



## Programme

### **Digital health in Africa: leadership and coordination**

Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 October 2017 | WP1571

'Digital health in Africa: leadership and coordination' is the first in a series of Wilton Park dialogues focusing on the opportunities of innovation and technology to improve the health of populations across the globe.

The aim of the October meeting is to accelerate the use of adaptable, scalable technologies for effective healthcare delivery, and better understand the infrastructure and leadership needed to implement these - a need acknowledged by countries in the African Ministers Dialogue on Leadership and Coordination (Geneva, WHA 2017) and the recent East Africa Digital Health Conference in Kampala. With a particular focus on Africa, but sharing experiences from Asia and elsewhere, this dialogue will elevate the importance of integrated national digital health systems and the critical role government leaders play in developing and implementing these systems to meet the health needs of their citizens.

This conference will aim to meet the following objectives:

- Raise awareness on the vital role that government leaders play in developing, costing, and implementing national digital health strategies.
- Promote coordination between ministries of health and ICT.
- Provide a platform for African ministers of health and ICT to commit to developing and implementing national digital health strategies for their respective countries.
- Showcase the Asian eHealth Information Network as an example of good practice in promoting the uptake of digital health practices across a region.
- Support the 'soft' launch of the African Alliance of Digital Health Networks.
- Promote a new way of doing development that focuses on coordinated investment and greater collaboration to support national digital health strategies.

In association with:

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## Monday 16 October

1230 Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

### 1400-1430 **Welcome and introductions**

**Robin Hart**

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

**Lesley-Anne Long**

Director of Digital Square hosted by PATH, Washington DC, USA

To include round the table introductions to familiarise the group with one another.

### 1430-1530 **1. Opportunities for digital health in Africa**

This introductory session will explore the spread of innovation and technology in healthcare delivery and the infrastructure needed to support digital health systems at the national level. The plenary will explore: what role can digital technology play in achieving Universal Health Coverage and health related Sustainable Development Goals? What are the key technological innovations? What impacts can digital technology have on healthcare delivery?

**Lesley-Anne Long**

Director of Digital Square hosted by PATH, Washington DC, USA

**Sarah Opendi Achieng**

Minister of State for Health, Ministry of Health, Kampala, Uganda

**Tim Wood**

Senior Program Officer, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, USA

1530-1615 Photograph followed by tea/coffee

### 1615-1730 **2. Leadership and networks: the foundation for developing digital health systems**

As part of the soft launch of the African Alliance of Digital Health Networks, this session will consider the role of regional digital health networks to help develop technology experts and tech-savvy leaders to establish and maintain national digital health systems. The case study from the Asian eHealth Information Network will be used as an example of good practice in promoting the uptake of digital health practices across a region and will explore how this case study can be applied to the African context.

This session will ask: what is needed to build effective leadership to implement a national digital health system? How do we build political will to support healthcare innovation? How to coordinate political, private and civil society efforts to develop an effective network for implementation? How can a regional approach assist in building political support? What regional alliances already exist to be drawn on? What are the best approaches to facilitating a regional digital health system?

**Fazilah Shaik Allaudin**

Representative of Asia eHealth Information Network, Senior Deputy Director, Planning Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, Putrajaya, Malaysia

**Olushayo Olu**

Rwanda Representative, World Health Organization (WHO), Kigali, Rwanda

**Olasupo Oyedepo**

ICT4Health Project Director, Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation, Abuja, Nigeria

1730-1745

Tea/coffee

1745-1845

**3. Role of digital technology for the health workforce**

Digital health systems depend on a health workforce that is able to use digital technology effectively in day to day practice as well for training, mentoring and performance management. This session will ask: how best to build digital technology capacity in the health workforce at the community level in particular? What role for a workforce academy for digital technology capacity building? What's needed at a policy level to develop a digitally literate community health workforce?

**Chair: Lesley-Anne Long**

Director of Digital Square hosted by PATH, Washington DC, USA

**Abigail McDaniel**

Program Development Specialist, Community Health Academy, Last Mile Health, Boston, USA

**Okey Okuzu**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, InStrat Global Health Solutions, Montclair, USA

1900

Reception followed by dinner and fireside chat hosted by

**Myles Wickstead**

Acting Chief Executive, Wilton Park; Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council

**Tuesday 17 October**

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1030

**4. National digital health strategies - innovation in practice**

What lessons can be drawn from these case studies? What governance and policy frameworks were needed to develop, cost and implement these programmes? What role did political leadership play in the process?

**Chair: Olasupo Oyedepo**

ICT4Health Project Manager, Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation, Abuja, Nigeria

**Virginia Simushi**

Acting Assistant Director, Ministry of Health, Lusaka, Zambia

**Ibrahima Khaliloulah Dia**

Director of Digital Health, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Dakar, Senegal

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1300

**5. Policy regulation and finance to underpin strong national digital health strategy I**

**Chair: Gertrude Ngabirano**

Executive Secretary, The East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), Kigali, Rwanda

**Regulation and policy in decentralised healthcare delivery**

What political challenges arise from a decentralised healthcare system? What regulations and policies need to be reformulated in order to counter these challenges? How do these political changes affect other aspects of healthcare delivery? Does political reform to accompany digital technology spur innovation in other areas of healthcare policy? What

ministerial collaboration is needed for this reform?

