

THE AFRICAN BUSINESS COALITION FOR HEALTH

News Update

Note from the CEO



Mories Atoki (Dr.)
Chief Executive Officer

Greetings and happy 2023. First and foremost, I would like to warmly thank the members and partners of our Coalition for their unwavering commitment to improving outcomes in Africa's health space and helping to save lives.

2022 was an interesting year with a lot of expectations around combatting the many challenges that the seemingly past covid-19 caused across markets, economies, and industries, with Africa receiving one of the hardest hit across the globe. But in all these, there are other occurrences to be thankful for, especially in the continent's health space, for instance, life expectancy in Africa increased by ten years and there was a significant improvement in maternal and infant health. According to the World Health Organisation, the mortality rate in under-5 mortality declined by 35%; neonatal death rate by 21%; and maternal mortality by 28%.

These accomplishments may be attributed to the necessity of 'ubuntu' that the pandemic revealed further to us, deepening the reality of our gains if we only collaborated more as governments, businesses, and health professionals in this struggle. We anticipate that the trajectory would be in favor of Africa as we strive together more with every possible stakeholder to achieve the continent's health agenda as targeted in the Africa Health Strategy 2030 ratified by the African Union.

This new year, there is so much to look forward to. For us at the African Business Coalition for Health, amongst other programs lined up for the year, we are invested in impacting health entrepreneurs through the Academy for Health Entrepreneurs (Africa), a venture-building initiative led by GBCHealth (New York) in partnership with ABCHealth and other strategic Partners to support established health businesses across the continent to develop and defend strong value propositions to attract investors, access funding and scale investments.

We are also working to strengthen Africa's position as a leading manufacturer of medicines and essential health commodities through the Africa AfCFTA-anchored Pharma Initiative in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – the continent's economy should be the direct beneficiary of the USD14b we spend annually on importing drugs.

Let me end by taking this opportunity to appreciate all the members of our Coalition, partners, Board, Management team, and every stakeholder working with us in their commitment to improving Africa's health outcomes. I hope you're you are strongly recharged because this new year promises to have a huge impact on the life of every African.

Happy 2023 to you all.



Top Five Healthcare Trends in 2023

Technology and digitization has changed the face of many sectors especially the healthcare space. Keep up with the trends here.



Poor Service Delivery Threatens Africa's Health Gains

Africa needs to significantly improve the way it delivers essential health services to the people who need them most.



The Investment Opportunities in Africa

Investing in African health systems is an opportunity to accelerate economic development and growth..

Nurturing Africa's Healthcare Revolution

“Behind most hospitals in Africa, there're scrap yards littered with broken essential hospital equipment. It's really terrible to see with lots of good-looking products, but because something small is broken – a wheel, a knob, a lever, the product isn't useful anymore.” – Pim van Baarsen; Founder, Super Local.

In Africa, importing good-quality hospital equipment can be very expensive. As a result, hospitals here tend to buy sub-standard furniture from India and China so they can afford the draining shipping costs. But when hospital beds and other essential media equipment start to fall apart, there are no spare parts, supplies, or local know-how to repair them.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, equipment from Europe or the U.S., which is often donated and comes without a warranty, tends to be too high-tech, with fancy features that may allow medical staff to use them with ease. However, when that equipment eventually breaks, they are difficult to fix and shamefully ends up in a junkyard to be scrapped piecemeal.

The same can be said of pharmaceuticals – the high cost of manufacturing with limited access to reasonable funding, lack of supportive infrastructure for the regulatory compliance of pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, poor regulatory policies, and lack of negotiation capacity to engage with global pharmaceutical companies are only some of the challenges players in Africa's pharma space encounter making medicines expensive, difficult to procure and varying in quality standards.

These challenges are encountered across all of Africa's urban and rural areas but where some see them as problems, others see these as opportunities. Sakaramenta, a Malawi-based manufacturing firm, is one of these others – producing simple and durable medical equipment suited to Africa's peculiarities with 60% of production materials locally sourced; employing 30 people and contributing directly to the country's economic growth.

There are enough success stories of local production companies in Africa's health space to

trust the potential of an efficient interface between an industrial/economic development policy and public health policy. From an industrial policy perspective, generating assured quality products by having a competitive pharmaceutical / medical device industry with sufficient economies of scale would have a serious impact on the continent's health outcomes. What is required are platforms that will galvanize partnerships and collaboration to make this a reality.

