

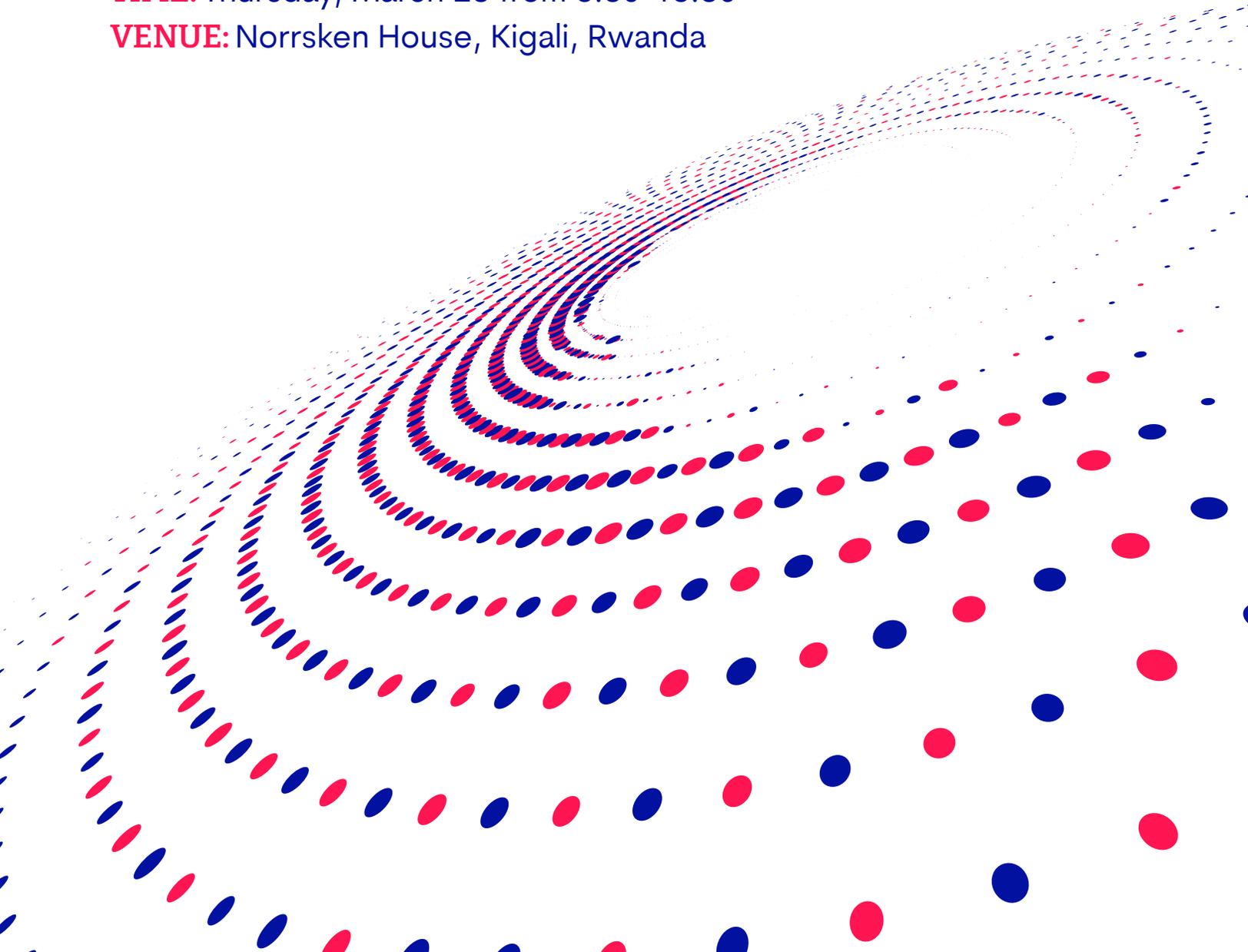
**HEALTHTECH  
HUB**

A HealthTech Hub Africa organized policy summit

**■ ● Fast-tracking HealthTech**  
**■ ■ Innovations to Improve Public**  
**■ ● Health in Africa**

**TIME:** Thursday, March 23 from 8:30-18:30

**VENUE:** Norrsken House, Kigali, Rwanda



The HealthTech Hub Africa's (HTHA) mission is to help governments and start-ups collaborate on data and technology-enabled innovations that strengthen African health systems.

