



# DIGITAL HEALTH IN AFRICA

Trends & overview



**DHP**  
DIGITAL HEALTH  
PARTNERSHIPS

VivaTech, June 2022

# Digital Health in Africa – Growth

## An underlying shift with COVID-19.

### Digital Health was already on the rise

**+56,5%** of start-ups in health-tech field in Africa 2017-2020

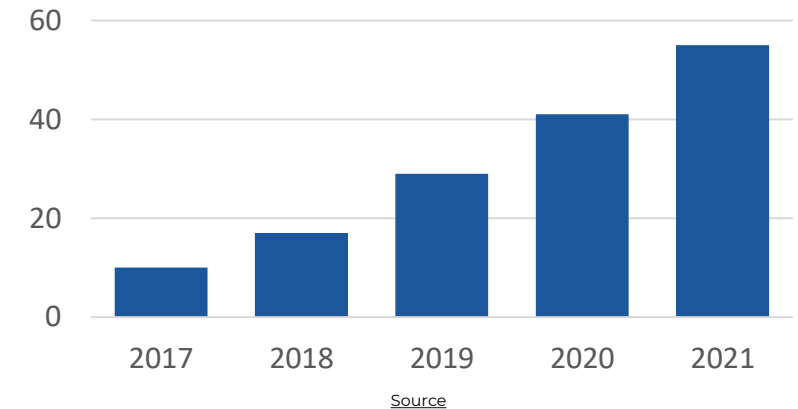
### Unprecedented adoption due to Covid-19

**South Africa** : **50-175x** increase in telehealth service demand, 2019-2020 & **Uganda**: **500%** increase in teleconsultations for Rocket Health (Jan-Dec 2020)

**Mozambique**: **Pensa** platform reached **3M users** (10% country population)

**Nigeria** : **Helium Health** expanded into several other countries

The number of funded digital health start-ups in Africa has increased >5x in five years



## Innovations from Africa cross-fertilized to Europe and Asia

### The *Surveillance Outbreak Response Management and Analysis System* (SORMAS)

Open-source digital and mobile system for real-time surveillance and early detection of outbreaks.

Implementing countries **before COVID-19** : **Nigeria**, then **Ghana**

Fertilized and deployed **during COVID-19** in **Germany, France, Switzerland, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, Fiji**

# Digital Health in Africa - Innovation

## Startup ecosystem is booming in Africa.

### Increased number of new players in Digital Health

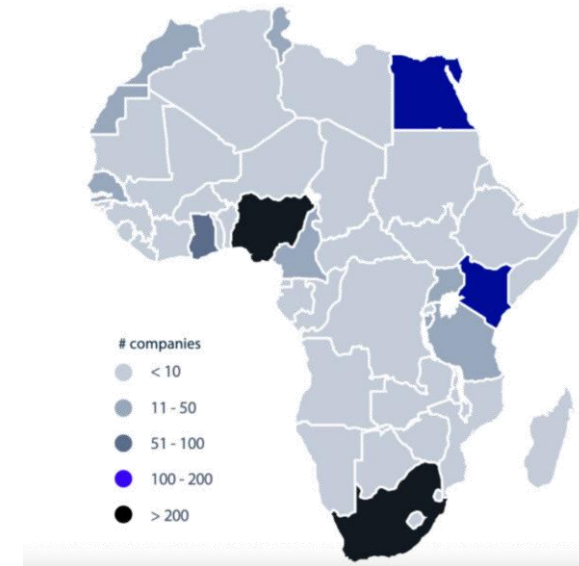
**1276 health-tech start-ups** operating across Africa supporting health care delivery and distribution