The Academy for Health Entrepreneurs Africa (AHEA) and the AfCFTA-anchored Pharma Initiative are specifically designed to incubate hundreds of health-focused businesses across Africa. Providing affordable, quality and equitable healthcare to Africa's 1.3 billion people has moved from the realm of dreams to the realm of reality and with the backing of a network of people in the highest levels of the public and private sectors – governments, businesses, health professionals, development experts and academia amongst other stakeholders – all of whom found viable engagement platforms in 2022 to share thoughts including the Private Capital to Achieve Public Health Goals in Africa – Masterclass Series; the Access Bank-sponsored Demographic Dividend Roadmap and Estimation Profile and the Africa Telehealth Conference amongst other.

The twelve months of 2023 are indeed shaping out to be a new chapter in Africa's health story with a slew of key events to be part of, including the Wilton Park Anti-Microviral Resistance (AMR) Series; the 2023 Conference of Parties (COP28); the Academy for Health Entrepreneurs and the Africa Healthcare Summit. Also included in this is the launch of the 2nd edition of the Health and Economic Growth in Africa Report as well as the UK-Africa Health Summit.

These programs and more are aligned to the individual and collective actions that members of the African Business Coalition for Health would engage in with projected positive health impact in 2023. The power of partnerships cannot be over-emphasized; the Coalition of corporates and individuals working together to save lives and to contribute to Africa's health and economic ascension demonstrates this. The numbers testify to this.

[Africa records advances in health](#)

[Health projections for Africa in 2023](#)

[2023 Global Health Outlook](#)

[Political commitment required for strong health systems](#)

[Businesses driving health outcomes in Africa](#)

[The future of Universal Healthcare in Africa](#)

[Driving public-private partnerships in Africa's healthcare space](#)

Repositioning Workplace Health in Africa

It is estimated that every year, over 1.1 million people worldwide die of occupational injuries and work-related diseases. In developing countries, the risks that foster ill-health are estimated to be 10 to 20 times higher than in developed countries.

The emergence of new technologies and the expansion of trade and financial regimes have transformed formal employment to the informal sector meaning that in the near future, self-employment and the informal sector are expected to be more important in both developing and industrialized countries.

Workers in the extraction industry (mining and exploration), forestry, construction and agriculture face increased risks. Many of them suffer occupational injuries and disease which lead to disability and premature death; the sad reality being that in developing countries, only about 10% of workers have access to occupational health services.

Globally, efforts to improve workplace conditions were implemented as early as 1954, but it was only in 1979 that the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization intensified their efforts. In Africa today, employees are heavily burdened with diverse kinds of health threats, both from the workplace and non-work-related sources. The threats and associated risks are skewed towards infectious diseases and occupational health hazards origins. That notwithstanding, non-communicable diseases challenges, like mental health, hypertension, diabetes, cancers and musculoskeletal disorders is prominent place in the workplace health hazards and risks matrix.

Africa needs to develop occupational health services and integrate this with primary health care in order to drive an efficient workplace health programme with health ministries playing a leading role. A well-established workplace health policy will improve work safety and quality of life, reduce absenteeism, poverty, contribute to the continent's productivity and ultimately its economic prosperity.



News Across the Coalition

Aliko Dangote Foundation fights malnutrition with USD35m



Aliko Dangote Foundation (ADF) continues to expand on its commitment to reduce Africa's disease burden through its Aliko Dangote Foundation Integrated Nutrition (ADFIN) Program. The Foundation also committed USD35m to fighting malnutrition through the Children Investment Fund Foundation aimed at addressing the worsening hunger crisis amongst Africa's children in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Access Bank's 'W' Initiative impacts 5,000 women



Access Bank's 'W' initiative is a one-stop center with empowerment offerings for women which includes maternal health services. The bank, through this platform, reached more than 5,000 women in October offering free cancer checks and educational programs, open fertility clinics, free breast and cervical cancer screenings, comprehensive eye screenings and diabetes screenings.

Businesses partner to improve primary healthcare through PSHAN's ADHFP



The Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria (PSHAN) launched the 'Adopt A Private Health Facility Project' (ADHFP) in November designed to improve health outcomes for all Nigerians by strengthening the capacity of health facilities at the lowest level. ADHFP will impact at primary healthcare centres (PHC) in each of Nigeria's 774 local government areas, in renewed efforts to improve health outcomes across Africa's most populous country.

Join the Coalition and Fix Africa's Health

The African Business Coalition for Health is a not-for-profit established to bring together businesses, philanthropists and development institutions that will collectively seek greater private sector contributions to improve health outcomes and save lives in Africa.

Our founders - Aliko Dangote and Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede - share a vision of a healthy and prosperous Africa; a vision that can be achieved through the coalition that ABCHealth is building across the continent that enables responsible business leaders and philanthropists to make sustainable, large scale investments in health that transform African economies and people. You too can take action - [join](#) the Coalition today and let us work together to fix Africa's health.

We are social! Follow and engage with us across our media platforms