As part of this mission, the Summit will introduce the Blueprint initiative, action plan and provide an opportunity to exchange on innovation in policymaking for related to healthtech innovation in Africa.

During the summit, the HTHA will launch an Intergovernmental Working Group ("IWG") to facilitate the fast-tracking of healthtech innovations in public health systems through the interaction between public health leaders and health tech startups and scale ups.

## **SUMMIT AGENDA**

**MARCH 23, 2023**

**8:30**      **Registration and Breakfast**

**9:30**      **Welcome and introduction by the Novartis Foundation and Africa CDC**

Lucy Seitan, Director of Digital Transformation, The Novartis Foundation  
Rebecca Distler, AI, Data and Digital Health Strategist, Patrick J. McGovern Foundation  
Jean Philbert Nsengimana, Senior Digital Advisor, Africa CDC

**9:45**      **Introduction to the Blueprint Initiative**

Elizabeth Adamson, Associate Director of Population Health, The Novartis Foundation  
Joris Cyizere, Rwandan Centre for Industrial Revolution (C4IR, Rwanda)

**10:15**      **Introduction to the Workshop for Policy and Regulatory Solutions**

Joris Cyizere, Rwandan Centre for Industrial Revolution (C4IR, Rwanda)

**10:45**      **Break**

**11:15**      **Breakout groups**

Facilitated by Sarah Des Rosiers (Novartis Foundation) and Joris Cyizere (C4IR)

**12:45**      **Lunch**

**14:00**      **Keynote: The promise of digital technology to close health and employment gaps and improve population health**

Hon. Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda

**14:15**      **Workshop Debrief**

## 14:30 Panel: How insights from start-ups can lead to policy and regulatory solutions to improve population health and narrow health inequities

- *Hon. Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda*
- *Noella Bigirimana, Deputy Director General at the Rwanda Biomedical Centre*
- *Ogweno Stephen, Co-founder and CEO of Lifesten Health*
- *Dr. Teddy Drame, Monitoring & Evaluation Lead, NCD Division, Ministry of Health and Social services of Senegal*
- *Mayoro Diagne, COO, BAAMTU*

Moderated by Sarah Des Rosiers, Director of Health Equity, the Novartis Foundation  
Translated by Belise Kanimba Niwemwari

## 16:00 Closing and next steps

Elizabeth Adamson, Novartis Foundation  
Joris Cyizere, C4IR

## 16:45 Reception

# RUN OF SHOW

## KEYNOTE – Key Messages

### Hon. Paula Ingabire to be introduced by Facilitator

We are honored to be joined today by...

Suggested content for keynote:

- Provide context for the HealthTech Hub Africa Policy Summit, suggestions include discussing:
  - The promise of digital technology to close health and employment gaps and improve population health
  - The potential to leverage the IWG to provide the opportunity for policymakers, health decisionmakers and start ups to exchange
  - The potential to influence both in-country and global health policy by capturing real world insights from the identified policy and regulation gaps in Africa in foresight policy guide Blueprint.
  - The potential to translate insights into action to achieve tangible population health impact and narrow health inequities through the integration and scale-up of solutions in the public health systems.
- Demonstrate Rwandan leadership support of this initiative:
  - Why is scaling homegrown innovation into public health systems critical to advance population health and build equitable health systems?
  - Discuss current state and desired state – what are the first items that come to mind that need changing, and how will the blueprint initiative support this?
  - Share a vision in clear words, perhaps as a chain of events, i.e. “If so and so many countries adopt the blueprint, we can achieve goal X by [year]”.

- Reference importance of local government ownership and local champions to accelerate and scale homegrown innovation into public health systems.
- Express enthusiasm to exchange within the framework of the inter-governmental group (IWG) and share lessons learned as a basis for recommendations for governments and private sector wishing to implement digital solutions.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION – KEY QUESTIONS**

### **How insights from governments and start-ups can lead to policy and regulatory solutions to improve population health and narrow health inequities**

#### **Moderator sets the scene**

We are honored to be joined by a diverse group of policymakers and two distinguished representatives from Baamtu and Lifesten Health accelerating health tech innovations in Senegal and Rwanda. Together we will explore how governments and start-ups can collaborate to fast-track data and technology-enabled innovations that strengthen African health systems.

