



H*i*C

HEALTH INNOVATION CONFERENCE

CONCEPT NOTE

**Integrating and Scaling Innovations into
Healthcare Programs and Systems**

Date: 26th - 27th August 2024

BACKGROUND

Over the last decade, exponential technological advancements have significantly reshaped numerous industries (Bongomin, Yemane et al. 2020). In sectors like finance and manufacturing, these technological shifts have been particularly transformative, far beyond what was imagined just a few decades earlier. In contrast, the healthcare industry has been slower to embrace such changes, largely due to persistent safety concerns. This industry's agility in adopting technology and innovations is hampered by a complex mix of bureaucratic and operational challenges (Ashiwaju, Agho et al. 2024).

Despite these obstacles, the healthcare sector has seen noteworthy transformations driven by technology and innovation. The evolving global healthcare landscape underscores the critical need for the integration and scaling of such innovations within healthcare systems and programs. Innovations ranging from digital health technologies to new care delivery models hold immense potential to improve health outcomes, reduce disparities, and enhance the efficiency and sustainability of health systems worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) stresses the importance of harnessing these innovations to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3, which focuses on promoting well-being for all ages (Sankaran 2020).

However, integrating these innovations into healthcare programs and systems presents multiple challenges, including technological, regulatory, financial, and cultural barriers that can impede the adoption and scaling of health innovations. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the vulnerabilities of global health systems and the urgent need for resilient health infrastructures capable of withstanding new health threats (Gebremeskel, Otu et al. 2021).

Innovations like artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and digital health solutions have shown promising results in improving patient care, securing data management, and expanding the reach of health services. For instance, AI in healthcare has shown the potential to enhance disease prediction, diagnosis, and treatment, thus offering opportunities to revolutionize patient care and health system efficiency (Ciecierski-Holmes, Singh et al. 2022).

Yet, significant gaps in innovation access between the Global North and South remain, posing challenges to achieving universal health coverage and equitable health outcomes. The World Trade Organization (WTO) emphasizes the need for international collaboration and policy coherence to bridge these disparities and ensure that healthcare innovations benefit everyone, both across and within countries (Deng 2024).

To overcome these barriers and fully leverage healthcare innovations, there is a pressing need for cross-sector collaboration involving governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia. Such partnerships are crucial in creating conducive ecosystems for health innovation, developing sustainable financing models, and ensuring that innovations are accessible, equitable, and responsive to the needs of diverse populations (MacGregor and Carleton 2011). Under the African Union's initiative with the AfCFTA, concerted efforts are being made to harmonize efforts across member states to accelerate the adoption of innovations in programs.

In this context, the 5th Health Innovations Conference aims to catalyse local, regional, and global dialogue and collaboration. By showcasing ground-breaking innovations and encouraging a multidisciplinary exchange of ideas, the conference seeks to set actionable agendas for integrating these innovations into healthcare systems and programs, ultimately promoting global health equity and resilience.

OBJECTIVES

This conference aims to:

- Highlight transformative innovations in healthcare and discuss pathways for their integration into health systems globally.
- Encourage collaboration among innovators, health professionals, policymakers, and technologists from private sector, public sector, consortia and organizations in healthcare implementation.
- Identify and address barriers to the scaling of healthcare innovations, with a focus on policy reform, funding mechanisms, and cross-sector partnerships.
- Identify the standards and frameworks for scaling and adopting innovations into healthcare programs.
- Explore the critical role of functional innovation ecosystems and entrepreneurship in delivering universal healthcare.



SUBTHEMES AND TRACKS

01

Transformative Technologies in Healthcare:

Examining the role of AI, blockchain, and digital health solutions in transforming healthcare delivery, patient engagement, and data management. This track will also explore the ethical considerations and infrastructure requirements for integrating such technologies into health systems in Uganda and the Global South.

1. How can we ensure equitable access to AI, blockchain, and digital health solutions across different regions, especially in low-resource settings?
2. What ethical considerations must be prioritized in the development and implementation of new healthcare technologies?
3. In what ways can digital health solutions enhance patient engagement and improve health outcomes?
4. How do we build the necessary infrastructure for the successful integration of cutting edge technologies into existing health systems?
5. What are the main barriers to adopting transformative technologies in healthcare, and how can they be overcome?
6. How can data privacy and security be ensured in the deployment of digital health technologies?

02

Policy Innovations and Health Systems Strengthening:

Discussing innovative health policies that facilitate the integration and scaling of new technologies and models of care. Emphasis will be placed on regulatory frameworks, international health policy collaborations, and case studies of successful policy interventions.

