

Opportunities, Challenges and Recommendations on Digital Health Platforms for Economic Development

Introduction

This summary report was created based on discussions at the “Workshop: Digital Platforms and Health Care for Development”, held online April 1st 2020, arranged by Münchner Kreis, Center for Global Health - The Technical University of Munich (TUM) and Centre for Global Health – University of Oslo (UiO). The workshop gathered a group of global digital health actors from Tanzania, Kenya, Germany and Norway, who exchanged approaches, experiences, and points of view on digital health platforms in a global context.

Opportunities

- Policy, legal, regulatory frameworks for support adoption and use of digital platforms to support digital health for all.
- Public policies do play a role: we have heard that there are a wide set factors in place globally that matter (economics of data in the current governance setting, lack of government ability to regulate large tech companies, digital divides)
- Co-creation with target groups / beneficiaries, customized platforms. User involvement results in empowerment. Local necessities and experience from implementing projects.
- Digital health eco systems – various actors can work together. We need architectures that allow innovation.
- Sustainability models.

Challenges

- **Accessibility:** 3.9 Billion people are NOT connected to Internet. In rural areas in sub-saharan Africa, more than 90% of the population are not part of the digital society.
 - The regulatory framework matters.
 - Advances in digital health innovations will require internet infrastructure to enable
- **Affordability:** Lack of affordable connection devices
- **Innovation:** Innovations need to be applied and reversed back to developed countries.

Recommendations

- Local focus
 - Platformisation. Case of Korea – google maps, platform does not work. Very much contextual, both social, economic.
 - Local folks and health platforms - driven by appropriateness and understanding.
- Applicability of "what we know" is more important, innovation alone should not be the highest aim
- Multidisciplinary approaches are essential.