#### **Suggested questions**

- **Noella Birgirimana and Dr. Teddy Drame** – Can you begin the discussion by laying the stage on what the biggest challenges your relevant health systems are facing? What are your countries doing to digitize health systems and how is technology seen as an enabler to accelerate public health interventions? How is health tech helping close the gaps? Why do you see the roll-out of technology in the health system as an essential part for achieving Health for All?
- **Minister Paula Ingabire** – Rwanda has made significant progress in using data and technology to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes. Can you share some examples of how your country has leveraged health tech innovation to advance population health and narrow inequities? In your experience, what are the key success factors for accelerating the uptake of technology and innovation in public health systems?
- **Stephen Ogweno** – You have developed programmes and innovations aimed at improving health literacy and access to care for chronic diseases, how do you see technology playing a role in accelerating public health interventions for chronic diseases? Why is it urgent for governments to engage in dialogues with innovators dialogue to harness data and technology's potential in combating NCDS?
- **Mayoro Diagne** – You have held various positions and contributed to several e-government initiatives, including the recent Saytu Tension initiative in Dakar. In your experience, from this and other initiatives, what are the key success factors for intersectoral collaboration between health and IT/innovation and to ensure the uptake of solutions in the health system? What has worked well and how would you have approached things differently?

- **Noella Bigirimana** – What type of health tech projects have or are currently running in Rwanda in the health care sector? What have been the experiences of Ministries collaborating with startups in the roll out of health tech solutions? What are foundational elements for a good collaboration between Ministries and innovators? How can other countries learn from Rwanda's experience with data and AI in healthcare and apply it to their own contexts?
- **Dr. Teddy Drame** – What were the main learnings from the pandemic, on how data has been used for decision and policy making in health? How can we measure the success of digital health collaborations between governments and the private sector? Where do you see the potential for intergovernmental dialogue between ministers and innovators around solutions to facilitate healthtech innovation?
- **Mayoro Diagne** – How have you addressed challenges such as data and digital literacy, availability of infrastructure and governance in your efforts to implement technology in healthcare? You have had the experience both within government in the private sector. Can you suggest ways to best leverage the opportunity for policymakers, health decisionmakers and startups to exchange ideas and ideate solutions via an intersectoral platform?
- **Noella Bigirimana** – Data access is a large challenge start-ups are facing. What kind of potential do you see in large massive datasets that governments control? What are the existing mechanisms, if any, to get access to data? What is the government mindset, what are they most concerned about in terms of opening up datasets?
- **Stephen Ogweno** – What have been the key success factors for Lifesten in collaborating with Ministerial departments? Where is there the most urgent need to do better? Would you briefly share on your experiences working with gov't and some of the biggest challenges your team has? Do you have a vision for what "good" looks like for this problem areas you mentioned?
- **Minister Paula Ingabire** – How do both governments see the procurement and financing of health innovations? Can you talk about the existing mechanisms for procuring technologies? How can governments access financing? Which type of financing are currently made available? Where do you see the potential to influence both in-country and global health policy with the real-world use cases as part of the Blueprint initiative?
- **Dr. Teddy Drame** – Where do we stand in the process of health tech innovation, and what priorities are the first that come to mind that need changing? How can the Blueprint initiative support sustainable adoption of health tech solutions across Africa? Talking about sustainability, what are the successful factors to ensure adoption of solutions in the future?

# BIOGRAPHIES



**Hon Paula Ingabire**

*Minister of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda*

Paula Ingabire is a Rwandan technology enthusiast, who currently serves as the Minister of ICT and Innovation in the Government of Rwanda. Prior to her appointment as Minister, she served as Head of the ICT Business Development Department at the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) where she led the implementation of National ICT programs notably eGovernment and Cyber Security; as well as the coordinator of the Kigali Innovation City Project, a flagship program of the Government designed to nurture and strengthen a Pan-African Innovation eco-system in Rwanda. Minister Ingabire coordinated the creation of Smart Africa, an initiative that seeks to leverage broadband infrastructure as a driver for Africa's socio-economic growth.

