



African Alliance

of Digital Health Networks

Supporting the next generation of tech-savvy leaders, technology developers,
and digitally-literate health workforce in Africa.

DIGITAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Call for applications

May 2019

Background:

In order for African countries to develop robust, connected digital health systems, there must be the human capacity to develop, maintain, and fully utilize these systems. Many governments and ministries of health lack the capacity and skills to make decisions about, develop strategies for, and use digital health systems.

However, investment is not routinely made to build capacity, leaving countries without the longer-term expertise they need to support digital health systems and to be able to continue to adapt and innovate upon these systems to improve health outcomes. As with most sectors, the bulk of these requisite investments are made by the private sector, either under a social responsibility scheme or as investments against a belief of potential long-term revenue.

The goal of the African Alliance is to ensure African governments and businesses have support to develop strong digital health systems that improve health impacts and create the demand for digital innovations that drive job creation and a healthy digital economy.

The African Alliance is focused on bringing together, promoting, and protecting the digital health community’s interests across Africa. It’s an essential resource for building the foundation of a thriving digital health economy where the health and economic rewards go hand in hand. We believe a healthy Africa is the strongest Africa. Figure 1 depicts the key components of the African Alliance, seeking to illustrate how the key pieces fit together.

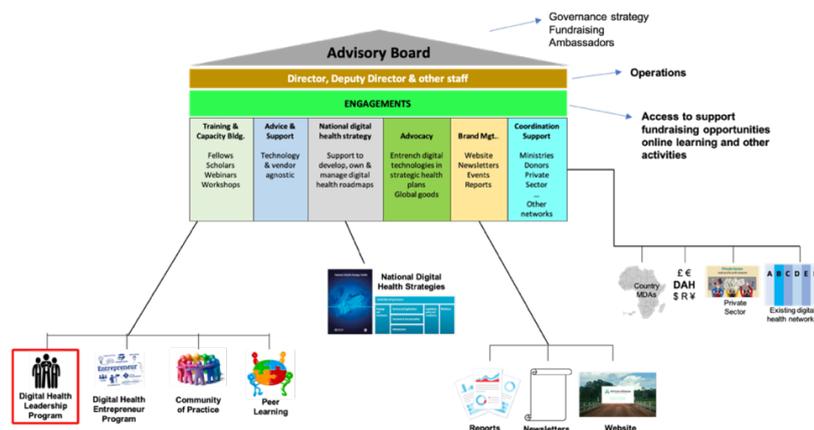


Figure 1. Diagrammatic presentation of the key components of the African Alliance.

This plan prioritizes the Digital Health Leadership Program, which seeks to provide information, education, advocacy, capacity building, and support in a vendor- and technology-agnostic manner to the continent’s digital health ecosystem (public and private).

The Program:

The objective of the Digital Health Leadership Program is to help develop the technical capacity in African digital health leaders, particularly in government agencies, to develop, manage, and direct in-country digital health initiatives and investments. The specific objectives are to:

- Facilitate in-country personnel to receive certification training.
- Establish a mentorship program that supports the graduates from the certification programs to apply the knowledge acquired in-country.

- Establish a peer network that enables peer learning, support, and information exchange.
- Provide technical assistance and on-the-job training (through the mentors).

Expected outcomes of the program include:

- Improvements in management of in-country digital health initiatives.
- Increased confidence of the in-country digital health leaders in the program as they are supported by both mentors and peers.
- Improvements in the execution of on-the-job activities and decisions of participants as learnings are applied.

The African Alliance's Digital Health Leadership Program is intended to systematically and coherently build capacity through the training, mentorship, and support throughout the program, thus tying generic course content and knowledge to digital health. This program is a component of a bigger vision and agenda of building digital health capacity in Africa. The program seeks to improve the capacity for digital health across the continent, with a specific focus of public-sector agencies such as ministries of health and of technology (or communication).

The target beneficiaries of the program will be staff of government agencies. Participants will receive training (and the opportunity to take certification examinations) in appropriate globally recognized and accepted standards and methodologies. The training and examinations will be provided by accredited training organizations over a period ranging from three to five days per certification.

These certifications will thereafter be strengthened by exposure to the wealth of experience and knowledge of a diverse faculty of mentors who will support participants through the program.

The program will cover:

- Cost of training and examinations, towards the award of certifications;
- Support and mentorship from an experienced and knowledgeable faculty;
- Access to a Community of Practice to share experiences, knowledge and lessons with peers

Application and Selection Process:

Applications would be assessed, reviewed and shortlisted based on the following selection criteria.

Applicants must:

- be based in Africa;
- be endorsed by supervisor or line manager, in case of ministry staff;
- be currently working to support in-country digital health initiatives;
- must have participated in the WHO AFRO-ITU Digital Health Capacity Building workshop in Lesotho (November 2018);
- submit a statement elucidating how lessons and learnings from the program will be leveraged to support national and regional digital health development;
- be willing and able to make the time commitment to follow through the program: 3-5 days for each certification training & exam; 1-2 hours monthly for interaction with mentor; time to join, participate and sometimes lead Community of Practice meetings; time to develop, revise and re-iterate activity plans; and time to write up a fellowship report.

Application deadline:

Applications would be received through **11.59PM (WAT) May 31st, 2019**

Application form:

Application forms can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/9Hx6DTutVWEorVk47>