



**INSIGHTS**  
A PUBLIC HEALTH  
WEBINAR SERIES

JUNE 2026, INSIGHTS WEBINAR  
ROAD TO ILF—SESSION 1:

# Financing Scalable Solutions for Inclusive Health

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Chairman, Africa Health  
Tech Summit (AHTS)  
**Keynote Speaker**



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Senior Business Development  
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**Moderator**



# Reflection for June, 2026 Insights Webinar

ROAD TO ILF—SESSION 1



## Introduction

Africa's health sector continues to produce innovative solutions addressing critical challenges across maternal health, disease surveillance, diagnostics, healthcare financing, digital health, and service delivery. Despite the abundance of talent, innovation, and promising interventions, many solutions struggle to move beyond pilot stages and achieve sustainable scale.

As part of the Road to the Insight Learning Forum (ILF) 2026 Webinar Series, eHealth Africa convened key stakeholders from government, the private sector, healthcare institutions, and development organizations to explore practical financing approaches for advancing inclusive and scalable health solutions across the continent. The discussion focused on identifying financing gaps, strengthening partnerships, improving policy environments, and exploring sustainable models that can support health innovations from concept to large-scale implementation.

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## Problem Statement

Africa's health innovation ecosystem is rich in ideas, talent, and technological solutions. However, many promising innovations fail to achieve meaningful scale due to fragmented financing systems, inadequate long-term investment, weak public-private collaboration, limited domestic resource mobilization, and policy implementation challenges.

While donor-funded projects continue to drive innovation, many interventions remain dependent on short-term grants and struggle to secure sustainable financing pathways. This challenge creates a cycle where successful pilots rarely transition into nationally adopted or regionally scaled solutions.

Addressing these barriers requires coordinated action among governments, investors, development partners, researchers, innovators, and healthcare institutions to build financing structures that support long-term growth and inclusive impact.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jean Philbert  
Nsengimana

Chairman, African HealthTech Summit (AHTS)



CLOSING SPEAKER

Ota Akhigbe

Director, Partnerships and Programs,  
eHealth Africa



PANELIST

Dr. Mories Atoki

CEO, African Business Coalition for Health  
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PANELIST

Dr. Francis Ohanyido

Founding Director-General, West African Institute  
of Public Health (WAIPH)



PANELIST

Isong Williams Akpan

Deputy Director and Medical Laboratory Scientist,  
Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH)



MODERATOR

Audrey Odogu

Senior Business Development Manager,  
eHealth Africa



## Summary of Discussion

The webinar explored the financing landscape for health innovation in Africa and examined practical approaches for achieving sustainable and inclusive scale. The keynote address emphasized that Africa's challenge is not a lack of innovators but rather the systems surrounding them. Successful health innovations often fail due to financing architectures designed to support pilot projects rather than long-term growth. Participants discussed the need to finance platforms and public digital infrastructure, reduce regulatory barriers, measure outcomes that support scale, and intentionally build ecosystems that connect innovators with investors and implementation partners.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of blended financing models that combine public funding, private capital, philanthropic contributions, and development finance. Panelists agreed that no single funding source can adequately support large-scale health transformation.

The discussion also highlighted the underutilized potential of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Governments possess infrastructure, policy authority, and demand, while the private sector contributes expertise, technology, capital, and operational efficiency. Stronger collaboration between both sectors was identified as essential for sustainable growth.

Panelists further emphasized the importance of domestic resource mobilization, strategic purchasing, primary healthcare investment, health data utilization, digital equity, and stronger policy implementation. The conversation underscored the need to move beyond dialogue and establish financing systems capable of supporting long-term health outcomes.



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# Reflections from the Keynote Speaker

Jean Philbert  
Nsengimana

Chairman, African HealthTech Summit (AHTS)



Jean Philbert Nsengimana challenged stakeholders to rethink how health innovators are supported across Africa. He noted that innovators are often required to function simultaneously as policy advocates, fundraisers, technology architects, and implementers. According to him, the problem lies not with innovators but with the systems that fail to support them.

## He emphasized four critical priorities:

- Finance platforms and public digital infrastructure, not just pilot projects.
- Reduce administrative and regulatory burdens on innovators.
- Measure indicators that support scale, including equity, resilience, and interoperability.
- Build intentional ecosystems that connect innovators to investors, regulators, and implementation partners.

**the problem lies not with innovators but with the systems that fail to support them.**

# Reflections from Panelists

## Dr. Francis Ohanyido

Founding Director-General, West African Institute of Public Health (WAIPH)




Dr. Ohanyido highlighted the need to position health data as a strategic asset capable of attracting investment and informing decision-making.

### He advocated for:

- Blended financing mechanisms that combine multiple funding sources.
- Treating healthcare as infrastructure rather than a cost.
- Strategic purchasing and outcome-based financing.
- Domestic resource mobilization through innovative financing mechanisms.
- Stronger peer-review and accountability systems among African countries.

He further identified regulatory harmonization, financial inclusion, digital equity, and data governance as foundational policy priorities.