**Hani Eskandar**

Information and Communications Technology (ITC) Applications Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Geneva, Switzerland

**Speaker from the Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria**

**Financial costs and opportunities for collaborative funding structures**

What are the financial challenges and considerations of digital health? What are the financial costs, and what support and approaches help reduce the costs? What investors are available to assist? How can effective coordination reduce costs and help overcome challenges? What are the financial savings in the medium to long term? How can investments be coordinated?

**Kathryn O'Neill**

Coordinator, Global Platform for Measurement and Accountability, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland

**1300-1500**

Lunch

**1500-1630**

**6. Policy regulation and finance to underpin strong national digital health strategy II**

**Capacity and leadership building**

This session will focus on building leadership capacity to pioneer digital health strategies at the national level and the role that the international community can play in supporting these efforts. The discussion will explore lessons learnt and best practice in developing national political leadership for digital health systems and will evaluate what expertise international organisations can bring to support these efforts.

**Chair: Kathleen Handley**

Senior Advisor, USAID, Washington DC, USA

**Sarah Achieng Opendi**

Minister of State for Health, Ministry of Health, Kampala, Uganda

**1630-1700**

Tea/coffee

**1700-1815**

**7. Roadmaps to digital health systems**

In June this year, WHO-AFRO and ITU jointly launched a digital health initiative at the WHO Africa Health Forum in Kigali to leverage strategic opportunities for the adoption of ICT in the health sector. In September, the East Africa Health Research Commission, with support from USAID, organized an East Africa Digital Health workshop in Kampala. Five countries participated, with the aim of working towards a regional commitment to improve health outcomes through digital technology.

Session 7 will present the outcomes of the East Africa workshop and the plans to take these conversations forward, ahead of proposed follow up meetings with the East African Ministries of Health and ICT in November, and at the Global Digital Health Forum in Washington D.C. in December. The example of Tanzania will be drawn on especially, following the launch their 5 year plan in August 2017.

This session will consider the process that went into devising digital health roadmaps, and in particular the political, financial and institutional development needed to develop the investment and implementation plans. The potential for a similar approach in West Africa will be explored.

**Chair: Tim Wood**

Senior Program Officer, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, USA

**Hermes Sotter Rulagirwa**

Head, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Gibson Kibiki**

Chief Executive Officer and Executive Secretary, East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), Arusha, Tanzania

**1815-1825**

Participants identify themes they would like to discuss in more detail in session 9.

**1900**

Reception followed by dinner

**Wednesday 18 October****0800-0845**

Breakfast and checkout

**0900-0930****8. Reflective session**

A session reflecting on key messages from the previous two days and will set the scene for the morning's planning discussions, which will aim to provide concrete next steps, lessons learnt and identify funding needs.

**0930-1045****9. Discussion groups**

Participants will identify discussion themes for the groups to discuss to establish recommendations and action points. Possible topics will include: what are priority areas of development to effectively implement a digital health system? How can investors and international institutions support these efforts? How can participants support the implementation of digital health initiatives? What are the next steps for the African Alliance of Digital Health Networks, including planning for the formal launch in Africa in 2018?

**Group one****Martin Gross**

Senior Program Officer, HIV and Integrated Delivery, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, USA

**Group two****Okey Okuzu**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, InStrat Global Health Solutions, Montclair USA

**Steven Wanyee Macharia**

Director and Principal Investigator, IntelliSOFT Consulting Ltd, Nairobi, Kenya

**Group three****Virginia Simushi**

Acting Assistant Director, Ministry of Health, Lusaka, Zambia

**Magnus Conteh**

Director, Global Health Programmes, Strategic Partnerships and Innovation, World Vision, Dublin, Ireland

**Group four****Ed Kelley**

Director, Service Delivery and Safety, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland

**Salif Samaké**

Secretary General, Ministry of Public Health and Hygiene, Bamako, Mali

**1045-1115**

Tea/coffee

1115-1125	<p><b>10. Evaluation survey</b></p> <p>Completion of online survey including noting personal actions.</p>
1125-1300	<p><b>11. Next steps and commitments</b></p> <p>Feedback from discussion groups outlining next steps and commitments to support national roadmaps and the African Alliance for Digital Health Networks.</p> <p><b>Contributors including:</b></p> <p><b>Gibson Kibiki</b>  Chief Executive Officer and Executive Secretary, East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), Arusha, Tanzania</p> <p><b>Olasupo Oyedepo</b>  ICT4Health Project Manager, Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation, Abuja, Nigeria</p> <p><b>Lesley-Anne Long</b>  Director of Digital Square hosted by PATH, Washington DC, USA</p>
1300	Lunch
1400	Participants depart