



## CONCEPT NOTE

### “The Role of Technology in fostering Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Health for Africa”

An international partnership between the Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC) and the African Business Coalition for Health (ABCHealth) to explore the dynamics of private sector health investments and its impact in Africa, whilst catalyzing 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

*By expanding the use of digital health tools, African health systems could realize up to 15% efficiency gains by 2030 and reinvest the savings to improve access and outcomes – McKinsey & Company*

Although digital health in most African regions is still in its infancy, advances in smartphone connectivity, data management policies (including to boost interoperability, privacy, and security), and data infrastructure are starting to change the ways health systems work in Africa; and rapid expansion in other areas, such as mobile financing, shows that leapfrogging is possible.

There was no better crucible that projected the potential of digital technology in health other than the COVID-19 pandemic which effectively highlighted the importance of digitalization in supporting access to essential healthcare services from the most accessible places to the most remote areas resulting in an uptick in demand which in turn drove the earnings of health service providers especially those featuring technology assists in their business models. And the markets noticed this.

Economic experts have built a projection stating the potential efficiency gains, which could be realized without compromising quality and outcomes, varying by country. In 2030, widespread adoption could unlock \$400 million to \$2.5 billion in Kenya (4 to 14 percent of total projected healthcare spending), \$700 million to \$3.3 billion in Nigeria (4 to 10 percent of total projected healthcare spending), and \$1.9 billion to \$11 billion in South Africa (6 to 15 percent of total projected healthcare spending). These gains could be reinvested in other high-priority areas to increase overall health outcomes and finance the implementation and maintenance of digital health tools. Finding efficiency gains is especially critical in budget-constrained countries, which includes most countries in Africa. Only a few African countries are finding these efficiency gains and those who have found these gains can trace it to effective public-private partnerships.

### **The Case for PPP in Improving Health Outcomes**

The importance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in healthcare has gained significant attention globally in recent years. In Africa, where healthcare systems face numerous challenges, PPPs present a promising avenue for leveraging resources, expertise, and innovation to improve health outcomes.

### **Current Landscape of Healthcare in Africa**

Africa's healthcare landscape is marked by various challenges, including limited access to quality healthcare services, inadequate infrastructure, healthcare workforce shortages, and financial constraints. These challenges contribute to disparities in healthcare access and outcomes across the continent, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations.

However, PPPs offer a collaborative framework through which governments, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders can pool resources, share expertise, and address healthcare challenges collectively. PPPs facilitate the delivery of quality healthcare services, promote innovation, and improve healthcare infrastructure and capacity and technology plays a critical role in these.

Telemedicine and Telehealth Solutions: Telemedicine platforms enable remote consultations, diagnosis, and treatment, expanding access to healthcare services in underserved areas. Through PPPs, governments can partner with technology companies to deploy telemedicine solutions, facilitating virtual healthcare delivery and improving healthcare access for rural and remote communities.

Health Information Systems and Data Analytics: Implementing robust health information systems enables efficient data collection, management, and analysis, supporting evidence-based decision-making and resource allocation.

Technology-driven data analytics empower stakeholders to identify healthcare trends, monitor disease outbreaks, and optimize healthcare delivery, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of PPP initiatives.

Mobile Health (mHealth) Solutions: Mobile health applications and tools facilitate health promotion, disease prevention, and patient engagement through interactive platforms.

PPPs can leverage mHealth solutions to promote health education, deliver personalized healthcare interventions, and strengthen community-based healthcare services, promoting proactive healthcare management.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain Management: Technology-enabled solutions, such as supply chain management systems and e-procurement platforms, streamline the procurement, distribution, and management of essential healthcare commodities.

By integrating technology into supply chain processes, PPPs can enhance transparency, reduce inefficiencies, and ensure the timely delivery of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to healthcare facilities.

Technology indeed, serves as a catalyst for innovation and collaboration within PPPs, offering transformative opportunities to address healthcare challenges in Africa. By harnessing the power of technology, stakeholders can strengthen healthcare systems, improve health outcomes, and advance the goal of universal health coverage across the continent.

However, there are challenges and considerations - while technology holds immense potential to enhance PPPs in healthcare for Africa, several challenges must be addressed, including:

- Limited access to digital infrastructure and connectivity in remote areas.
- Data privacy and security concerns surrounding the collection and utilization of health data.
- Capacity building and training needs to ensure the effective adoption and utilization of technology-enabled solutions.
- Sustainable financing mechanisms to support the implementation and maintenance of technology-driven healthcare initiatives.

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 deploying technology to enhance PPPs in Africa's health space
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.

For further information, please contact the CEO of ABCHealth **Dr. Mories Atoki** via email [matoki@abchealth.com](mailto:matoki@abchealth.com) or on mobile +234 803 714 3251 or the Communications Lead of ABCHealth, Mr. Adekunle Dalton-Oke via email [adaltonoke@abchealth.com](mailto:adaltonoke@abchealth.com) or on mobile +234 802 478 2021.

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