A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's School of Engineering & Sloan School of Management, in the System Design and Management program and holds a BS in Computer Engineering and Information Technology from the University of Rwanda; Paula was named in 2019 by Apolitical among the Top 20 of the World's 100 most influential people in digital government.

She serves on the Global Council of the World Summit Award Board of Directors, World Economic Forum Cyber Security Board, the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Global Network Advisory Board and the WEF Board of Trustees. In January 2021, Paula Ingabire has been named founding board member of the EDISON Alliance.



Noella Bigirimana is the Deputy Director General at the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), a national health implementation agency in Rwanda. In this role, she also serves on the national taskforce advancing vaccine manufacturing, biomanufacturing and biotechnology efforts in Rwanda.

Noella previously served as Division Manager of Research, Innovation and Data Science at RBC. She has also worked at the World Economic Forum as Rwanda Government Fellow, where she focused on co-designing policy and governance approaches to accelerate the adoption of precision medicine and other emerging 4IR technologies.

Noella currently serves on the Advisory Board of AI Transparency Institute, and as Advisory Board Chair of the Youth Combating NTDs.

She is a former World Economic Forum's Global Shaper.



**Noella Bigirimana**

*Deputy Director General at the Rwanda Biomedical Centre*



Ogweno Stephen is an award-winning global health enthusiast and practitioner, a non-communicable diseases (NCDs) advocate and an author. His background is in Global health having studied at Cambridge University and the University of Manchester. He is known for his vast work in developing programmes and innovations, aimed at improving health literacy and access to care for chronic diseases.

As a co-founder and CEO of Lifesten Health, he is leading healthcare innovation aimed at making health accessible to the next 1 billion Africans. In addition to this Ogweno also currently serves in several boards and committees globally including in the World Health Organization where he is as a steering member of NCDs Labs under the thematic area NCDs and the Next Generation.

Ogweno Stephen is also a published scientific researcher, a keynote speaker and the author of 6 books. Ogweno is an avid reader who loves traveling and enjoys a quiet meditation every morning.



**Ogweno Stephen** |  
Co-founder and CEO of Lifesten Health



Mayoro Diagne is a Software Engineer living in Dakar, with 17 years of experience in the tech industry. A graduate of Ecole Superieure Polytechnique de Dakar (ESP), Mayoro has held numerous leadership positions in both public and private sectors, ranging from small to large companies.

Currently serving as the COO of Baamtu Technologies, Mayoro brings his extensive knowledge and skills in engineering and IT to every project he oversees. His expertise in project management is further reinforced by his ITIL® v3 and COBIT® 5 certifications. Mayoro's strong academic background in computer engineering has enabled him to excel in various roles within the tech industry.

As the former Technical Director at Makeba, a fintech company, he designed and implemented a mobile money platform. During his tenure at ADIE, the Senegalese IT Agency, Mayoro held various positions and made significant contributions to numerous e-government initiatives.

In his current role at Baamtu, he has successfully audited tech startups and led crucial projects for both private and public sector clients.



**Mayoro Diagne** |  
COO of BAAMTU



## Dr. Teddy Drame

Monitoring & Evaluation Lead, NCD Division,  
Ministry of Health and Social services of Senegal



Teddy Drame is a medical doctor graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD). A specialist in public health, she has more than ten years' experience in the Senegalese health system.

At the hospital level, she has capitalized three years of experience in pediatric care and 5 years as head of the outpatient department. Since 2019, she is the monitoring and evaluation manager of the non-communicable diseases control division, responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating diabetes and hypertension control strategies in particular and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in general.

She also coordinates the implementation of the STEPS survey, which is a national survey that measures the prevalence of the main NCD risk factors.



Joris Cyizere is the Strategy Lead and Acting Managing Director at the Rwanda Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution where he is in charge of setting and overseeing implementation of the Centre's strategic priorities, including a portfolio of policy and innovation initiatives in the health sector.

Joris is very excited about the transformative opportunities that Health Technology can bring to Rwanda and Africa at large, and is very thrilled to be playing a role in unlocking these opportunities.

