

News Update

Sep 2026

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Dear Partners,

The past months have been a period of significant momentum for Africa's health sector and an equally important period of growth and action for the African Business Coalition for Health (ABCHealth).

Across the continent, the health conversation is increasingly moving beyond access to healthcare towards health security, local production, digital transformation, innovative financing, stronger primary healthcare systems and the development of a capable health workforce. At ABCHealth, we remain convinced that achieving meaningful and sustainable progress will require stronger collaboration between government, business, investors, development partners, innovators and civil society.

Our work over the past quarter has therefore continued to focus on one central objective: building partnerships that translate Africa's health ambitions into practical, scalable and sustainable action.

Expanding the ABCHealth Academy across Africa

One of our most exciting milestones has been the expansion of the ABCHealth Academy for Health Entrepreneurs beyond its initial markets into Francophone and Arabophone Africa.

This expansion is more than geographical growth. It represents an important step towards building an interconnected African health entrepreneurship ecosystem in which entrepreneurs can access knowledge, networks, mentorship, capital and markets irrespective of linguistic or geographical boundaries.

Africa needs a new generation of health entrepreneurs who can develop locally relevant solutions to the continent's most pressing health challenges. By extending the Academy into Francophone and Arabophone markets, we are creating greater opportunities for entrepreneurs across Africa to learn from one another, build partnerships across borders and participate in the continent's emerging health economy.

We are equally pleased with the growing partnerships supporting entrepreneurship, skills and economic opportunity. Our engagements with MTN Skills Foundation and Nova Business School Ghana demonstrate the value of bringing together private-sector capabilities, academic institutions and entrepreneurial ecosystems to equip Africa's young people with the skills required for a rapidly changing economy.

These partnerships reinforce our belief that investment in people is ultimately an investment in Africa's health and development future.

Connecting Africa's health ecosystem through strategic convenings

The past quarter also saw ABCHealth participate actively in several major platforms that brought together policymakers, investors, healthcare leaders, innovators and development stakeholders.

At Africa Health ExCon 2026 in Cairo, in partnership with the Egyptian government, we contributed to conversations around Africa's health sovereignty, private-sector participation, innovation and investment. In Lagos, our engagement at World Health Exhibition (WHX) Lagos 2026, in partnership with Informa Markets, provided another opportunity to examine the future of healthcare delivery, investment and innovation in West Africa.

Note from the CEO

We also engaged around the Africa Social Impact Summit 2026 in Lagos, in partnership with the Sterling One Foundation. The Summit brought together stakeholders around the critical question of how Africa can mobilize capital, partnerships and market-led solutions to address its development challenges.

Another significant platform was the Africa Primary Health Care Forum 2026 in Abuja, organized by the West African Institute of Public Health. The Forum's focus on primary healthcare, health-system resilience and community-level innovation reinforced an important reality: Africa cannot achieve universal health coverage without strengthening the systems closest to the people.

What the last few months are telling us about Africa's health sector

Beyond these milestones, health development has provided several important signals about the direction of the continent. First, health security must remain a continental priority. The continuing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has demonstrated the consequences of weak surveillance, delayed detection, limited financing and fragile health infrastructure.

Second, Africa must accelerate health sovereignty. Recent outbreaks have again exposed vulnerabilities and the call for greater African investment in local manufacturing, research and development is no longer simply an economic argument - it is a health-security imperative.

Third, primary healthcare remains the foundation of resilient health systems. As Africa confronts infectious disease outbreaks alongside the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, stronger community-based systems, better health information, effective referral pathways and a capable health workforce will be essential.

Fourth, digital health and AI are becoming increasingly important to Africa's healthcare transformation. From diagnostics and clinical decision support to health financing, supply chains and workforce management, technology is opening new possibilities and must be encouraged for greater impact.

Finally, the financing question has never been more urgent. Africa's health ambitions cannot be achieved through government expenditure or development assistance alone. We need to mobilise domestic and international private capital, impact investment, blended finance and innovative financing mechanisms that can support scalable health enterprises and strengthen health systems.

