



KIGALI, RWANDA



MARCH 2 - 5, 2025

AFRICA HEALTH AGENDA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (AHAIC 2025)

CONNECTED FOR CHANGE: ADDRESSING THE SOCIAL
AND ECOLOGICAL DYNAMICS OF HEALTH

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE SUMMARY



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Health



AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control
and Prevention



World Health
Organization

African Region



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



FOREWORD

A decade after the first Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) brought together change-makers to address Africa's most pressing health challenges, AHAIC 2025 once again proved to be a pivotal platform for shaping our continent's health agenda.

The conference provided a sobering outlook on the vulnerability of Africa's health systems to external shocks ignited by rising geopolitical tensions, while at the same time reiterating the need for Africa-led solutions leveraging local expertise to build resilience, achieve equity and improve health outcomes for all.

As we move forward, it is our shared duty to commit to change. Let us confidently look inward for solutions, leverage Africa's growing influence on the global stage, and commit to propelling our continent towards a brighter, more prosperous future.

Together, we can achieve health for all and put Africa on the path to achieving the global goals.

*Dr. Githinji Gitahi,
Group CEO, Amref Health Africa*

#AHAIC2025



CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

To mark a decade since the inaugural AHAIC was held, the robust 2025 conference agenda was designed to meet the following objectives:

- **Position AHAIC as a platform for progress;** an African-led convening that is driving sustained action and securing new commitments toward promoting the health, wellbeing and prosperity of present and future generations.
- **Promote dialogue and action cross-cutting themes and issues at the nexus of health and development,** such as universal health coverage, education, economic empowerment, gender, climate, conflict, financing, governance and accountability, with the aim of enhancing collaboration and co-creating African-led solutions to existing and emerging challenges.
- **Champion African leadership and amplify the voices from the Global South** in discourse, policy-making and action on critical health and development issues affecting the African continent.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHAIC 2025 underscored the need for a connected and collaborative African-led approach to address the continent's complex health and development challenges. Key recommendations from the conference included:

- **Elevating African leadership:** Proactively shaping the continent's future and engaging as equal partners on global platforms.
- **Prioritizing and investing in primary health care (PHC):** Strengthening PHC systems as the bedrock of UHC.
- **Advancing equity and inclusion:** Removing systemic barriers and ensuring meaningful engagement of all stakeholders, including youth and local communities.
- **Fostering innovation and technology adoption:** Creating an enabling environment to foster Africa-driven health research, development and innovation.
- **Integrating health into climate action:** Developing climate adaptation strategies within national health policies and allocating dedicated funding.
- **Strengthening multi-sectoral partnerships:** Enhancing and reimagining collaboration between governments, civil society, the private sector, philanthropy, academia, and international partners to mobilize action towards regional health goals.
- **Ensuring sustainable health financing:** Moving towards domestic resource mobilization and innovative financing models to reduce reliance on external aid.



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW



AHAIC 2025 OVERVIEW

The Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) is Africa's largest multi-sectoral health convenings. Launched in 2014 with the aim of creating lasting health change in Africa, AHAIC brings together governments, private sector leaders, philanthropies, academia, civil society and youth to address the continent's most urgent health challenges and explore how African countries can shape the global health agenda to improve health and human rights on the continent.

In its 6th edition, AHAIC 2025 was convened by Amref Health Africa, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Rwanda, Africa CDC and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa in **Kigali, Rwanda, from 2-5 March** under the theme **“Connected for Change: Addressing Socio-Ecological Dynamics of Health.”** The biennial gathering was more than a health conference; it represented a decades-long transformative movement that is fostering impactful partnerships and driving action across issues at the nexus of health, the environment, technology, youth and development to advance progress towards Africa's health goals.

Through insightful and engaging discussions spread over 50+ sessions, more than 2,100 delegates connected over their shared commitment to drive change and accelerate progress led by Africa, for Africa.

AHAIC 2025 AT A GLANCE

2–5 March 2025 | Kigali International Convention Centre, Kigali, Rwanda

SESSIONS

5 Plenaries

54 Parallel Sessions

1 Youth Summit

PARTICIPANTS

2,181 Registered Delegates
(1,683 in person, 498 virtual)

600+ Walk for Change Participants

60+ Countries Represented

200+ Speakers

PARTNERS

5 Platinum Partners

2 Gold Partners

4 Silver Partners

27 CSOs

5 Media Partners

8 Exhibitors



KEY THEMES AND DISCUSSIONS



CONFERENCE THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

KEY THEMES

Africa-driven Health Leadership

Localization

Sustainable and Equitable Health Financing

Global Health Architecture

Health Equity

Youth Leadership

Climate Adaptation, Financing and Justice

Health Systems Strengthening

African-led Innovations for Health

Gender and Equality

SUB-THEMES

One Health

Intergenerational Divide

Trust

Colonialism

Health Workforce

Equity

Political Economy

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Measuring Impact

Child Health

Immunization

Nutrition

Primary Healthcare

Universal Health Coverage

Infectious and Non-Communicable Diseases

Research and Development

Digital Technologies and Innovations

Philanthropy and Strategic Partnerships

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS: REFLECTIONS

Unlike historical global health gatherings that have focused primarily on the challenges surrounding Africa's development and the need for greater external funding, speakers at AHAIC 2025 called for the continent to look inward for solutions.