#### Examples of growth innovators



### Most of them in English-speaking Africa

**Big 4 : Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria**



Source: Salient Advisory

### Encouraging to see a healtech accelerator created:

**Healthtech Hub Africa launched in 2021 by Norrsken & Novartis Foundation**  
East Africa, now in Rwanda

**HEALTHTECH  
HUB AFRICA**

By

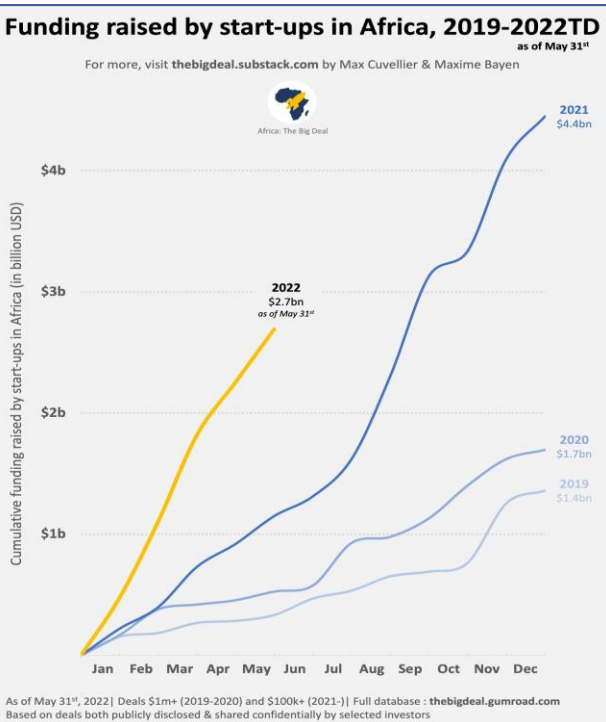
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**NOVARTIS** | The Novartis Foundation

# Digital Health in Africa - Investments

## Investments are on the rise.

### Sharp increase in funding for African startups



Africa raised **USD 2,7B** so far in 2022

**+134%** of funding raised compared to 2021 (**+436%** in Kenya, **+212%** in Egypt !)

**Nyala venture just created: £8m fund** to bridge finance gap for small and growing businesses with lens on gender equity (in Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, SA, Uganda)



### Investments in African digital health startups

**Investments** in health-tech start-ups in Africa grew by **81%** in 2021 but represents only **10%** of total startup funding in Africa



#### Few examples



**mPharma**

**mPharma (Ghana)** raised **\$65m**, \$35m in 2022



**ROCKETHEALTH**  
TELEMEDICINE | LABORATORY | PHARMACY

**Rocket Health (Uganda)** raised **\$5m** in a Series A in March 2022  
They will expand to Kenya



**+ RelianceHealth**

**Reliance Health (Nigeria)** raised **\$40m** in February

# Digital Health in Africa - Connectivity

**Connecting the unconnected: still a big challenge to address.**

## Affordability

In **37 countries**, **50%** of population **cannot afford 1GB of data** per month (OECD 2021)

The affordability ranges widely across Africa. As a percentage of GNI per capita, the cost of 1GB of cellphone data ranges from **21% in DRC to 0.5% in Egypt**.

*“Bring prices for entry-level broadband services below **2%** of monthly GNI per capita by 2025 ”*

BB  
Commission,  
2018

## Coverage

**46% of Sub-Saharan Africa population have mobile subscriptions, but only 28% connect to the internet in 2020** (vs. 49% globally) -**81% with 3G** internet, **51% with 4G**

**USAGE GAP: 53% of Sub-Saharan Africa (1/2 billion pp)** not using mobile internet, despite living in an area with coverage (challenges: affordability, including handset + digital skills gap)

**COVERAGE GAP –1/5** people in sub-Saharan Africa are without broadband coverage – about **210 million people**

**Only 26%** of rural dwellers use the Internet regularly (vs 47% urban)

***Largest coverage gap is in Sub-Saharan Africa***



# Digital Health in Africa – Maturity & Data Governance

**Only few countries have implemented their Digital Health strategy.**



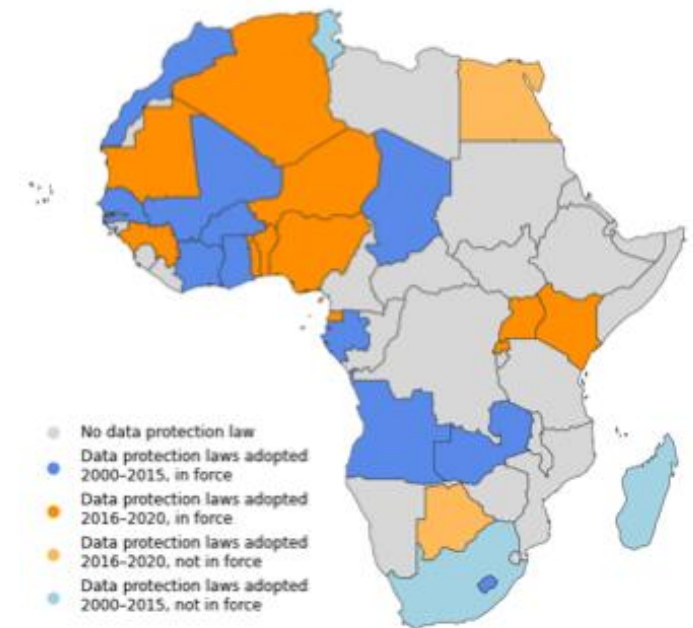
- Countries with a digital health strategy
- Countries with a digital health strategy implemented