As we move towards the final months of 2026, ABCHealth will continue to focus on partnerships, investment, innovation and impact.

We remain grateful to our partners, members, entrepreneurs, policymakers, investors and the wider health community for continuing to walk this journey with us.

Together, we can build a healthier, more resilient and more prosperous Africa.



Mories Atoki (Dr.)
Chief Executive Officer

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



Trends Shaping Africa's Healthcare and Pharma in 2026

African healthcare and pharma are moving from ambition to action. After years of over-dependence on global supply chains, fragmented regulation, and limited local manufacturing, the continent is asserting greater control over its health destiny. Regulatory maturity is rising.

Patient Safety Becomes Africa's Strategic Imperative

For decades, patient safety was treated as a compliance checkbox rather than a strategic priority. That is changing globally and Africa is following suit. However, the widespread presence of substandard and counterfeit medicines has reached public-health-crisis proportions, threatening patients and costing families and economies millions through failed treatments.

Patient safety is emerging as the "currency of trust." In 2026, regulators and manufacturers that place safety at the centre of decision-making will not only protect patients. They will build credibility, attract investment, and accelerate access to quality-assured medicines. The ability to deliver safe care will increasingly define industry leaders and laggards.

African Health Sovereignty Takes Command

African nations are asserting greater authority over regulatory standards, data governance, and healthcare financing. South Africa has long been central to the global R&D ecosystem, contributing to



A medical oxygen plant in South Africa

numerous innovations including COVID-19 vaccines. The establishment of the South African Medical Research Council's endowment fund to support domestic and regional R&D underscores a shift toward urgency and self-reliance. Zimbabwe's progression toward WHO Maturity Level 4 and Kenya's suspension of a USD 1.6 billion bilateral health agreement over data-sovereignty concerns reflect a broader continental realignment.



A well-stocked pharmacy in Kenya

The African Medicines Agency Moves Towards Impact

2026 is a pivotal year for AMA - the agency is firmly in its implementation phase and is expected to drive tangible transformation in medicines regulation across the continent. AMA is laying the foundation for faster regulatory processes, stronger post-market surveillance, and more effective oversight of medicines and health technologies. These are critical enablers of health security and progress toward universal health coverage.

AMA is also well positioned to address global quality challenges. In particular the high prevalence of substandard and counterfeit medicines and weak oversight of products imported from India. AMA provides a single continental focal point capable of demanding more effective regulatory of medicines destined for African markets.

With time, AMA leadership is expected to enable collective Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) enforcement, reducing the inflow of unsafe medicines while accelerating approvals and market access for quality-assured local and regional manufacturers.

Africa Reinvents Pharma Supply for the 2026 Era

Global pharmaceutical supply chains are undergoing profound change. European and US markets are reconfiguring production and distribution. For Africa, this shift presents both risk and opportunity.

However, Africa faces heightened regulatory risk - particularly from the proliferation of unsafe medicines through poorly regulated cross-border and online channels.

Global Quality Shifts Challenge African Access

India's efforts to enforce GMP compliance at the end of 2025 has profound implications for Africa, which imports most of its medicines from India. The risk of short-term supply disruptions highlights the long-standing tension between quality and access. AMA has the potential to lead African regulators to act decisively on GMP-non-compliant medicines exported into African markets.

The Bottom Line

African healthcare and pharma are no longer passive participants in the global pharmaceutical system. Through deliberate institutional development, they are becoming active shapers of it.

Patient safety, health sovereignty, regulatory maturity, local innovation, and supply-chain agility are converging to determine who succeeds in 2026.

Those who align access with safety, innovation with oversight, and national priorities with global realities will survive disruption and define the future of healthcare on the continent.

Original Article written by [Lenias Hwenda](#); [PharmaBoardroom](#)

Health News



Bureaucracy Stifling Africa's Pharma Supply Chain...