These calls, inspired by recent geopolitical shifts that have pulled the plug on guaranteed external funding and further exposed Africa's overdependence on donor funding for critical sectors and the resultant vulnerabilities, **challenged the continent to take full ownership of its health agenda and determine its own health future by finding alternative, sustainable and locally-led solutions to policymaking, resourcing and program implementation.**

The refreshing, inspiring, no-holds-barred, inter-generational dialogue was a clear indication that Africa stands on the precipice of change. Key reflections emerging from the discussions focused on the urgent need for **health systems strengthening to boost resilience and equity** through Africa-driven **financing for health, redesign of the Global Health Architecture** and **transformative multisectoral collaboration** to safeguard health and **put Africa firmly on the path to sustainable prosperity.**

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS: KEY REFLECTIONS

- A clarion call that African countries urgently need to **redesign health systems** to prioritize equity in access, stronger primary healthcare and be responsive to local health needs.
- The importance of **Africa's leadership** in crafting a path to **autonomy** founded on **enhanced self-reliance** through **domestic health financing, locally-led research, development and innovation to spur progress towards health goals, and redefined partnerships founded on mutual respect, justice and equity.**
- **Amplification of African participation in policy and decision-making** to influence the global health agenda, program planning and equitable resource allocation based on countries' priorities.
- **Localization is key to building impactful partnerships and enhancing community trust.** Local institutions have the capacity to conceptualize and deliver tailored interventions that enhance equity while considering unique cultural contexts.
- **Africa is bursting with opportunities waiting to be tapped for the continent's good.** Now is the time to turn the rising wave of Afro-optimism into Africa-driven solutions leveraging technology, community engagement, local expertise and talent, and sustainable partnerships to create sustainable pathways to equity.
- **Vulnerability of Africa's health systems to climate shocks** due to inadequate infrastructure, weak early warning systems, and limited financing for **adaptation**, which necessitate greater collaboration across sectors and incorporation of health into climate discussions, policymaking, financing and program implementation.

PLENARY 1

Opening Plenary: Celebrating A Decade of African Thought Leadership at AHAIC 2025

Themes: *African Leadership; Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth and Development; Health Progress; Socio-political Shifts*

Session Description

The world is undergoing a profound geopolitical shift, amplified by economic challenges and an unprecedented wave of national elections in 2024 alone. These changes resonate globally, and Africa is positioned at the heart of this transformation. Now is a pivotal moment for Africa's leadership, across generations, to shape the continent's future. As South Africa chairs the G20, the WHO unveils a new global program of work, and young people champion political change, Africa stands as the world's largest free trade area. This is a unique opportunity for African nations to emerge as key drivers of global progress. The opening ceremony examined Africa's growing autonomy and formidable leadership in international diplomacy and explored how the continent can drive actions towards a prosperous, healthy and peaceful Africa through the lens of economics, trade, leadership, climate change, and politics.

Session Objectives

1. **Health as a Foundation for Prosperity:** Explore how Africa's economic growth and prosperity are underpinned by investments in health systems, recognizing that healthy populations are essential for a resilient global political landscape.
2. **Redefining Leadership:** Explore a transformative vision for African leadership that positions the continent as a global influencer, championing equitable policies and health security agendas on international platforms.
3. **Youth at the Forefront:** Showcase the critical role of young leaders in advancing health equity and policy reform while addressing the challenges they face in navigating and reshaping global influence.





PLENARY 2

Beyond Survival: Africa's Plan for Evidence, Climate Policy Influence, and Local Leadership

Themes: *Climate Change, Adaptation, Financing and Justice; Global Power Dynamics; Youth; Localization*

Session Description

Africa faces a growing health crisis as climate change fuels disasters like floods and droughts, triggering severe disease outbreaks. Despite the urgent need for robust climate-health research to guide policy and planning, Africa invests only 0.45% of its GDP in research and development, far below the global average. Challenges such as limited access to advanced scientific tools, infrastructure, and publication opportunities further hinder progress. With less than 14% of global climate research funding directed to Africa, the continent urgently needs increased investment to bridge these gaps, boost interdisciplinary research, and foster innovation to address climate-related health challenges effectively. Building on climate-health diplomacy efforts at COP28 and the commitment of global leaders to sustain momentum on climate and health, this session also set the stage for transformative dialogue aimed at amplifying the voices of vulnerable communities often excluded from global climate discourse and forums.

