

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Africa's Young Innovators Take Centre Stage at Africa Health Collaborative's 2026 Annual Convening

The Africa Health Collaborative's 2026 Annual Convening will spotlight youth-led health innovation as a driving force for sustainable and resilient primary health care systems across Africa

NAIROBI, KENYA | 29TH September 2026 — The Africa Health Collaborative (AHC) will bring together young innovators, health leaders, universities, government representatives, policymakers, development partners, private-sector leaders, and researchers from across Africa and globally for its [2026 Annual Convening](#). The annual gathering will take place on **17–23 October 2026** and will be hosted by Amref International University and Amref Health Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.

Held under the theme **“Africa Unlocked: Co-creating Impactful and Sustainable Youth-led Health Innovations,”** the Convening will explore what it takes to move youth-led health innovations beyond promising ideas into sustainable and scalable solutions. It will also highlight how these innovations can create jobs, strengthen health systems, and improve access to quality healthcare.



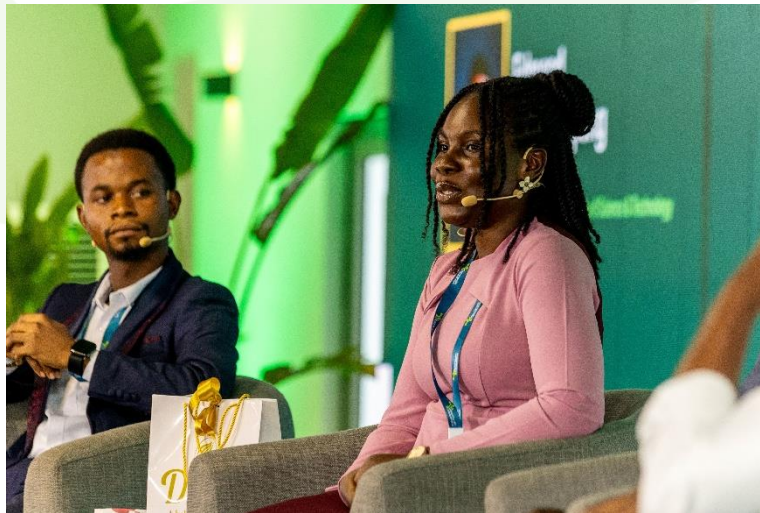
“Because transforming health in Africa requires collaboration, innovation and investment, the Africa Health Collaborative brings partners together to work collectively towards stronger and more resilient health systems. The 2026 Annual Convening provides an important opportunity to showcase what the AHC partners have achieved together, share the experiences and learning generated through implementation, and demonstrate the pathways that are delivering results. By examining the

evidence and learning products emerging from this work, we can identify what is working, focus our collective efforts and resources, and scale approaches with the greatest potential for sustainable impact. At the same time, the Convening will place young people and their innovations at the center of this progress, creating space to learn from their ideas and connect them to the partnerships, skills, evidence and investment needed to strengthen health systems and create opportunities across Africa,” said Prof. Joachim Osur, Vice Chancellor of Amref International University and 2026 Chair of the AHC Executive Steering Committee.

What to expect

Across Africa, young people are already developing solutions in digital health, entrepreneurship, research, and community health. The 2026 Convening will create space to connect these innovations to the partnerships, evidence, skills, investment, and enabling environments needed to scale their impact.

The event is expected to feature a youth research and leadership workshop, as well as venture showcases and pitches. It will also include the launch of Amref's Innovation Hub.



Participants will engage in policy dialogue with government representatives and sector leaders. They will explore how stronger partnerships and supportive policies can create enabling ecosystems for young innovators to build.

The event will also feature practical exchanges on health education, digital innovation, entrepreneurship, employment, and resilient health systems.

The event will feature prominent continental health leaders and expert sessions, including:

- Ms. Prudence Ngwenya, Director, Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate at the African Union Commission (**Keynote speaker**)
- Dr. Githinji Gitahi, Group CEO, Amref Health Africa
- Prof. Joachim Osur, Vice Chancellor, Amref International University
- Prof. Dancan Irungu, Principal, Institute of Sustainability & Innovations (ISI) at Amref International University
- Dr. Lucy Mazyanga, Regional Director for the Eastern Africa Regional Co-coordinating Centre at the Africa Centres for Disease Control
- Ms. Hannah Tsadik, Country Director, Kenya Programs, Mastercard Foundation
- Dr. Peter Nsubuga, Senior Director, Health Workforce, Mastercard Foundation

Building on collaboration and commitment

The 2026 Convening builds on the momentum of the 2025 AHC Annual Convening in Kigali, Rwanda, where partners identified shared priorities and committed to strengthening Africa's health workforce, innovation ecosystem, and primary health care systems. These included investments in scholarships, workforce

development and innovation infrastructure, cross-institutional exchange programmes, AI-focused health curricula, and shared learning.

Over the past year, the AHC has also expanded opportunities for young health innovators and entrepreneurs through pan-African initiatives such as the **Health Innovation Festival (formerly AfyaFest)**, **FemSTEM Africa** and the **African Impact Challenge Health Stream**, while continuing to amplify young voices and strengthen inclusive leadership across Africa's health systems.



“The 2026 gathering will provide an opportunity for all 10 partner institutions to learn, share and to deepen ongoing initiatives — connecting evidence to action, ideas to investments, and young innovators to ecosystems they need to create sustainable, scalable impact,” said **Dr. Penina Lam, Head of the AHC Secretariat.**

Throughout the event, participating institutions—including Addis Ababa University, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, African Leadership University, Amref Health Africa and Amref International University, Ashesi University, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Moi University, University of Cape Town and the University of Toronto — will report on progress and share lessons on their 2025/2026 institutional commitments. They will also outline joint action plans to scale youth-led innovations, turning shared evidence and learning into collective action and impact.

The convening will conclude on October 21 with a ceremonial handover to the incoming Executive Steering Committee Chair and a Gala Dinner celebrating partnership achievements across the continent.

The Africa Health Collaborative's 2026 Annual Convening will be held in person by invitation, with virtual participation available through livestream on the Africa Health Collaborative's [YouTube Channel](#).

Learn more here: <https://convening.africahealthcollaborative.org/>

Follow the conversation using **#AHConvening2026**

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About the Africa Health Collaborative



The Africa Health Collaborative is a multi-year partnership working to strengthen primary health care systems across Africa through health workforce development, education, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The Health Collaborative brings together the Mastercard Foundation, Amref Health Africa, Addis Ababa University, African Leadership University, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Ashesi University, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Moi University, the University of Cape Town, and the University of Toronto.

Addressing Africa's critical shortage of health workers and unlocking the sector's economic potential, the initiative contributes to the Mastercard Foundation's Young Africa Works strategy to enable 30 million young people, particularly women, to access dignified and fulfilling work by 2030.

Learn more <https://africahealthcollaborative.org/>



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