Africa's pharma supply chains still face infra gaps, fragmented regulations and cross-border bottlenecks that continue to challenge movement of medicines.



Africa's AI Revolution: Are We Building Castles in the Sky?

Stakeholders believe that Africa's healthcare infrastructure is unevenly equipped to support widespread artificial intelligence (AI) advancement.



Africa turns to Philanthropists to Fill Gaps in Health Financing

Wealthy donors are being urged to step up in the wake of huge cuts healthcare from donors so that Africa's healthcare gains will not be lost.



Africa Pushes For Better Healthcare Access for Women

Africa's women's health crisis needs stronger policies, greater investment, and women in leadership to improve maternal & reproductive health.



THEME ABCHEALTH CEO ROUNDTABLE SESSION

Reimagining Africa's Health Economy

Unlocking Public-Private Innovation for Health Systems Transformation

THURS. 1ST OCTOBER 2026 KIGALI, RWANDA





ABCHealth Academy Expands across Africa

ABCHealth Academy for Health Entrepreneurs was established to address this gap. Structured as a venture-building initiative, the Academy operates across Africa's priority markets to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem, supporting high-potential entrepreneurs who are creating solutions with transformative impact on population health and well-being.

Through a curated blend of technical assistance, market access facilitation, investment preparation, and peer learning, the Academy provides a robust pathway for scaling context-relevant solutions that contribute to Africa's development agenda. It connects visionary entrepreneurs with global and regional industry experts, growth advisors, and impact investors who can help refine their models, accelerate growth, and unlock long-term sustainability.

Building on its strong foundation in Anglophone Africa, the ABCHealth Academy for Health Entrepreneurs (AAHE) expanded in 2026 to include Francophone and Arabophone African countries, delivering language-region cohorts to deepen inclusion and impact across the continent.

The Academy's Objectives

Capacity Building - Equip participants with essential knowledge, skills, and tools to innovate, build and run sustainable health ventures.

Health Systems Understanding - Provide deep insights into health systems, policies, regulations, and stakeholder dynamics for informed solution design.

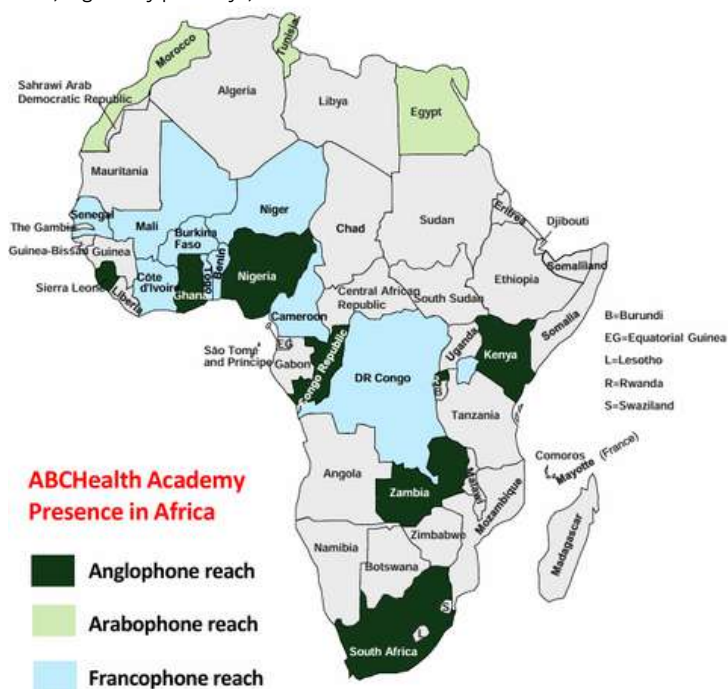
Leadership and Management Training - Develop leadership, team management, and operational competencies required to run health ventures effectively.

Networking and Collaboration - Connect entrepreneurs with mentors, investors, health professionals, and policymakers to enhance opportunities for growth and scale.