Session Objectives

1. **Align on the research, data and evidence agenda needed to shape policy and planning** for responding to the impacts of climate on African communities.
2. **Explore ways to mobilize resources for the health-determining sectors** within and outside the New Collective Quantified Goal

PLENARY 3

Health for All, Not for Some: Revamping the Global Health Architecture for Equitable Access

Themes: *Lusaka Agenda; Health Equity; Localization; Global North-South Dynamics; Debt Crisis; Geopolitics; Intersectionality*

Session Description

The global health ecosystem has experienced significant changes that warrant a rethink of its architecture. Shifts in power dynamics and lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic have sparked a reinvigorated African call for equity and autonomy across several sectors that are inextricably linked to health. This session unpacked the Lusaka Agenda and its vision for advancing global health equity through regional manufacturing, research and development, domestic financing, and partnerships that prioritize local leadership. Through dynamic discussions, speakers challenged traditional approaches to health financing, explored reforms in global and regional health architectures, and highlighted opportunities for African-led innovation and local manufacturing to envision a future where Africa's voice and expertise shape a more equitable and sustainable global health framework.

Session Objectives

1. **Frame the Lusaka Agenda and WHO AFRO Meeting Roadmap**, outlining actionable steps for stakeholders to advance global health equity.
2. **Challenge and redefine principles of partnership** to foster effective, mutually beneficial collaborations across sectors.
3. **Identify the nexus between ensuring progress towards sustainable domestic financing while leveraging innovative financing opportunities** to empower Africa to strengthen its health systems to achieve health for all.





PLENARY 4

New Tools for New Challenges: Harnessing Innovations for Health Equity

Themes: *Digital inclusion; Equity and Ethics; Research; Innovation; Artificial Intelligence (AI)*

Session Description

Africa stands at the cusp of a health revolution driven by advances in smartphone access, digital infrastructure, and AI technologies. With immense potential to transform health service delivery, improve outcomes, and foster equity, AI and other innovative technologies offer new hope for addressing the continent's pressing health challenges. However, with just 1.3% of global research funding and 0.1% of global patents, Africa must invest in strengthening its research, development, and innovation (RD&I) capacity to fully harness AI's transformative power.

This session delved into how AI and emerging technologies can revolutionize Africa's health systems and position the continent as a global leader in health innovation. Discussions tackled barriers like inequitable data access, biased algorithms and underinvestment, while exploring solutions to challenges such as rapid population growth, urbanization, and disease burden. Key solutions offered included fostering an enabling ecosystem for AI-driven health solutions, crafting ethical and inclusive policies, and co-creating a vision for a research-led future that addresses Africa's unique health needs and ensures no one is left behind.

Session Objectives

1. **Evaluate Africa's Tech Capacity:** Assess the continent's ability to prioritize investments in tech-driven health solutions, focusing on financial, human, and technological resources.
2. **Leverage African Research, Development & Innovation:** Explore why and how we must leverage African research, development & innovation (RD&I) in the health and development sector to catalyse responsive and inclusive solutions for better health.
3. **Clarify AI's Role in Health:** Transform vague conversations around AI into actionable strategies for health and development in Africa.

PLENARY 5

Patriarchy, Gender, and Health Inequities: Removing the Barriers

AHAIC 2025 WOMEN IN GLOBAL HEALTH AWARDS

All over the continent, thought leaders and changemakers are making significant strides in diverse fields, from youth and economic empowerment to innovation and technology, community leadership, climate resilience, and gender equality. By innovating and implementing homegrown solutions to address some of today's most critical health and development challenges, diverse champions are shining a spotlight on Africa's immense potential to push the needle on addressing the social and ecological determinants of health.

In the lead-up to International Women's Day (8 March), the **AHAIC 2025 Women in Global Health Awards** celebrated some of Africa's most inspiring innovators and changemakers. The awards recognized the remarkable contributions of five African women and a male ally advancing efforts towards gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, and the improvement of health outcomes across the continent. They all represent the depth and breadth of innovation, care and commitment to action within our communities that must be celebrated.

Congratulations to the awardees: **Dr. Loyce Faith Nangiro** (Uganda), **Divine Ingabire** (Rwanda), **Mariatu Gbassay Kanu** (Sierra Leone), **Vedastina Shumbusho** (Tanzania), **Dr. Sandra Jumbe** (Malawi), and **Leon Lidigu** (Kenya).



