in 10 medical products in LMICs are reported as being substandard or falsified, potentially causing harm to patients and failing to treat the diseases for which they were intended. Not only do these products contribute to antimicrobial resistance, but they also lead to a loss of confidence in medicines, healthcare providers and health systems.

UNICEF has partnered with a number of donors and other development agencies as part of the Verification and Traceability Initiative (VTI), to address this issue through the implementation of a new Traceability and Verification System called TRVST (pronounced trust). The TRVST allows countries to verify the authenticity of health products and track and trace them through their supply chain.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Appreciation of the risk of falsification and the scale of the issue.

- Efforts in traceability & verification of products through services like product registration, inspection & compliance, pharmacovigilance, clinical trials, imports & exports control.

- An understanding of how TRVST can support national initiatives to implement traceability systems to improve patient safety and supply chain efficiency.

Speakers

Max Kabalisa
Supply Chain Manager,
Digitalization and Traceability,UNICEF
Moderator

Martine Umuhoza Ishimwe
Deputy Director General,
Rwanda FDA

Stuart Pettit
Manager,Solidsoft Reply

Grant Courtney
Consultant, UNICEF

Géraldine Lissalde-Bonnet
Vice-President Healthcare,
GS1 Global Office

Revolutionising Healthcare: The ICT Policy Blueprint for a Digital Health Continent

In Partnership with

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES

- Dialogue is ongoing to deepen collaborations between the Africa CDC and Smart Africa. The key emphasis here is to ensure discussions lead to projects, activities and then produce results.

- Ensure the Smart Africa working groups now maintains a 50/50 approach to bolster collaborations between the stakeholders in the health and ICT sectors respectively.

- Continue to commit to exert more efforts in the public digital infrastructure both at the country and continent levels.Focus remains in leveraging synergies to connect all health workers by 2030 through access to devices among others.

- Begin to leverage Smart Africa as the incubator for all new digital health networks in the continent.

Speakers

Florence Gaudry-Perkins
CEO &Founder,
Digital Health Partnerships
Moderator

Dr. Ralph Oyini Mbouna
Director of digital transformation
and services, Smart Africa

Jean-Philbert Nsengimana
Chief Digital Advisor,
Africa CDC

Marelize Georgens
Lead, Digital Health Flagship Program,
World Bank

Dr Garrett Mehl
Head of digital health technology unit,
WHO - Sebera

Hani Eskandar
Head, Digital Services Division,
ITU

Thank You!

The success of the Africa HealthTech Summit 2023 owes much to the extraordinary support of our partners, outstanding speakers, exhibitors, attendees, and the dedicated HealthTech Summit team.

The AHTS stands as a testament to the collective endeavors of the entire continent in advancing digital health, fostering innovation, and building a more resilient and inclusive healthcare landscape across Africa.

www.healthtechsummit.africa