Digital health: A Key Lever to PHC in Africa

AfroPHC Workshop

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Johns Hopkins University Affiliate

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Saving lives. Improving health.
Transforming futures.

Key Challenges remain to achieving the PHC vision

"The most pressing gap is the chronic underfunding of PHC. Typically, only 40% of national health budgets are going to PHC despite PHC covering more than 80% of health needs."

Insufficient financing for PHC

Limited and unequal access to care

"We have neglected the need to address a full set of issues facing local populations and instead focused on diseases instead of patient wellbeing in a holistic sense."

Lack of comprehensive care

Inadequate health workforce

Fragmented health systems

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Why tech?| Significant growth in technology & enabling infrastructure is unlocking new tech-enabled PHC solutions

Technology, including mobile subscriptions and internet connectivity is becoming increasingly pervasive...

87% Average mobile penetration across SSA predicted by 2021[1]

1.4B People gained mobile internet connectivity from 2014 to 2019[2]

58% of countries reported having an eHealth strategy in 2016 [3]

..is leading to the growth digital health products and services, e.g.:

59% of patients surveyed in LMICs using mHealth applications and services[3,] such as....

- Digital client engagement tools
- Electronic health data record systems
- Big data, mobile computing and AI

...to deliver more personalized and coordinated care, and better, faster treatments at lower cost

WHO's Global Strategy of Digital Health codifies this growing consensus that the use of digital health is an "essential enabling factor" in ensuring an additional 1 billion more people benefit from UHC by 2023[4]

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Streamlining and coordinating supply chains

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What is tech-enabled PHC?| Over time, combinations of tech innovations can help to reimagine PHC

Source: Dalberg analysis