

## THE AFRICAN BUSINESS COALITION FOR HEALTH

# News Update

### Note from the CEO

Greetings and welcome to this edition of our news update.

This presents a great opportunity to extend our appreciation to all the members and partners of our Coalition for their unwavering commitment to advance this course as we collaboratively and jointly advance private sector involvement as well as the mobilization of its resources to improve health outcomes in Africa.

2023 has been a dynamic year from the global standpoint, with Africa taking its share as the continent continues to experience socio-political changes on several fronts including coup d'états in western and central Africa, increased regional insecurity and tardiness in the trajectory of economic growth.

Be it as it may, in the midst of these several storms, there have been some positive angles to the trends governments and businesses leaders across the continent continue to engage many emerging opportunities with potential to increase value of life for every African.

From east to west and north to south, Africa's healthcare industry is expanding with an emphasis on enhancing healthcare services and infrastructure. This growth has been driven, in part, by increasing investments notably to address infectious illnesses, maternal and child health, as well as non-communicable diseases.

The year indeed has proven that investing on projects that provide medical and laboratory supplies and equipment can prove to be a profitable enterprise – according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Africa Investment Insight Report, the healthcare industry continues to be a prominent target

attracting global and regional investors.

Statistica expects this trend to continue with Africa's health market projected to grow by 12.33% (2023-2027) resulting in a market volume of US\$996.60m in 2027. For the us as a Coalition, this is exciting news. We cannot help but feel that our consistent actions at global, regional, national and sub-national levels have contributed somewhat to this evolving state of affairs with our persistent and unending engagement with every critical stakeholder in the public health, government, health policy, and financial sectors.

We will continue to engage, form partnerships, alliances and collaborations to design and drive initiatives that would improve Africa's health outcomes; we will work harder at this course, engage more and leverage our influences, competences and network to drive and achieve the mandate we live for – equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare for all Africans.



Mories Atoki (Dr.)  
Chief Executive Officer



### Transforming Maternal Health through Innovation

In the heart of Nairobi, a team of dedicated researchers is poised to revolutionize maternal healthcare, potentially reshaping the future of pregnancy outcomes for women.



### Reimagining Healthcare in Africa One Test at a Time

Tech is inspiring visions including one to make lab testing easy and accessible through at-home sample collection and rapid digital results delivery within 1-3 days.



### The World Can Still End AIDS by 2030

UNAIDS is marshalling global forces with a sense of urgency towards entrenching proven HIV prevention and treatment after Mosaico HIV vaccine trial stops.

# Recent Events and Activities across the Coalition

The Coalition has been deeply involved in global and regional health aligned forums, leveraging these to ensure its partners and members have access and visibility. The engagements during the period have been fulfilling with many more projected for the upcoming months of November and December.

## Aliko Dangote Foundation hosts Young Global Leaders in Lagos



Aliko Dangote, co-Founder ABCHealth and President / CEO of the Dangote Group, met with members of the Young Global Leaders at the Dangote Petroleum Complex in Lagos – the visit provided an opportunity for the young leaders to interact with Africa’s top business mogul who is also a patron of the Forum of Young Global Leaders (YGLs).

Through his philanthropic arm – the Aliko Dangote Foundation – Aliko Dangote partners with the Forum of Young Global Leaders (YGLs) to establish the Aliko Dangote African Fellowship Programme to guarantee the full engagement of young African leaders from small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and non-business entities who might otherwise not be able to participate in the Forum’s Young Global Leaders Community.

## GBCHealth Delights at the 2023 Future United Awards



Recently, GBCHealth celebrated the launch of the Future United with the Future United Awards in New York. The awards ceremony which was sponsored by the Aig-Imoukhuede Foundation and Merck, served as a platform to celebrate both for-profit and non-profit organizations as well as individuals achieving extraordinary results in the field of global health, whether large or small, and whether working globally or locally.

The winners for 2023 included EOS International (Nicaragua), Blackfrog Technologies (India), Neotree (UK), Maisha Meds (Kenya) & OpenBiome USA). Incredible organizations drawn from five continents, each doing vital work to improve global health. Also awarded for his commitment to improved health outcomes in Africa was Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, ABCHealth Chairman who was given the ‘Leadership and Vision for Global Health Transformation’.

## Access Holdings addresses Maternal and Neonatal Health through “Project Uwar”



Access Holdings Plc has introduced “Project Uwar” in northern Nigeria as part of its commitment to improving health outcomes. Project Uwar (uwar is Hausa for midwife) is being executed in collaboration with Mobaby Care and is focused on addressing pressing maternal and neonatal health challenges.

Through this initiative, Access Holdings (a member of the Coalition) aims to provide birthing kits to 3,000 pregnant women across 30 communities in northern Nigeria, specifically in Jigawa, Plateau, and Katsina states. Each birthing kit contains gloves, soap, blades, cord twine, postnatal pads and baby diapers all of which are essential items for safe birthing.



Project Uwar is impacting over 60% of these northern communities – touching lives and offering a brighter, healthier future for mothers and newborns alike.