1. What innovative policy frameworks have been successful in facilitating the integration of new technologies and care models?
2. How can international collaboration in health policy accelerate the adoption of innovations in healthcare systems globally?
3. What role do regulatory frameworks play in encouraging or hindering health innovation?
4. How can policy innovations contribute to the strengthening of health systems in the face of emerging global health threats?
5. What lessons can be learned from case studies of successful policy interventions in healthcare innovation?
6. How can policymakers and healthcare leaders work together to create an enabling environment for health innovations?

03

Sustainable Financing for Health Innovation:

Exploring new and sustainable financing models for health innovations, including blended finance, impact investing, and public-private partnerships. This track aims to identify strategies for attracting investment and ensuring the long-term viability of health innovations.

1. What are the most promising new financing models for supporting health innovations, and how do they work?
2. How can impact investing be effectively harnessed to fund health innovations?
3. What challenges do innovators face in securing sustainable financing, and how can these be addressed?
4. How do public-private partnerships contribute to the financing of health innovations?
5. What strategies can be employed to attract investment into health innovations from non-traditional sources?
6. How can financial sustainability be ensured for health innovations beyond initial funding phases?

SUBTHEMES AND TRACKS

04

Building Resilient Health Systems through Innovation:

Addressing the need for health systems to be resilient in the face of emerging health threats, including pandemics and climate change. Discussions will focus on innovations in health infrastructure, emergency preparedness, and the integration of environmental and animal health considerations.

1. What innovations are critical to building health systems that are resilient to pandemics, climate change, and other global health threats?
2. How can health infrastructure be innovatively designed or modified to withstand future health crises?
3. In what ways can technology play a role in emergency preparedness and response?
4. How can we integrate environmental and animal health considerations into the planning of resilient health systems?
5. What are the key components of a resilient health system, and how can innovation drive their development?
6. How do we measure the resilience of health systems, and what metrics can be used to gauge the impact of innovations?

05

Inclusive Innovation for Global Health Equity:

Ensuring that health innovations reach and benefit all populations, including the most vulnerable. This track will cover innovations in telehealth, mobile health solutions, and community-based models that promote access and equity.

1. How can we ensure that health innovations are designed with inclusivity at their core, reaching the most vulnerable populations?
2. What are effective strategies for overcoming geographical, economic, and cultural barriers to access health innovations?
3. How can telehealth and mobile health solutions be scaled to improve access in remote or underserved areas?
4. What role does community involvement play in the development and deployment of health innovations?
5. How can we leverage technology to address health disparities and promote equity?
6. What are the challenges in measuring the impact of health innovations on global health equity, and how can these be addressed?

06

Cross-Sector Collaboration for Health Innovation:

Highlighting successful examples of cross-sector collaborations that have led to significant health improvements. This includes partnerships between governments, technology companies, NGOs, and academia to foster innovation ecosystems.

1. What are the key elements of successful cross-sector collaborations in health innovation?
2. How can governments, private sector, NGOs, and academia effectively collaborate to foster health innovation ecosystems?
3. What are the challenges in managing cross-sector partnerships, and how can they be overcome?
4. How can such collaborations ensure the sustainability and scalability of health innovations?
5. What models of cross-sector collaboration have led to significant health improvements and can be replicated or scaled?
6. How can intellectual property rights be managed in cross-sector collaborations to facilitate innovation while ensuring fair access?

ENGAGEMENT AND INTERACTIVITY APPROACHES



Interactive Panels and Workshops:

Featuring global experts discussing the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in health innovation.



Innovation Showcase:

A platform for innovators to present their technologies and models, facilitating direct feedback from peers and potential collaborators.



Networking Opportunities:

Structured networking sessions, including virtual meet-ups for international participants, to foster collaboration and idea exchange.



Policy Roundtables:

Bringing together policymakers, stakeholders, and thought leaders to forge consensus on key issues and strategies for integrating innovations into health systems.



Business masterclasses:

featuring interactive engagements from business leaders that will equip innovators with skills in pitch presentations, business modeling for healthcare innovations, private equity financing & routes-to-market strategies.

Day 1: Sustainable Innovations for Healthcare Systems

Time	Activity	Description
8 : 30 AM 9: 00 AM	Arrival and registration	
9 : 00 AM 9 : 30 AM	Opening Ceremony	Welcome Address and Overview of Conference Objectives and Themes
9 : 30 AM 10 : 30 AM	Keynote Address	“The Future of Healthcare: Integrating Innovations for Global Impact” by a leading figure in global health
10 : 30 AM 11 : 00 AM	Coffee break and networking	
11 : 00 AM 12 : 30 PM	Panel Discussion	“Transformative Technologies in Healthcare” - Discussion on AI, blockchain, and digital health integration
12 : 30 PM 1 : 30 PM	Lunchbreak	
1 : 30 PM 3 : 00 PM	Breakout sessions (Choose one)	1. Workshop: “Designing Policies for Health Innovation” 2. Roundtable: “Sustainable Financing for Health Innovation”
3 : 00 PM 3 : 30 PM	Coffee break and networking	
3 : 30 PM 5 : 00 PM	Innovative showcase	Rapid-fire presentations by innovators showcasing scalable solutions