2025

The AHAIC 2025 Women in Global Health Awards



Sample of Parallel Sessions

- **Unpacking the Hidden Dynamics of Localization** - How will Africa reconcile the ambitions behind localisation and equitable access to development financing to promote self-reliance, while at the same time addressing the need for continued global support amid the challenges of limited decision-making power for recipients of donor funding and the gaps between country needs and donor priorities? This session convened donor agencies, philanthropic institutions, local organizations, government representatives, and other stakeholders to unpack the dynamics of localisation through the lens of funding flows, from sourcing and allocation to utilization, to reach consensus on best practice to leverage the most ideal outcomes for countries and communities.
- **Breaking the Cycle: Locally-led Solutions for a Food-Secure Africa** - This session took a deep dive into the importance of local agricultural knowledge in strengthening the continent's food and nutrition security, emphasizing the role that indigenous farming, foods and practices can play alongside strengthening infrastructure to support food and nutrition security. It also explored the critical role of dietary diversification and food fortification in addressing malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies particularly for vulnerable populations, and highlighted the rise in a new generation of African farmers who are deploying technology to feed the continent, reduce waste and protect the environment in the face of climate change.
- **Redefining Impact: Coalescing Around a North Star for Impact 17** - As global, regional and national institutions in the public and private sectors work towards ensuring the success of health interventions, there are often questions around what success truly looks like and how to accurately measure impacts, particularly for the communities and individuals targeted by these interventions. This session delved into how the development community can coalesce around a north star for impact that measures what matters to communities. Speakers sought to collectively curate a set of best practices, models and approaches to impact measurement to guide institutions in their efforts to ensure that resources and interventions deliver on the desired promises.

Sample of Parallel Sessions

- **From Tokenism to Takeover: Youth Leadership and Economic Empowerment in Africa** - Africa's greatest asset is its youth, yet despite their numbers and potential, they remain largely excluded from leadership, governance, and economic decision-making. This exclusion fuels disenfranchisement, deepens inequality, and drives brain drain, costing African nations millions in lost talent and economic potential. This session sought to challenge the status quo by calling for a radical shift in Africa's development agenda to prioritize youth leadership and economic empowerment and centered on actionable solutions to ensure young people have the tools, resources, and platforms to lead—beyond tokenism—across policy, governance, and economic sectors.
- **What's in it for Africa? Road to UNGA 2025 High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs** - Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a growing public health and socio-economic challenge in Africa, accounting for nearly 37% of all deaths annually. With this figure projected to rise significantly in the coming years, the rising prevalence of NCDs—driven by urbanization, lifestyle changes, and limited access to preventive care—poses a significant threat to Africa's youth population and its economic stability. This session explored the economic and social benefits of prevention vis-à-vis the cost of inaction, the power of community engagement and behavior change communication, and the role of multi-sectoral collaboration in integrating sustainable NCD care into health systems.
- **Philanthropy Unchanged? The Evolution of Partnerships for Africa's Prosperity** - Africa's health challenges demand innovative, home-grown solutions that leverage the opportunities provided by bold alliances between governments, the private sector, and philanthropy. While such partnerships have been commonplace for decades now, the growing influence and reach of African-owned and funded philanthropies remain an untapped resource that can offer African countries a lifeline in the face of shrinking global development assistance. This session shone a spotlight on the growing role of African philanthropy, and how it could – along with the public sector and global partners – transform the continent's development models to shape Africa's health landscape.

Sample of Parallel Sessions

- **Reclaiming Control: Let's Talk About Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights** - The landscape of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Africa is complex. While progress has been made in certain areas, young people across the continent continue to face significant challenges in accessing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services. This session aimed to amplify the voices of young people demanding change and taking charge of their bodies and futures. Participants also explored challenges and discussed solutions and strategies to equip young people with the tools needed to overcome barriers and drive real change in the fight for SRHR.
- **Combating Misinformation to Safeguard Communities: Truth in the Age of Populism** - While digital platforms have the potential to positively transform health behaviours and challenge harmful norms, they are also sources of dangerous misinformation that threatens to reverse gains in global health by allowing the easy sharing of inaccuracies and falsehoods on disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment. This session highlighted the root causes of misinformation and demonstrated the strategic interventions that health stakeholders can embrace to address these challenges—including contextually-relevant digital health communication and how to harness Africa's youthful demographic to safeguard public health in the digital age.
- **Power of the People | Healing Minds, Shaping Futures: Mental Health and Africa's Next Generation** - Socio-economic pressures such as poverty and the cost of living, unemployment, poor governance and conflict are significant contributors to the rising prevalence of mental health issues among the youth. These challenges are further compounded by ecological factors like climate change and urbanization, which can lead to displacement and heightened stress. Addressing mental health is crucial for fostering a resilient and productive youth population. Through discussions with youth leaders and mental health experts, the session explored the intersection of mental wellbeing, development, and social change, highlighted the challenges faced by African youth, provided a platform to share stories of resilience, and advocated for comprehensive mental health policies and increased funding.