## 78th United Nations General Assembly

ABCHealth participated in the Devex and MSD for Mothers, a high-level meeting held during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Themed “Sustainable Approaches to Improve Maternal Health and Achieve UHC (Universal Health Coverage) through Strategic Private Sector Collaboration”, this meeting coalesced the perspectives of key stakeholders making strategic decisions about private sector collaborations to improve maternal health and universal health coverage in LMICS (Low Middle Income Countries).



## World Health Summit (Women Empowerment Programme)

The ABCHealth team was at this event to discuss strategies on how to ensure equal opportunities for career growth and inclusion of women at all levels. Globally, women make up to 70% of the health workforce but are significantly underrepresented in leadership positions. In Africa, women form the backbone of the healthcare system. With only 28 percent, the African Continent represents the region with the lowest proportion of female physicians in the world. Empowering women in this context is key - women bring diverse perspectives to healthcare leadership, enriching decision-making and problem-solving processes.



## 2nd African Conference for Health Harm Reduction

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty, King Mohammed VI of Morocco, the 2nd African Conference for Health Harm Reduction held in Marrakech in September. Themed “Water, Environment and Food Security”, the conference hosted ministers, ambassadors, eminent academics, experts in health systems, international scientific organisations and institutions, affording the Coalition the opportunity to discuss the role of the private sector in health and reduction harm which, through efficient utilization of its resources, expertise and influence, has the capacity to propel Health and Harm reduction by means of innovations and technologies, supply chain sustainability, public-private partnerships, investment in research and development, capacity building and stakeholder engagement among others.



## IFUMSA Health Conference 2023

The Obafemi Awolowo Medical Students Association (IFUMSA) in October held a health conference themed: ‘Revolutionizing Access and Quality of Healthcare Delivery through Digital Impact’. Focus on leveraging digital technologies to drive positive changes in how healthcare is accessed and delivered, the ABCHealth team held discussions alongside healthcare experts and professionals to analyze the transformative role of digital health in revolutionizing healthcare accessibility and delivery.

# Key Upcoming Events

## ABCHealth and LBS hosts Special Breakfast Club Meeting



In partnership with the Lagos Business School’s Sustainability Centre, ABCHealth will jointly host a Special Breakfast Club Meeting with leading business leaders, in Nigeria along with government officials and the diplomatic community to discuss ‘New Opportunities in Sustainable Health Investments’, the theme of the meeting which is taking place on Wednesday, November 1 2023 at the Oriental Hotel in Lagos. This meeting serves as a platform to appraise business leaders and members of the diplomatic community of emergent business models, public policies and holistic initiatives in the healthcare sector that create transformational socio-economic impact and economic value for investors



# Health Advocacy: ABCHealth and UNAIDS meets Business Leaders

Following the announcement of the joint partnership between ABCHealth and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Nigeria to galvanize the efforts of the business community and development sector to collectively seek greater private sector contributions to improve health outcomes and save lives in Africa, both organisations will be conducting a high-level advocacy action engaging business leaders, the diplomatic community and the development space. Themed, “Renewed Hope Agenda in Nigeria’s HIV/AIDS Response: Advocacy to Foster Synergy Amongst Health Sector Critical Stakeholders”, the meeting will hold in Lagos in November and will be aimed at driving private sector support for improving health outcomes across the country.



## PSHAN holds Annual Gala Night



The Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria (PSHAN) will be hosting its Annual Gala and Awards Night on Friday November 3 at the Civic Centre in Lagos. Tagged, “Advancing Healthcare in Nigeria”, the event will feature music, art, fashion and comedy. The night’s high point is celebrate, recognize, and honour the exceptional efforts and achievements of individuals, organizations, and institutions dedicated to advancing healthcare and improving health outcomes in Nigeria.

## Coalition Programme Updates

### Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Intervention Program



Almost 95% of deaths in pregnant women occur in low and lower-middle-income countries. Women in low-income countries have a higher lifetime risk of maternal death. Nigeria has the highest estimated maternal deaths in Africa and also accounting for one of the highest neonatal mortality rates in Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa alone accounted for around 70% of these deaths (202,000), while Southern Asia accounted for around 16% (47,000) in 2020. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in low-income countries in 2020 was 430 per 100,000 live births versus 12 per 100,000 live births in high-income countries.

There is an abundance of evidence showing that improving maternal and child health reduce the number of medical consultations and hospital admissions and as such, the Coalition, in collaboration with the Tropical General Investments Group (TGI Group) is running the MNCH Intervention Programme.

The intervention is currently entering into its second phase which is focused on program implementation, deploying a holistic and approach to strengthen health systems, particularly community and primary care systems; towards increasing coverage, equity and quality of health services. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1 calls for all countries to reduce maternal mortality ratios to less than 70 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births and Neonatal mortality to less than 12 deaths per 1000 live births by 2030. Nigeria is still far away from this goal.

## Join the Coalition and Fix Africa's Health



The African Business Coalition for Health ([ABCHealth](#)) 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. 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