The Diets

Each cohort is broken into three distinctive stages - Ideation for start ups; Accelerate for early stage business concerns and Growth for scale-ready ventures.

Ideation - At the Ideation Stage, the Academy focuses on transforming early concepts and informal ventures into viable, structured enterprises. Participants are supported to develop sound business models grounded in health market realities, regulatory pathways, and demand-side considerations.



Accelerate - The Acceleration Stage addresses enterprises that have demonstrated initial traction and are seeking to professionalize operations and prepare for external capital. Interventions concentrate on strengthening financial management systems, operational efficiency, and market execution, while deepening understanding of investment processes, risk management, and scalable growth strategies.

Growth - The Growth Stage supports more mature enterprises pursuing scale, geographic expansion, and deeper integration into national and regional health systems. At this stage, the Academy facilitates strategic thinking around cross-market expansion, growth financing, impact measurement, and long-term sustainability.

Each stage is designed specifically to provide the necessary knowledge flow health entrepreneurs require to build their businesses from taking the first steps to expanding into existing or new markets. This is evidenced by testimonials from graduates.



Ruth Ijere
Founder/ED, MindAfrik

Through the ABCHealth program, I deepened my understanding of human-centered design and innovation in mental health. From ideation to acceleration, I learned and was encouraged to embody the vision of MindAfrik, build the right team, and prioritize users feedback and stakeholder engagement.

The program reinforced the importance of clear communication, financial stewardship, and periodic evaluation - all of which I've implemented and still implementing in order to gain mastery of them and to strengthen MindAfrik's impact

My experience at the ABCHealth Academy has been truly transformative. The programme provided deep insights into health entrepreneurship, strengthened my strategic thinking, and equipped me with practical tools needed to refine and scale my business. Each session from market validation to business modelling and investment readiness was led by experienced faculty who shared real-world perspectives that reshaped how I approach impact, sustainability, and innovation.

The Academy has not only expanded my knowledge but also connected me to a community of passionate health entrepreneurs who are committed to solving Africa's most pressing health challenges.



Zorbari Stephen
Founder/CEO, Afiyavest

ABCHealth Academy Partners with MTN Skills Acquisition Academy



ABCHealth Academy for Health Entrepreneurs announces a strategic partnership with MTN Skills Academy, bringing together two organisations committed to equipping people with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities needed to thrive in today's evolving economy. Through this collaboration, both institutions will leverage their respective strengths in health entrepreneurship, digital skills, innovation, and workforce development to create greater access to practical learning opportunities for aspiring and emerging health entrepreneurs. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to empowering individuals with relevant skills that can translate into sustainable businesses, meaningful employment, and stronger contributions to the health and digital ecosystems.

This partnership will support the development of impactful learning initiatives designed to strengthen entrepreneurial capacity, promote digital inclusion, and foster innovation across the health sector. By combining ABCHealth Academy's expertise in health entrepreneurship with MTN Skills Academy's digital learning capabilities and broad skills-development ecosystem, the collaboration aims to prepare participants to identify opportunities, develop solutions, and build sustainable ventures that respond to pressing healthcare needs. Together, ABCHealth Academy and MTN Skills Academy look forward to opening new pathways for learning, innovation, and economic empowerment, while contributing to a future where more people have the skills and confidence to turn ideas into impact.

ABCHealth Academy for Health Entrepreneurs has entered into a strategic partnership with Nova Business School Ghana, a collaboration that brings together expertise in health entrepreneurship, business education, innovation, and leadership development. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to equipping current and emerging health entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, networks, and practical tools required to build sustainable ventures and create meaningful impact across the healthcare ecosystem. By combining both institution's business education and capacity-building expertise, the partnership will create new opportunities for entrepreneurs to transform ideas into viable and impactful solutions.



The partnership marks an important step towards building a stronger ecosystem for health entrepreneurship and business innovation in Ghana and beyond. ABCHealth Academy and Nova Business School Ghana believe that empowering entrepreneurs with the right combination of sector-specific knowledge and business acumen can unlock new opportunities, stimulate innovation, create jobs, and contribute to improved health outcomes. Both organisations look forward to working together to inspire and support a new generation of health entrepreneurs and leaders who are equipped not only to build successful businesses, but also to deliver sustainable solutions that create lasting social and economic value.