Sample of Parallel Sessions

- **Genomics and Public Health: Advancing Africa's Future Together** - Despite Africa's rich genetic diversity and its significant population size, people of African descent are dramatically underrepresented in clinical research. They are included in less than 3% of global genomic datasets and represent only 1.6% of the genotype data of 487,000 individuals in the U.K. Biobank resource. This underrepresentation gravely hinders public health by limiting the potential for advancements in genomic technologies. This session explored the transformative potential of genomics in addressing health disparities across Africa, the policies and regulatory frameworks needed to ensure genomic research is undertaken in an equitable and sustainable manner, and the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in accelerating genomic research in Africa.
- **From Ethics to Equity: Community Engagement as a Catalyst for Improving Health Outcomes** - Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) impact more than one billion people globally. Some NTDs can cause severe disfigurement and disability, leading to stigmatisation and social exclusion. Past depictions of NTDs have often perpetuated this issue, focusing on shock tactics that fail to address systemic challenges or the agency of affected communities. This session sought to confront these challenges by fostering collaboration, promoting counter-narratives that reflect the diverse, nuanced realities of communities affected by NTDs and celebrating voices that are relentlessly owning their stories to eliminate NTDs within their communities.
- **Implementing the Lusaka Agenda: Accelerating Country-led Trajectories Towards UHC** - Launched on 12 December 2023 as an outcome of the Future of Global Health Initiatives (FGHI) process, the Lusaka Agenda sets out the key shifts and priorities needed to ensure the efficient, effective and equitable evolution of GHIs and the wider health ecosystem. The long-term transitions proposed by the Lusaka Agenda seek to ensure country leadership of health priorities, strengthen health system capacities, and catalyze increased and sustained domestic financing for health. This session provided space for stakeholders to share experiences of operationalizing the Lusaka Agenda at the country level, including the bottlenecks and challenges faced. It also fostered dialogue around the collective action needed to further embed the Lusaka Agenda and accelerate progress.

Sample of Parallel Sessions

- **Making History: Vaccine Uptake to Stop Malaria and Meningitis** - Vaccination efforts for malaria and meningitis face overlapping challenges. Climate change could make both diseases more common and difficult to control. More financing is needed to support broader vaccination campaigns, and more needs to be done to help ensure that everybody who needs these vaccines has access to them. This session took stock of the historic opportunity to tackle both diseases, focused on country-level strategies for increasing immunization rates, analyzed lessons learned by countries that have introduced the malaria and meningitis vaccines and showcased the leadership of African scientists and public health officials in tackling the diseases.
- **C&H Funders' Coalition AHAIC Consultation** – The Climate and Health Funders' Coalition launched in January 2025 with the aim of creating a shared learning community and identifying action pillars to drive commitments forward on extreme heat, air pollution, and data for decision making. The consultation session aimed to seek input to shape the coalition's work going forward and ensure that its objectives and priorities are co-created with organizations working in climate-vulnerable settings and reflect the needs of the most at-risk communities.
- **Maternal Health 2.0: Enhancing Women's Health and Family Wellbeing in Africa Through Integrated Care** – Access to high-quality care throughout the maternal journey is critical to improve maternal health outcomes in Africa. This session engaged participants in exploring the pivotal role of maternal health in enhancing women's access to comprehensive healthcare across Africa and highlighted innovative strategies that connect maternal health services with essential family health resources and fostered discussions on Africa-led solutions to optimize women's healthcare pathways.

Sample of Parallel Sessions

- **Accelerating RMNCH Interventions and Innovations to Improve Women's Lives and Save Mothers and Babies in Sub-Saharan Africa -** Approximately 5 million children die each year before their fifth birthday, and a woman dies every two minutes due to pregnancy or childbirth. The majority of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, and nearly all of them could be prevented with access to the package of innovations and interventions, and the commodities and products needed to implement them with care — as well as proper nutrition, and access to quality care by a trained health provider. This session aimed to emphasize how targeted interventions can reduce inequities and strengthen healthcare systems and underscored the need to expand lifesaving programs by ensuring that these programs reach everyone, everywhere.
- **From Crisis to Care: Unlocking Health Workforce Potential for Cardiometabolic Disease Control in Africa -** Cardiometabolic diseases (CMD), including cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), diabetes and obesity, continue to pose an increasing global health challenge. Worldwide, CVDs account for 17.9 million deaths annually, making up 32% of global deaths, and their prevalence is rising sharply in low- and middle-income countries. Despite the double burden of disease compounded by the escalating CMD crisis, health worker shortages in the WHO African region are projected to constitute 52% of the global shortage by 2030, particularly at the mid-level (nurses, clinical officers, and community health workers), who are often the frontline providers of CMD care. These mid-level health workers are crucial in resource-limited settings but lack sufficient training in managing CMDs, which limits their capacity to deliver effective preventive care, early diagnosis, and treatment. This session brought together high-level multisectoral stakeholders, including health workforce experts, in a collaborative effort to strengthen mid-level health workers' capacity to effectively manage the growing burden of cardiometabolic diseases (CMDs), with a focus on sustainable workforce development and collective action.

SPEAKER QUOTES

“Africa is leading the G20, so we have a huge opportunity to bring together the thinking, ideas, experiences of African political leaders, technical leaders and innovators to really define how we shape the way forward.”