Prior to C4IR, he was a strategy and technology consultant, helping advise clients on growth strategy, operational excellence and digital innovation.



## Joris Cyizere

Strategy Lead and Acting Managing  
Director at the Rwanda Centre



Elizabeth drives the implementation and impact measurement of the foundation's initiatives that drive data and digital-led innovations to improve urban population health and narrow health inequities.

Two of these initiatives she is currently overseeing is the Novartis Foundation's New York City partners and program for AI4HealthyCities in New York City and Blueprint initiative to FastTrack HealthTech Innovations for the HealthTech Hub of Africa.

In 2019, Elizabeth joined the Chief Medical Office within Novartis AG. As the Medical Policy and External Collaborations Manager, she was responsible for driving Medical Policy strategy and leading the development of clinical and scientific global guidelines for patient-focused activities to ensure patients' rights, ethical standards, and Novartis's reputation are maintained and enhanced within GDD and across Novartis Divisions.

She also led tasks in direct support of the overall Project Lead of the €28.6 million cross-industry and academic partnership consortium Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) ConcePTION. Significantly, Novartis was recognized externally for its approach to R&D policies as an industry best practice in the Access Medicines Index for 2021. Previously, she held roles in Public Affairs and Regulatory Policy within the company.



**Elizabeth Adamson** |

*Associate Director of Population Health,  
Novartis Foundation X ADD*



Lucy is responsible for the digital transformation strategy of the Novartis Foundation and its execution with the aim to transform population health, enabled by data, digital & AI. She is a program director and coach on tech-driven initiatives. Lucy sets the continuous improvement roadmap for digital innovation to ensure programs achieve successful process, people and technology change, which are sustainable at scale.

Leads the strategic selection, catalyzing & acceleration initiatives for HealthTech innovations, the development of local innovators ecosystems through robust training and mentoring, support for growth opportunities together with partners, including the establishment of public-private mechanisms for validating and scaling up impact ventures, enabling policy foresight and thought leadership.

She is steering strategic initiatives in Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, LATAM, and Europe, with focus on cardiovascular health & Health Equity. Prior to joining the Novartis Foundation, she was in charge of the Technology Practice at UCB, driving strategic engagement and educational programs on Digital & AI. Throughout her career, Lucy has held different leadership roles with a focus on corporate strategy and business development, digital project and program management, innovation, marketing and communications across different industries.

Lucy is a Computer Engineer from the German faculty program of the Technical University of Sofia and the Technical University of Karlsruhe. She holds a magna cum laude Master degree in Communication Sciences from VUB-Brussels, and an Executive MBA from Solvay Business School.



**Lucy Setian** |

*Director of Digital Transformation  
of Novartis Foundation*



## Sarah Des Rosiers

Director of Health Equity at the  
Novartis Foundation



She is responsible for driving CV population health approaches and for developing opportunities for cross-sectoral public/private partnerships on health equity, data and digital health solutions.

Sarah holds a Masters in Public Health with a specialization in health systems strengthening and outcomes measurement and she initially worked at the World Health Organization, UNAIDS and CHAI specializing on access to medicines and the HIV response in LMICs. She has extensive experience collaborating with health authorities, having worked closely with the MOHs and implementing partners in Haiti, Senegal, Cameroon and Tanzania.

Sarah has 7+ years experience as a management consultant working for PwC in the global health and pharma sectors, She worked on several assignments with global health organizations (WHO, GAVI, Global Fund) on topics grant monitoring and impact evaluation. She holds an MSc in International Health Policy & Economics (LSE) and an MBA (University of St. Gallen, Switzerland).

She is a Haitian-Canadian national.



Ann Aerts is Head of the Novartis Foundation, an organization committed to transform the health of low-income populations, by leveraging the power of data, digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to reimagine health and care around the world.

Ann holds a Degree in Medicine and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Leuven, Belgium, and a Degree in Tropical Medicine from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. Passionate about improving population health through data, digital and AI, Ann applies her relentless commitment to overcoming health inequities to pioneer solutions that can advance health and care globally.

Ann is a Board member of the Philips Foundation and of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp. She chairs the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development Working Group on Digital and AI in Health and served as a member of the US National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine Committee on Improving the Quality of Health Care Globally and on the US National Academies of Medicine Commission on Healthy Longevity.