*Cabo Verde; Cote d'Ivoire; Ethiopia; Ghana; Kenya; Mauritius; Rwanda; South Africa; Tanzania; Uganda; Zambia; Zimbabwe*

*"In December 2020, **thirty-four** Member States of the WHO African Region developed digital health strategies. However, **only 12 of them have implemented** these strategies." WHO Africa*

**Data governance:  
Enforcement still a challenge**

More than **half of all African countries** (31/55) have passed legislation regulating **data governance**, as of August 2021, but **enforcement remains a challenge**



# Digital Health in Africa - Institutions

**The acceleration of digital health is also reflected in some significant moves from multilaterals and institutions**



Digital Health Strategy finalized by Q2/Q3 2022



Working on a digital health strategy, increased funding and autonomy



Africa Digital Health Blueprint in 2022/2023



WHO Africa –released framework for successful implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Digital Health in August 2022



Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025  
WHO Berlin Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence



Digital Health Framework Q2 2022

**G7 / G20**

Digital Health Declarations for Digital Health



PRIDA - Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (ITU, African Union, EU) and Digital4Development (D4D) Hub



***“Greater collaboration on data standards and platforms could also increase the utility of testing data so that results can be linked to surveillance systems, clinical care and public health responses for control, tracing and isolation”***  
G7 – June 2020

# Digital Health in Africa – Institutional Funding

## A complex and interconnected funding landscape



'It is estimated that **\$6bn** over **2024-2026** will be from **Global Fund** investments to **reinforce health systems** and this includes data systems'

**The EU, GIZ, Enabel, JICA, USAID & the WB** are ramping up their digital health activities and funding streams for Africa



The **European Commission** has funded **95%** of the **PRIDA** (Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa) and is increasing its funding for digital health

Multiple large private foundations are involved in **large-scale initiatives to develop digital health** in Africa.



**Healthcare Electrification and Telecommunication Alliance** launched in April 2022

**USAID matching fund** - A **non-profit alliance** gathering **donors & private sector**

Aim to connect and bring energy to **10,000 health facilities** across **20 sub-Saharan African countries** over the next **8 to 10 years**



# Digital Health in Africa - Fragmentation

**Multiplicity of players involved leading to highly fragmented space**



# Digital Health in Africa - Need for coordination

## Increase in coordination mechanisms, governance bodies & alliances illustrating the imperative need for more cohesion



### Principles of Donor Alignment

Align to **country strategies** & coordinate between **investors**



**International collaborative** to improve **research** on digital health and **artificial intelligence**



**DICE** (Digital Health Center of Excellence) works with **governments** to **coordinate** between **donors** and **development partners**



Provide a **collaborative platform** for **private sector** with **civil society** and **governments** for digital health in LMICs



**Global coalition** committed to **achieving UHC in LMICs** via digital health

1. Advocate for more **political leadership**
2. A global **data governance framework**
3. Advocate for Increased **Investments**

*Launching **digital health network for West Africa** (with SpeakUp Africa & Baobab Institute)*



**Geneva Digital Health Hub**

**Federate** knowledge and stakeholders for **coordination, governance, impact** for digital health in LMICs

# Digital Health in Africa - Perspectives

## Digital Health brings hope towards reducing inequalities.



Need for more coordination & governance mechanisms



Need for more government leadership



Need for more capacity building



Push for Internet for all



Increased emphasis on equity and inclusion

**“Digital healthcare can be a catalyst for greater health equity”.**  
WEF, 2022

**Digital health coalition advocates for health equity**

Naomi Diaz - Tuesday, May 24th, 2022

*“If we want a world where **equity is a reality**, not an aspiration, we must [...] **harness the power of science, data, and digital technologies.**”*

Dr. Tedros A. Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, January 2022



**The Future of Virtual Health and Care**  
Driving access and equity through inclusive policies

**How Digital Health Can Help Address Issues Of Equity And Access In Behavioral Health**

Seth Joseph Contributor ©  
I write about the intersection of health care, technology and policy  
May 31, 2022, 02:08pm EDT

# Thank you! Let's get in touch

## DIGITAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

Unlocking health access in low-and middle-income countries



[dhp.global](https://dhp.global)



Digital Health Partnerships



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