– **Dr. Matshidiso Moeti,**
Regional Director Emeritus,
WHO Regional Office for Africa

“There’s a negative narrative about Africa that we’ve become accustomed to, yet we have the fastest-growing population of digital natives. We are innovators, farmers, and manufacturers. We must begin to take advantage of the opportunities we have.”

– **Caroline Mbindyo,**
Chief Data & Innovations Officer,
Amref Health Africa

“‘Connected for change’ is not just a tagline, it’s a call for action. In the climate we’re in, this is the time we need to stop thinking of ourselves as 54 different countries. We are one people, connected for change, and we can create this change.”

– **Dr. Eleleta Surafel,**
Chapter Lead – Ethiopia, Women
in Global Health

SPEAKER QUOTES

"We need Africa to rethink its relationship with aid and international partners. Aid, historically weaponized, has hindered Africa's ability to wield influence in global health discussions. We need to revisit the way we approach aid."

– Dr. Magda Robalo,
President and Co-Founder,
Institute for Global Health and
Development

"As a continent, we need to overcome our fear of imagination. If we can overcome those limitations in imagination, we can create solutions to solve not just Africa's problems, but the whole world's problems."

– Dr. Yaw Bediako,
CEO & Founder, Yemaachi Biotech

"There are women who are more educated than men. There are women who are stronger and smarter than men. We'd like men to acknowledge that we matter. We want them to see us as equals."

– Hon. Samsam M. Salah,
Vice Minister of Health from the
Republic of Somaliland



OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS



KEY INSIGHTS AND OUTCOMES FROM DISCUSSIONS

Key insights and outcomes from AHAIC 2025 underscored the urgent need for:

- **Strengthening African leadership and ownership** to drive the continent's health agenda and build self-reliance.
- **Prioritizing and investing in primary health care** as the foundation for achieving universal health coverage.
- **Advancing health equity, diversity, and inclusion** by addressing systemic barriers and ensuring meaningful engagement of all stakeholders.
- **Harnessing innovation, technology, and digital health** to transform health systems and improve access to care.
- **Addressing the climate and health nexus** through integrated policies and dedicated resources.
- **Fostering robust partnerships and collaboration** across sectors and borders to amplify impact.
- **Ensuring sustainable and equitable health financing** through increased domestic resource mobilization and innovative mechanisms.

INITIATIVES LAUNCHED

Africa Clinical Research Network (ACRN)

The official launch of the Africa Clinical Research Network (ACRN) was announced at an evening reception on March 3, 2025. The launch was attended by high-profile speakers including Dr. Tariro Makadzange, CEO, ACRN; Dr. Wilfred Gurupira, Alliance and Partnerships Director, ACRN; Prof. Claude Mambo Muvunyi, Director General, Rwanda Biomedical Centre, and the Minister of State for Health, Rwanda, Hon. Dr. Yvan Butera. ACRN aims to connect researchers to opportunities, enhance capacity in existing facilities, and implement high-quality trials.

African Health Research, Innovation & Development Alliance (AHRIDA)

The African Health Research, Innovation & Development Alliance (AHRIDA) was officially launched on March 3, 2025, during a parallel session on African-led research, development and innovation (RD&I) hosted by Amref Health Africa and the Gates Foundation. AHRIDA is a pan-African movement for advocacy in health research, development, and innovation. It was established to champion African-led health RD&I as a significant economic driver on the continent and a contributor to advancements in global health.

Two Conferences Connected

AHAIC 2025 saw the first-ever live connection of two prominent African and European conferences: the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) Ideas Lab 2025 in Brussels, Belgium, and AHAIC 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda. CEPS is committed to improving EU-Africa relations and joint initiatives for research and innovation. Watch the video [here](#).

CALL TO ACTION

During three days of candid and thought-provoking dialogue, speaker after speaker acknowledged the urgency with which Africa must take charge of its own destiny to reduce reliance on external support. Ultimately, AHAIC 2025 closed with a resounding call to action:

Addressing the social and ecological dynamics of health is integral to Africa's ability to achieve global health targets, but this can only be done through sustained multisectoral collaboration. In the new global health era, we must foster deeper regional integration and cooperation with partners within and beyond the continent; commit to taking charge of our future, and leverage our growing influence to redesign the global architecture to serve us. We must become—and remain—connected for change to drive equitable progress.