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## Dr. Mories Atoki

CEO, African Business Coalition for Health  
(ABCHealth)



Dr. Atoki emphasized the role of Public-Private Partnerships as a major but underutilized opportunity for healthcare financing. **She noted that:**

- Private sector value extends beyond funding to include expertise, technology, infrastructure, leadership, and operational capacity.
- Healthcare stakeholders should engage industries such as banking, telecommunications, and technology more strategically.
- Strong partnerships require trust, transparency, and well-defined contractual arrangements.
- Policy implementation remains a greater challenge than policy development.

She encouraged innovators to actively engage policymakers and help bridge knowledge gaps in emerging technologies.



**Strong partnerships require trust, transparency, and well-defined contractual arrangements.**

## Isong Williams Akpan

Deputy Director and Medical Laboratory Scientist,  
Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH)



Isong Williams Akpan focused on sustainability as the most significant challenge facing healthcare innovation in Africa. **He identified key barriers including:**

- Lack of long-term goal setting.
- Limited patience among investors and implementers.
- Insufficient locally aligned growth capital.
- Weak implementation continuity beyond pilot phases.
- Limited intentionality in designing sustainable financing systems.

He advocated for blended finance, public-private partnerships, local manufacturing, health innovation funds, diaspora investments, and stronger collaboration through the Quadruple Helix Framework involving government, private sector, innovators, and development partners.

He also emphasized the importance of favorable regulations, infrastructure development, financial incentives, capacity building, and data interoperability as essential pillars for digital health transformation.

**“**  
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# Recommendations

## 1. Strengthen Sustainable Health Financing Mechanisms

Expand blended financing models that combine public funding, private investment, philanthropy, and development finance. Governments should also increase domestic resource mobilization through innovative financing mechanisms, strategic purchasing approaches, and dedicated Health Innovation Funds that support startups, research institutions, and innovators beyond pilot stages.

## 2. Foster Stronger Multi-Sector Partnerships and Collaboration

Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) through improved governance, transparency, trust, and accountability. Promote the Quadruple Helix Framework to deepen collaboration among governments, private sector actors, innovators, researchers, and development partners in driving scalable health solutions.

## 3. Accelerate Policy Implementation and Digital Health Governance

Prioritize the implementation of existing health policies while updating regulatory frameworks to support emerging digital health technologies. Governments should also strengthen health data governance, interoperability standards, and digital equity policies that enable evidence-based decision-making and investment.

## 4. Invest in Resilient and Inclusive Health Systems

Increase investment in primary healthcare systems and interventions that address health inequities, particularly among underserved populations. Efforts should also support local manufacturing, supply-chain financing, and health system resilience to reduce dependency on external markets and improve sustainability.

## 5. Promote Long-Term Planning and Scalable Innovation Ecosystems

Foster intentional, long-term planning mechanisms that support sustainable implementation and scale. Stakeholders should focus on building ecosystems that connect innovators, investors, regulators, and implementers, ensuring promising health innovations can transition successfully from pilot projects to large-scale adoption.

# Closing Remark

Ota Akhigbe

Director, Partnerships and Programs,  
eHealth Africa



Africa is not short of innovation. Across the continent, we have talented innovators, strong local capacity, emerging technologies, committed institutions, and solutions already delivering impact. The challenge is not invention—it is integration, financing, and scale.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was that innovation alone is not enough. Too many promising solutions remain fragmented, underfunded, or stuck at the pilot stage because the financing, partnerships, policy alignment, and implementation support required for long-term sustainability are not fully connected.

Participants emphasized the need to move beyond isolated projects toward systems-level thinking. Key priorities included strengthening public-private collaboration, advancing interoperability, enabling sovereign ownership, and building financing models that support long-term adoption rather than short-term experimentation.

The conversation also highlighted that financing goes beyond funding. Sustainable scale requires trust, data, incentives, capabilities, and partnerships that align stakeholders around shared outcomes. Health should not be viewed merely as a cost to be managed, but as critical infrastructure that must be built, financed, governed, and sustained.

Perhaps the strongest takeaway was that meaningful progress will not come from innovation, policy, or financing in isolation. It will come from connecting these elements through coordinated action, disciplined implementation, and partnerships capable of sustaining impact at scale.

As we look ahead to ILF 2026, the question is no longer, “What is the innovation?” Instead, it is: *Who is willing to finance what works, invest beyond short-term cycles, and help move proven solutions from pilots into sustainable, government-embedded systems?*

ILF 2026 will continue this conversation by bringing together governments, funders, innovators, development partners, and private sector leaders to strengthen partnerships, unlock financing pathways, and drive practical action toward stronger, more resilient systems across Africa.



## Conclusion

The webinar reaffirmed that Africa's health sector is not constrained by a lack of innovation but by the systems required to support sustainable growth and scale. While health innovators continue to develop transformative solutions, long-term impact depends on the ability of governments, investors, private sector organizations, development partners, and communities to work together in building resilient financing structures and supportive policy environments.

The discussions highlighted the importance of moving beyond pilot projects toward sustainable implementation models anchored in blended finance, strategic partnerships, policy execution, and long-term commitment. Ultimately, achieving inclusive health outcomes across Africa requires intentional action, collaborative leadership, and financing mechanisms designed not only to support innovation but to sustain it. As stakeholders prepare for the Insight Learning Forum 2026, the challenge remains clear: transform promising ideas into scalable solutions that improve health outcomes for communities across the continent.



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