Coalition Events

Africa's Health Sector Moves from Conversation to Action: Investment, Innovation and Partnerships Take Centre Stage

The second quarter and early third quarter of 2026 saw important conversations shaping the future of Africa's healthcare ecosystem. From Lagos to Cairo, Cannada, Abuja, major regional platforms brought together policymakers, healthcare leaders, investors, innovators and development partners around a common priority: building stronger, more resilient and investment-ready health systems across Africa.

For ABCHealth, the period reinforced a clear message – Africa's healthcare transformation will require more than increased funding. It will depend on strategic partnerships, private-sector leadership, local production, technology, innovation and sustainable investment.

WHX Lagos 2026: Driving Healthcare Investment and Innovation in West Africa June 2026 | Landmark Centre, Lagos, Nigeria

The World Health Expo (WHX) Lagos 2026 brought together healthcare professionals, business leaders, policymakers, investors and solution providers to explore the opportunities shaping West Africa's healthcare market. Featuring more than 8,000 professional visits, 500+ exhibitors and representation from over 40 countries, ABCHealth contributed to the conversation through the Hospital Investment & Buyer Leadership Forum, held on 3 June under the theme: **“Transforming Healthcare Delivery Through Collaborative Innovation: Leveraging Partnerships, Investment, and Technology to Enhance Clinical Outcomes and Healthcare Efficiency.”**

Africa's healthcare market presents significant opportunities for investors and businesses when innovation is connected to real healthcare needs, sustainable business models and measurable outcomes.



Dr. Jide Idris, DG, Nigeria CDC giving the keynote address at the ABCHealth-WHX session



Cross section of panelists at the ABCHealth-WHX session



Audience view at the well-attended ABCHealth-WHX session in Lagos Nigeria



The high-level panelists at the ABCHealth-led sessions during WHX Lagos

The conference concluded with calls for great Investment and continental Partnerships. Transforming Healthcare Delivery Through Collaborative Innovation requires investment across the entire health value chain – from manufacturing and MedTech to digital infrastructure, financing, supply chains and healthcare delivery.

Africa Health ExCon 2026: Advancing Africa's Health Sovereignty June 2026 | Egypt International Exhibition Centre, Cairo, Egypt

Africa Health ExCon 2026 held under the theme **“Health Sovereignty in Africa: Leadership, Resilience, and Self-Reliance”** and brought together governments, healthcare institutions, private-sector companies, international organisations and investors, with discussions spanning pharmaceutical security, local manufacturing, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, healthcare financing and resilient supply chains.

As an Impact Partner, ABCHealth convened two strategic sessions including:

Session I: Re-imagining MedTech Innovation and Local Manufacturing

The session explored how AI-enabled diagnostics, interoperable digital health systems and local manufacturing ecosystems can reduce import dependency, strengthen supply-chain resilience and expand access to quality healthcare.

Session II: Unlocking Africa's Health Innovation and Investment Potential

The investment-focused dialogue examined how blended financing, cross-border health trade, digital health infrastructure and stronger policy alignment can unlock capital for Africa's health and pharmaceutical sectors.

The conference concluded with calls for greater local pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing, technology transfer, stronger epidemic surveillance and improved continental coordination. Building resilient African health systems requires investment across the entire health value chain – from manufacturing and MedTech to digital infrastructure, financing, supply chains and healthcare delivery.



Dr. Wael Omran, Supply Chain Director Egypt Health Care Authority delivering the keynote address



Cross section of the Panelists at the ABCHealth-Africa Health ExCon 2026 held in Cairo on Day One

Session II: Unlocking Africa's Health Innovation and Investment Potential

The investment-focused dialogue examined how blended financing, cross-border health trade, digital health infrastructure and stronger policy alignment can unlock capital for Africa's health and pharmaceutical sectors.