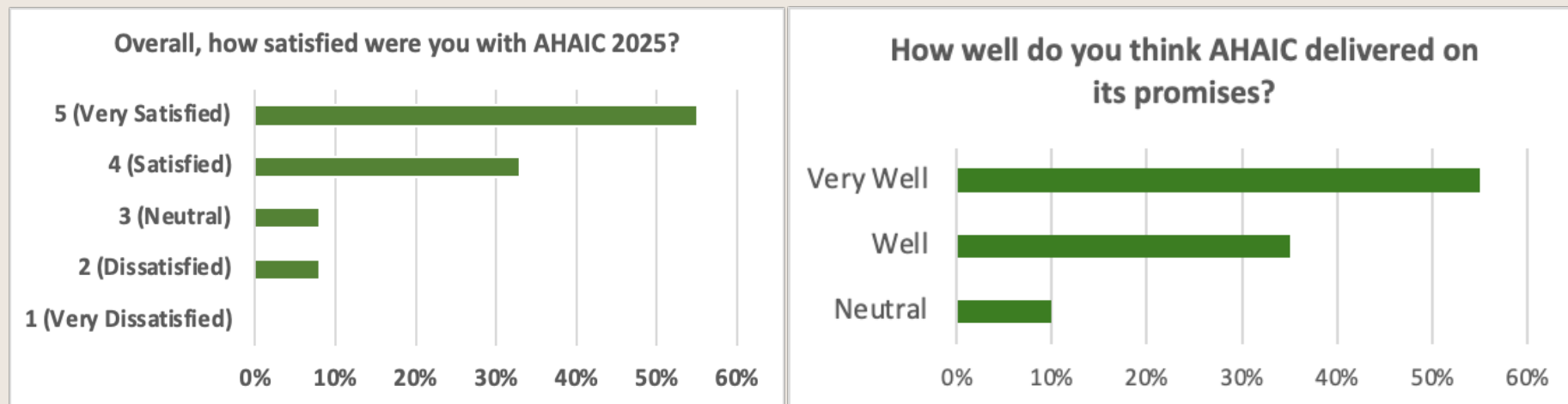


PARTICIPANT'S FEEDBACK



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- Overall, attendees reported a high level of satisfaction with AHAIC 2025, especially in areas like networking, content, and choice of venue.
- 73% of respondents were new conference attendees; 90% said the AHAIC 2025 was similar to, or better than, previous editions; and 63% of respondents said they were very likely to recommend the conference to peers
- Majority of participants indicated that the conference positively impacted their work, with several noting the value of connections made.
- Suggestions for future events include enhancing interpretation to include more languages apart from English and French, increasing youth involvement, providing more interactive sessions, and engaging more health ministers.



PARTICIPANT QUOTES AND TESTIMONIALS

“**I made connections with my peers** who are driving innovations and leveraging technology to not only improve healthcare but to enhance daily life and promote sustainability. I am already in discussion with some of them to see how we can collaborate.”

“The conference **broadened my perspective**, providing practical insights and community connections.”

“AHAIC 2025 significantly influenced my work by **expanding my understanding of health equity, feminist health financing, and community-driven solutions**. Engaging with experts deepened my approach to integrating SRHR and GBV response into economic policy.”

“**The most impactful moment was the youth conversation**. Their passionate, innovative ideas for health system contributions ignited a powerful sense of collaborative potential and inspired a renewed commitment to action-oriented solutions.”



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



SUMMARY OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS AND OUTPUTS

50

journalists
on site

10

media scholarships awarded
to journalists from 5 countries
(Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi,
Zambia, Ethiopia)

5

media partnerships
(Devex, CNBC Africa, Africa.com,
Health Policy Watch, AXXESS Health)

51

articles
published online

1.96k

online media
mentions

18.1M

people reached
online

SAMPLE MEDIA COVERAGE









INSIDE DEVELOPMENT | GLOBAL HEALTH

The urgent need to rethink Africa's health financing

The African continent has been aggressively shoved into a health financing crisis that it wasn't prepared for.

By *Sara Jerving* // 03 March 2025

The Trump administration's abrupt and wholesale gutting of the U.S. Agency for International Development, cancellation of thousands of its contracts, and culling of its workforce is expected to have wide-ranging, devastating impacts on Africa's health sector.

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Propelling investments in Africa's healthcare
 Africa's healthcare landscape is evolving rapidly, shaped by emerging tr...



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'The Centre Must Hold': Africa's Health Leaders Rally for Bold Action

Health Systems 03/03/2025 • Edith Magak

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SAMPLE MEDIA COVERAGE: ADDITIONAL LINKS

CNBC

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5wXpQymXW4>

Devex

- [GAVI Delays \\$9B Replenishment Event Amid Tough Fundraising Environment](#)
- [How did we get here? African health experts on ending aid dependence](#)

Health Policy Watch

- [The 40-Question: Can Africa Close the Health Financing Gap?](#)
- [Who Decides? The Contraceptive Conundrum Facing Adolescent Girls in Africa](#) (picked up by [Newz9](#))

AllAfrica.com

- [African Health Leaders Call for Stronger Health Systems Amid Shrinking Financial Support](#)



INSIDE DEVELOPMENT | GLOBAL HEALTH

‘How did we get here?’ — African health experts on ending aid dependence

Health experts gathered for the Africa Health Agenda International Conference amid a seismic shift in the foreign aid sector.

