



CONCEPT NOTE

“Global Perspectives of Private Health in Africa: Improving Health Outcomes”

Proposal: An international partnership between the Dubai World Trade Center (BWTC) and the African Business Coalition for Health (ABCHealth) to explore the dynamics of private sector health investments and its impact in Africa as well as to catalyze partnerships and impact investments that will improve Africa’s health outcomes. **The aim of this partnership is to bring together businesses, governments, development institutions and investors to share insights that would significantly transform the continent’s healthcare space across the African Health markets.**

BACKGROUND

In a region where public resources are limited, the private sector plays a pivotal role. An estimated 60% of health-care financing in Africa comes from private sources, and about 50% of total health expenditure goes to private providers. Just as important, the vast majority of the region’s poor people, both urban and rural, rely on private health care

Critical stakeholders across sectors and health experts agree that private health in Africa has the potential to improve health outcomes for individuals and communities. While public health services play a crucial role in providing healthcare, private health services can complement and enhance the overall healthcare provision in the region. This is buttressed in numerous reports speaking to global health perspectives on how private health can contribute to improving health outcomes in Africa some of which include:

Increased Access to Healthcare: Private health facilities can expand access to healthcare services, especially in remote areas where public health infrastructure may be lacking. Private hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies can bring healthcare

closer to communities, reducing the distance and time required for individuals to receive essential medical care.

Improved Quality of Care: Private health facilities often strive to deliver high-quality care to attract and retain patients. With a focus on patient satisfaction and positive outcomes, private providers invest in modern medical equipment, well-trained staff, and advanced technologies. This emphasis on quality can lead to better health outcomes for patients, including reduced morbidity and mortality rates.

Reduced Wait Times: Public health facilities in Africa often face challenges with overcrowding and long wait times for consultations and treatments. Private health providers can alleviate this burden by offering shorter waiting periods, allowing patients to receive timely care. This can be particularly beneficial for individuals with urgent or time-sensitive health needs.

Innovations in Healthcare Delivery: Private health providers are often at the forefront of innovative healthcare delivery models. They may adopt telemedicine services, mobile health applications, or other digital solutions to improve access to healthcare, promote preventive care, and facilitate early interventions. These innovations can contribute to improved health outcomes by reaching underserved populations and enabling more efficient healthcare delivery.

Increased Investment in Healthcare Infrastructure: Private health investments can help improve the overall healthcare infrastructure in Africa. Private investors may contribute funds for the construction of new hospitals, clinics, or medical training institutions. These investments can enhance the capacity of the healthcare system, leading to improved health outcomes for the population.

Job Creation and Economic Growth: Private health facilities create job opportunities for healthcare professionals, supporting economic growth in the region. This can have a ripple effect on the overall well-being of communities, as increased employment and income can lead to improved living conditions, access to education, and overall better health outcomes.

The Case for Investing in Healthcare

The weak investment climate in Sub-Saharan Africa has long posed a daunting challenge to entrepreneurs and their potential backers alike, but signs of positive change abound - political stability has improved, reflecting a steep decline in the incidence armed conflict; economic growth in most of the continent has been

strong for the past half-decade, and inflation is down; and reforms are also beginning to take hold.

According to a 2024 report by the African Development Bank Group, Africa is the second fastest-growing continent after Asia with indicators of economic improvement across all its five regions.

While private health in Africa has the potential to contribute to improved health outcomes, it is important to ensure that it operates within the broader context of a well-regulated and coordinated healthcare system. Collaboration between public and private sectors, along with effective regulation and oversight, can help ensure that private health services align with public health goals and deliver equitable and accessible care to all segments of the population.

To further deepen understanding of the impact of unleashing the potential of private health in Africa's health space, ABCHealth – an African-led Coalition of businesses, corporates and philanthropists – is hosting a panel session at the inaugural **World Future Health: Africa** and the **GITEX Africa between 29 - 31 May 2024** in Marrakech in an Institutional Partnership with KAOUN, the International arm of **Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC)**, under the **High Patronage of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, Kingdom of Morocco** in collaboration with the authority of the **Moroccan Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform**, and **Agence de Developpement du Digital Morocco (ADD)**.

The event convenes critical stakeholders including government officials, senior business executives, health experts, healthcare service providers and investors from across the world to discuss unlocking Africa's investment and economic development opportunities.

OBJECTIVES

1. Deepen participants' insights on investment opportunities in health as well as the implications for Africa's healthcare industry especially in the context of increasing local manufacturing capacity for medicines and essential health commodities
2. Explore innovative approaches and best practices in the global health investment space within the African context as well as examining case studies of improved health outcomes through private sector participation
3. Dissect the multi-layered challenges and explore solutions and opportunities that will provide impetus to driving private sector participation in Africa's health industry

4. Network with government officials, investors, health development experts, health professionals, and organizations dedicated to improving health outcomes across Africa

PANEL DISCUSSION

The vigor of the private health sector in Sub-Saharan Africa will rely on the commitment, creativity, and integrity of the people of Africa; as such, ABCHealth is hosting a panel session on the backdrop of the World Future Health Africa 2024 event and will feature subject-matter experts with global and regional insights, sharing same with the session's participants which will include senior government officials, global business leaders, health professionals and health entrepreneurs as well as investors and development institutions.

FORMAT

The panel session will be an in-person event taking place at the GITEX Africa Center in Marrakech, Morocco and will have an interactive feature allowing for online viewing and participation.

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