Day 2: Scaling Innovations and Building Collaborations

Time	Activity	Description
9 : 00 AM 10 : 30 AM	Panel Discussion	“Building Resilient Health Systems through Innovation” - Creating health systems that withstand threats
10 : 30 AM 11 : 00 AM	Coffee break and networking	
11 : 00 AM 12 : 30 PM	Breakout sessions (Choose one)	1. Workshop: “Leveraging Digital Tools for Global Health Equity” 2. Roundtable: “Cross-Sector Collaboration for Health Innovation”
12 : 30 PM 1 : 30 PM	Lunchbreak	
1 : 30 PM 3 : 00 PM	Panel discussions	“Inclusive Innovation for Global Health Equity” - Strategies to ensure health innovations reach all layers of society
3 : 00 PM 3 : 30 PM	Coffee break and networking	
3 : 30 PM 4 : 30 PM	Closing Keynote	“Actionable Strategies for Integrating and Scaling Health Innovations” by an influential leader in health innovation
4 : 30 PM 5 : 00 PM	Closing ceremony	Recap of key insights, commitments, and announcement of future engagement opportunities

Conclusion

The 5th Health Innovations Conference aims to be a pivotal moment in shaping the future of global health through the integration and scaling of innovations. By convening leaders from across sectors and disciplines, we will explore actionable strategies for overcoming the barriers to innovation in healthcare, with the ultimate goal of achieving universal health coverage and improving health outcomes worldwide.

Call to Action

We invite global health leaders, innovators, policymakers, and all stakeholders to join us in this ambitious endeavor. Together, we can harness the power of innovation to transform healthcare programs and systems for the betterment of societies around the globe.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS FROM HIC 2022



H.E. Natalie E. Brown
US. Ambassador to Uganda



Dr. Suraj M. Shrestha
Programme Management Officer
WHO



Dr. Lisa Nelson
Country Director
CDC Uganda



Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe
Vice Chancellor
Makerere University



Dr. Andrew Kambugu
Sande McKinnell
Executive Director

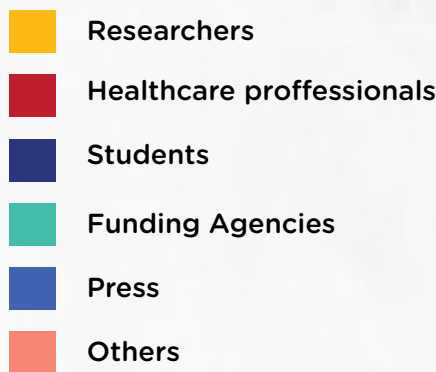
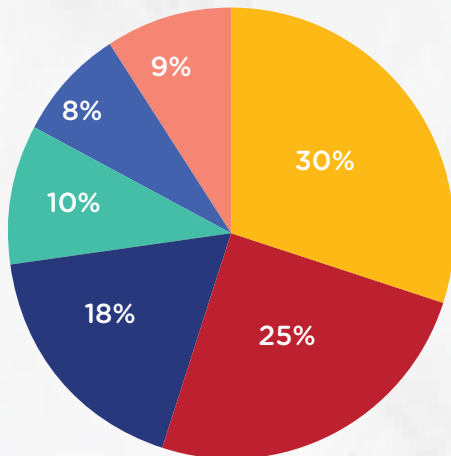


Chris Lukolyo
Digital Country Lead
UNCDF

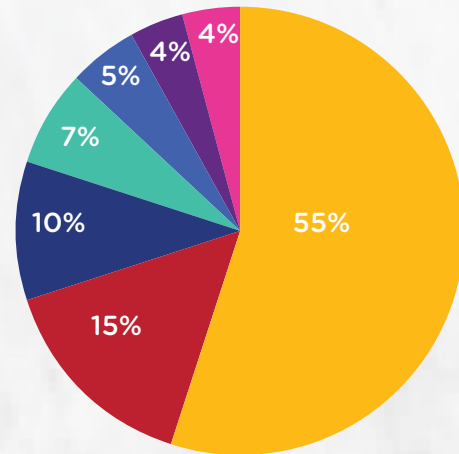


HIC ATTENDEES ACROSS THE YEARS

BY PROFESSION



BY COUNTRY



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The Health Innovations Conference is an excellent sponsorship investment opportunity for organisations both in the health sector, government or private who want to promote their brand, increase their market presence, and connect with Uganda’s healthcare professional and young innovators in the health eco system.

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