By [Sara Jervig](#) // 13 March 2025

Rwanda: How Rwanda Is Moving to Address Healthcare Gaps Left By USAID Freeze



2 MARCH 2025

By Hudson Kuteesa

The government is moving to address a number of healthcare funding gaps left behind by the USAID freeze which has affected various projects and activities related to public health.

In February, days after taking office, US President Donald Trump announced a temporary halt on nearly all foreign assistance as part of his "America First" policy, a development that stopped many USAID-related activities in different countries.

ALSO READ: [Rwandans living with HIV wary of uncertainty in US funding](#)

In the health sector for example, the US administration spared only the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the world's leading HIV initiative, which supports more than 20 million people living with HIV.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE AHAIC 2025 PODCAST: CONNECTING VOICES FOR CHANGE

The AHAIC 2025 podcast series served as a dynamic and immersive dialogue platform designed to spotlight global health conversations at AHAIC 2025. Through more than 40 thought-provoking episodes, we brought together issue area experts, policymakers, youth leaders, innovators, and changemakers to engaged in authentic, solutions-driven conversations on a wide range of topics shaping the future of health in Africa, including:

- **Health innovation and artificial intelligence:** How emerging technologies are revolutionizing disease detection, treatment, and health system management.
- **Health financing:** Strategies to close Africa's health funding gap and sustainably strengthen systems.
- **Health systems strengthening and resilience:** Building equitable, inclusive, and responsive healthcare systems.
- **The future of health in Africa:** Visionary dialogues on advancing universal health coverage and reimagining health equity.
- **Health research and development:** Accelerating Africa-led research to drive homegrown solutions.
- **Youth leadership in health:** Empowering the next generation of leaders to champion health and social transformation.

The series also reinforced Amref's leadership as a bold voice in shaping Africa's health agenda. Beyond AHAIC 2025, these conversations will serve as a legacy resource that will continue to inform, inspire and catalyze action for lasting health change.

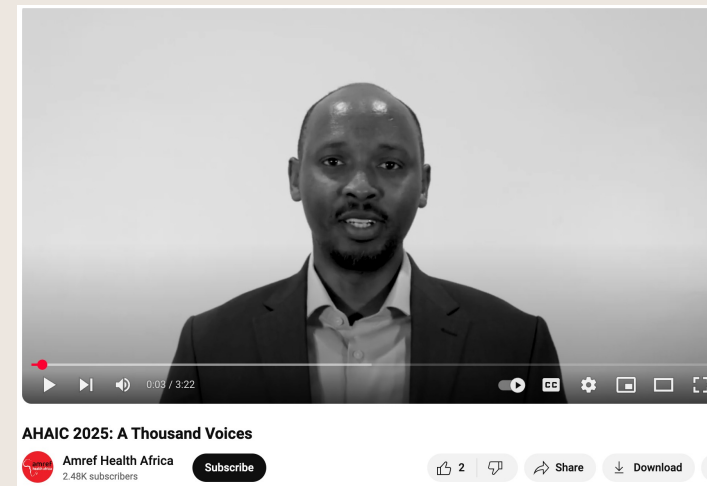
SPOTLIGHT ON OWNED VIDEO CONTENT



Podcast recording in action at AHAIC 2025 in our specially designed booth. Interactive storytelling delivered through silent disco headphones was used to facilitate audience engagement without disruptions.



- [Day 1 highlights](#)
- [Day 2 highlights](#)
- Day 3 highlights [part 1](#), [part 2](#)



- [1,000 Voices video](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

5k+

active participants
online

14.4k

social media
mentions

3.54B

social media
reach



Social Media Growth

Amref Global

- X: Up 2.9K to 67.8K followers
- LinkedIn: Up 6.1K to 269.7K followers
- Facebook: Up 2K to 95K followers

AHAIC Platforms (new accounts)

- X: 950 followers
- LinkedIn: 2,741 followers

Website Reach (Dec. 2024 – Mar. 2025)

- Amref Global: 78K new users
- AHAIC Website: 54K new users



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



CO-CONVENORS AND PARTNERS



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Health



African
Union



AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control
and Prevention



World Health
Organization
African Region



Platinum partners



Gates Foundation



Gold and silver partners



Johnson & Johnson

EXHIBITORS



CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS



WHAT'S NEXT?

We will continue advancing the key resolutions, discussions, and outcomes from AHAIC 2025 at global public health forums, reinforcing our leadership in shaping the African health agenda. Stay connected—[join our mailing list](#) to be the first to hear about upcoming events and updates.

Interested in speaking at future AHAIC editions or other events? Submit your [details here](#) to join our list of potential speakers.

Let's keep the conversation going! Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), and [Instagram](#) to stay updated on the conversations.

For partnership inquiries or any other questions, please reach out to us at Partnershipshub@Amref.org.

Thank You

