



Private Sector Partnership Forum

Innovative Solutions to Challenges in Slums & Informal Settlements in Africa
24 to 26 June 2020, eConference

Scaling Solutions: The Growing Role of EdTech & HealthTech in the COVID-19 Context
Date: Friday, 26 June 2020, 1145-1315h East African Time

Topics Explored

1. Community Needs
2. Government Priorities
3. Taking Stock of the Innovations
4. Recommendations and Way Forward

Moderator

Dr. Graham Alabaster, Head of Geneva Office (OIC), UN-Habitat

Panel Discussions

1. Abdulkarim Mohamed, Portfolio Manager, Acumen East Africa
2. Wilfred Njagi, CEO, Villgro Africa
3. Dr. Zaheer Allam, Urban Strategist, Port Louis Development Initiative (Mauritius)
4. Francis Refell, CODOHSAPA/SDI (Sierra Leone)

Innovator Pitches (3-5 minutes)

1. **Mobile Learning Solution**
Quality affordable digitized learning and reading materials for learners at the bottom of the pyramid.
Wambura Kimunyu, CEO
Eneza Education, www.enezaeducation.com
2. **Learning Point**
Leveraging DigiTech for learning.
Boris Bulayev, CEO
Educate!, www.experienceeducate.org
3. **Insurance for All**
Affordable pro-poor micro-insurance, with flexible payment schedules, aligned to the earning patterns of the informal sector workers.
John Magambo, Board Chair
Afya Poa, www.ifakenya.co.ke (under construction)
4. **Affordable Healthcare Financing Solution**
Healthcare financing through digital micro-savings.
Chris Onyanacha, CEO
ClinicPesa, www.clinicpesa.com
5. **Ilara Health**
Tech-enabled point of care diagnostics solutions
Emilian Popa, CEO
Ilara Health, www.ilarahealth.com
6. **PaperEMR**
Remote tele-consultations made easy
Pratap Kumar, CEO
Health E-Net, <http://www.health-e-net.org/>

About the Private Sector Partnership Forum

The three-day Private Sector Partnership Forum has been organized in recognition of the critical roles played

by the private sector in innovating and piloting novel solutions to development challenges, and the public sector in scaling up successful innovations. To this end, the Forum seeks to facilitate partnership between national governments and municipalities with private sector companies, specifically investors and innovators with low-cost innovative solutions to development challenges.

Description of the Session

While developing countries have increased public investment in education, dedicating at least 20% of their public spending to education, sub-Saharan Africa still has the highest rates of education exclusion. It is estimated that approx. 20% of children aged between 6 and 11, approx. 35% of aged between 12 and 14 and 60% of youth aged between 15 and 17 are out of school. Worse still, is the shortage of learning materials and the dearth of trained teachers, which remains a significant challenge in many developing countries where the teacher-pupil ratio is higher than 40 students per trained teacher.

It is estimated that 95% of Africans lack access to basic healthcare and health insurance yet bear 25% of the global disease burden. Low public investment, poor infrastructure and a doctor-patient ratio of 1:25,000 have conspired to increase the cost of accessing basic treatment and the vulnerability of poor patients to substandard healthcare and counterfeit medicines.

In the current COVID-19 context, the poor, who lack access to the technologies needed to continue education have been hardest hit by school closures, particularly girls whose vulnerability to gender-based violence, child marriages and sexual exploitation increasing significantly. Similarly, for lacking access to affordable healthcare and health insurance, the pandemic has further reduced the resilience of the poor to economic shocks and stressors, as many are forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms during illness.

The session panellists and innovators will discuss the needs of communities, government priorities, the challenges and opportunities in the education and health sectors in African particularly in the current COVID-19 context, global trends and the investment requirements to meet the access challenge in these sectors. In addition, the innovators will briefly describe some of their innovative DigiTech-based and financial inclusion solutions that are successfully responding to these access challenges.

Guiding Questions

- ✓ What are some of the challenges plaguing the education and health sectors in Africa, particularly in the current COVID-19 context?
- ✓ What is the need and therefore the market and investment potential in the education and health sectors in Africa, particularly in the current COVID-19 context? What are some of the opportunities available to mSME (entrepreneurs, innovators) in the education and health sectors in Africa?
- ✓ What are some of the key innovations in the education and health sectors that are worth taking note? What has been the recipe for their success?
- ✓ What are some of the good practices or flagship programmes or partnerships or innovative DigiTech and financing models in Africa that have been successful and need replicating?
- ✓ What are the key barriers to private sector entry into the education and health sectors in Africa? What are some of the actions that governments need to take to eliminate these barriers?
- ✓ What measures can governments implement to incentivize or reduce the risks to entrepreneurs and investors willing to venture into the low-income market segments to provide universal education and healthcare to the BOP? What measures can governments implement to address the quality of education and healthcare services in low-income market segments?
- ✓ Which key sector reforms would accelerate the realization of the education and health SDG? What has been the impact of recent policy reforms, and government plans and strategies on the education and health sectors in your country?
- ✓ What existing infrastructure, investments or partnerships can be leveraged to accelerate the realization of the education and health SDG in informal settlements?
- ✓ What investments are required to meet the education and healthcare access challenges? What are your municipality's plans and budgetary commitments towards providing universal education and healthcare to residents of informal settlements?
- ✓ What does success look like for the education and health sectors in Africa?
- ✓ How can we successfully address the affordability and access challenges for residents of informal settlements and slums?

Expected Outcomes

The Forum is among a series of events organized by UN-Habitat to strengthen partnership with the business community to support sustainable and inclusive urban development and the New Urban Agenda. It provides a platform for matching the needs of informal settlements residents and demands of cities with innovative private sector solutions. The session is expected to have:

1. Demonstrated the business potential and identified opportunities to develop and deploy low-cost innovative education and health solutions in informal settlements
2. Identified opportunities for partnership and matched governments and investors with investable innovative solutions and models are explored
3. Identified bankable and investment-ready projects to be piloted in slums and informal settlements.