Ann has authored numerous publications on innovative approaches and multisector partnerships to address global health challenges, on neglected tropical diseases and on digital health.



## Dr. Ann Aerts

Head Novartis Foundation



Esther Kunda is the Director General in charge of Innovation and Emerging Technologies at the ministry of ict and innovation where she drives policy initiatives and interventions to support the Rwandan innovation ecosystem and development of new emerging technologies in the country.

Before joining the Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Esther Kunda was the Policy, Innovation and Community of Scientists Manager at the Next Einstein Forum. She managed the development of NEF policy initiatives and worked closely with the NEF Community of Scientists on science engagement activities such as the NEF Africa Science Week across Africa.

Before joining NEF, she was at Intel as Education Support Manager and as product development for Tigo Rwanda. She has experience in product development, business strategy, policy and innovation.

She holds a Masters in Science in Information Technology from Carnegie Mellon University and Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from Kigali Institute of Science and Technology.



**Esther Kunda** |

*Director General in charge of  
Innovation and Emerging Technologies  
at the ministry of ict and innovation*

**MARCH 24, 2023**

Space will be allocated for networking with the startups and scale ups and informal discussions.

## **BACKGROUND**

Africa faces significant health challenges. While the continent suffers 22% of the global disease burden, it has only 3% of the world's healthcare workers and less than 1% of the world's financial resources. Additionally, Africa is projected to have about 374 million youth of working age by 2030, and yet, they currently make up 60% of the continent's unemployed population. Technology has proved to be the most powerful tool to close those health and employment gaps.

The first year of the HealthTech Hub Africa, inaugurated in December 2021, supported the phase one for establishing the Blueprint for a public-private mechanism to fast-track healthtech Innovations for public health in Africa.

## **THE BLUEPRINT**

A core focus of the Blueprint will be to gather and distill policy insights and learnings from the acceleration and scale up use cases of healthtech innovations in public health. A landscape analysis, interviews, workshops and learning boot camps will be conducted as the basis for the evidence-driven policy recommendations.

The Blueprint will aim to provide practical recommendations and techniques to help government officials apply long-term strategic thinking in policymaking, allowing them to accelerate the use of innovative technologies in health systems.

These will be based on good practices and real use case examples concerning policies and regulations for the assessment, selection, validation, refinement, acceleration and integration of healthtech solutions for public health. They can be reused, refined and retrofitted to national policy contexts to maintain consistency and efficacy. We will collect learnings for the startup-government collaboration processes and policies maturity from the currently launched several fast-tracking projects within Rwanda, Senegal, and several other countries.

## **ASPIRED OUTCOMES**

- Facilitate dialogue between start-ups and policymakers by launching an Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) to address the gaps and provide opportunities for new and existing innovations to scale and strengthen health systems more broadly.
- Influence both in-country and global health policy by capturing real world insights from the identified policy and regulation gaps in Africa in foresight policy guide Blueprint.
- Translate insights into action to achieve tangible population health impact and narrow health inequities through the integration and scale-up of solutions in the public health systems.

## THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The IWG will be a platform for multilateral discussions and collaboration around health tech innovation and policy on the continent for the project's duration.

The role of IWG members includes:

- Supporting the needs and challenges definition of a city and/or national level.
- Operationalizing the government-level support for the execution of validation projects with the selected innovations, including their testing, validation, and integration activities in a district city and/or national level
- Defining a vision and recommendations for sustainability and scale-up roadmap of the innovation within the respective public health system supporting the development, implementation, and dissemination of policy recommendations based on key learnings from the projects
- Attending two hybrid IWG Summits (one in Kigali, Rwanda and one in Dakar, Senegal) and two-four annual Blueprint workshops to address topics of relevance in the Blueprint creation with start-ups and government leaders (e.g. validate interview findings, etc.)

The IWG co-chairs will appoint dedicated project managers / focal points in their organizations to ensure a continued interaction and steering. These focal points constitute the project "Core Team", together with the selected partner. It is envisaged that several IWG members actively contribute to the development of the deliverables, e.g. by mobilizing their networks of experts, providing guidance, reviewing drafts, and to the review of the draft report elements.

## CONTACT US



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