Panelists at the ABCHealth-led session on Day Two of the Africa Health ExCon



Cross section of ABCHealth delegates at the ABCHealth-Africa Health ExCon

The conference concluded with calls for greater partnerships and improved continental coordination. Building resilient African health systems requires investment across the entire health value chain – from manufacturing and MedTech to digital infrastructure, financing, supply chains and healthcare delivery.

Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) 2026 - June 2026 | Lagos, Nigeria

The Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) 2026 expanded the conversation beyond healthcare alone, bringing development, finance, business and social impact leaders together under the theme: **“Financing for Development: Building Resilience and Transforming Emerging Economies.”** Building resilient health systems requires capital from multiple sources including governments, private investors, development finance institutions, philanthropy and businesses alongside partnerships capable of taking successful solutions from pilot stage to scale. The future of African healthcare depends on making health investment more attractive, coordinated and impact-driven while connecting capital with scalable solutions.



Co-Chairs at the ABCHealth-led, health-focused, pre-summit session for the 2026 Africa Social Impact Summit that held at the Eko Convention Centre in Lagos



ABCHealth CEO, Dr. Mories Atoki with Mr. Abdul-Mumin Oshodi, Founder/CEO KITAM Science announcing a partnership between both organizations



Participants at the ABCHealth-led, health-focused high-level pre-summit session ahead of the 2026 Africa Social Impact Summit

AfricaHealth Tech Summit Canada 2026 - June 2026 in Toronto, Canada

Highlight ABCHealth's participation/presence at the AfricaHealth Tech Summit Canada 2026, including the CEO Roundtable hosted by ABC Health in June 2026. This can focus on leadership dialogue, health innovation, technology, entrepreneurship, and the role of African health leaders in shaping the future of healthcare.



Participants at the ABCHealth-led session at the AfricaHealth Tech Summit in Toronto, Canada.

Africa Primary Health Care Forum 2026 - July 2026 | Abuja, Nigeria

The Africa Primary Health Care Forum 2026 held in Abuja and ABCHealth led a session that convened critical stakeholders to discuss on advancing primary healthcare and health-system strengthening across the continent.



Dr. Francis Aminu, Director, Aliko Dangote Foundation with ABCHealth CEO, Dr. Mories Atoki at the ABCHealth-led fireside chat at the APHCF 2026



Cross section of panelists at the ABCHealth-led session at the APHCF 2026 in Abuja



Cross section of participants at the session



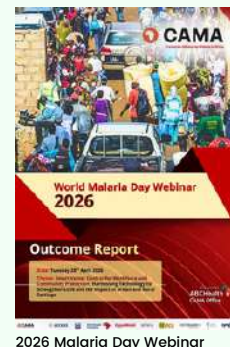
Delegates to APHCF 2026

Outcome Reports

ABCHealth and the CAMA Office convenes in high-level gatherings at national, regional, continental and global level where Coalition and Alliance members exhibit thought leadership and showcase their contributions to the mandate of improving health outcomes across the continent. Read up on our outcome reports as we continue to advocate improved health outcomes across Africa.



2026 ABCHealth-WHX Lagos



2026 Malaria Day Webinar



2026 Mosquito Day Survey

Key Upcoming Events

ABCHealth CEO Roundtable: Africa HealthTech Summit, Kigali



This high-level session is titled; **'Reimagining Africa's Health Economy: Unlocking Public-Private Innovation For Health Systems Transformation'** exploring inter-continental collaboration will convene critical stakeholders in the public and private sectors across Africa's healthcare industry.

ABCHealth Exhibition Health Pavillion: World Health Expo (WHX), Nairobi



World Health Expo Nairobi is your one-stop shop for medical innovation. Discover the latest products and services, learn from industry experts, and expand your professional network. Register now

2026 Cohort II

Classes Ongoing!!!

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- ▶ Francophone
- ▶ Arabophone