

THE DIGITAL HEALTH FRONTIER IN SUB- SAHARAN AFRICA

2026 REPORT



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Bridging the Gap: From Potential to Practice

Formal Disclaimer

This report is based on survey data collected in November - December 2025. The findings and recommendations contained herein are intended for strategic planning and educational purposes. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data, the rapidly evolving nature of digital health technology means that local regulatory and technical contexts should be verified before full-scale implementation.

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Statement of Intent

The goal of this research is to move the conversation from technological potential to operational and clinical reality. We acknowledge the resilience of the Sub-Saharan healthcare workforce and aim to provide the structural and educational support necessary to ensure that digital transformation leads to equitable, high-quality healthcare for all populations.

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Preface

In my experience working with healthcare leaders and digital transformation teams, I have seen first-hand how technology has evolved from a supporting “enabler” into the very foundation of industry-wide change.

This shift is particularly pronounced in healthcare, where it presents a multi-dimensional opportunity to bridge long-standing gaps in access, quality, and equity. By aligning digital interventions with the core strategic objectives of healthcare providers, organisations can move beyond simple digitisation toward true operational excellence.

The findings of this survey, reflecting the landscape as of late 2025 and early 2026, reveal a continent on the verge of a technological renaissance. Africa is uniquely positioned to leapfrog legacy healthcare infrastructures by adopting cloud-native, AI-enabled solutions that are inherently scalable.

The modern healthcare vertical is no longer defined by siloed systems, but by an integrated, patient-centric ecosystem. Our design philosophy has shifted. We are no longer building for the system; we are building for the human. By utilising **Human-Centered Design (HCD)**, we ensure that digital health technologies from telemedicine platforms to AI-driven diagnostics prioritise the health consumer at the centre of the care journey.

This **"Value-Based Care"** approach ensures that efficiency and effectiveness are measured not just by administrative speed, but by improved clinical outcomes.

As Artificial Intelligence matures from a speculative tool to a core clinical asset, the African digital health ecosystem is being built on a foundation of "Trust by Design." This includes robust frameworks for Open Data, Data Sovereignty, Cybersecurity, and Ethical AI standards that ensure cross-border interoperability.

The data presented in this 2026 survey is more than a collection of metrics; it is a mandate for movement. We stand at a unique intersection where technological maturity, clinical demand, and political will have finally aligned.

The **"digital health leapfrog"** is no longer a theoretical concept, it is an operational reality already visible across parts of the health sector. The journey toward a digitally integrated healthcare ecosystem in Africa is a systemic transformation that leverages local expertise, data, workflows, and stakeholder relationships.

“ We are witnessing more than just a shift in technology; we are witnessing the birth of a more resilient, data-driven, and equitable healthcare future and I am genuinely excited about what we can build together next. ”



Joel Ugborogho
Founder & CEO
Cenhealth Academy
London, UK



Executive Summary

In an era where clinical precision meets digital innovation, the healthcare landscape across Sub-Saharan Africa is undergoing a profound transformation. While digital tools promise to bridge longstanding gaps in healthcare access, their success rests entirely on the shoulders of the frontline provider.

In November - December 2025, we engaged Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) across the region to move beyond the "hype" and document the ground-level reality of digital health adoption.

This report serves as a roadmap for clinicians, administrators, and healthcare leaders navigating an increasingly tech-enabled ecosystem, focusing on how these tools can reduce burnout, improve diagnostic accuracy, and ultimately save lives.

Key Pillars of the Survey Findings

The survey reveals a dual-speed reality: **A high enthusiasm for innovation tempered by structural "pain points."** The critical areas this survey addressed include:

- **Clinical Efficacy & Workflow:** How digital tools (mHealth, EMRs, and Telemedicine) are actually altering daily patient interactions and documentation burdens.
- **The "Human-Centric" Skill Gap:** Identifying the specific digital literacies Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) need, which goes beyond just operating software, but to interpret AI-driven data and maintain the "human touch" in a virtual environment.
- **Infrastructural Resilience:** A realistic look at how power stability and connectivity affect the reliability of digital interventions in rural vs. urban settings.
- **Data Sovereignty & Ethics:** An essential new focus on patient privacy, data security, and the ethical implications of storing genomic or clinical data in the cloud within the African regulatory context.
- **Interoperability:** Evaluating whether different health systems "talk" to one another, or if HCPs are being bogged down by fragmented, siloed platforms.

This report is more than a data collection exercise; it is a catalyst for professional evolution. It identifies clear opportunities for Healthcare Professionals to transition from passive users to active architects of the digital health ecosystem.

By leveraging these insights, policymakers and public health organisations can better support clinicians with the infrastructure and training required to lead Sub-Saharan Africa into a new age of data-driven, equitable healthcare.

The journey toward a digitally integrated healthcare ecosystem in Africa is a marathon, not a sprint, but the pace is accelerating. We have the data, we have the talent, and we have the vision. What remains is the collective courage to execute.

Let this report be the catalyst that moves us from fragmented innovation to systemic transformation. The future of African healthcare is not just digital; it is equitable, it is resilient, and most importantly, it is already here.

Let's build it together.

Expert Contribution

Health is the bedrock of societal development, and in the African context, the integration of digital tools is a powerful determinant of health equity. As we analyse the findings of this comprehensive survey, we are reminded that technology is not a silver bullet, but a vehicle for transformative leadership and systemic change.

From an academic and policy perspective, the true value of digital health lies in its ability to improve population health outcomes at scale. We are seeing a shift **where data is no longer siloed in urban centres** but is being used to empower community health workers in the most remote regions. This report highlights a vital truth: digital health is a tool for equity and social progress. By addressing the "digital divide," we ensure that life-saving interventions reach the vulnerable, not just the connected.

Perhaps the most profound impact of digital health lies in addressing what many refer to as the “last mile” of healthcare delivery. Rural and underserved communities across Africa often face long travel distances, limited specialists, and delayed diagnoses. Telemedicine, remote monitoring, and integrated health information systems can close this gap by connecting frontline providers with expertise and resources that were previously out of reach, especially as the internet is penetrating these areas faster than anticipated.

In doing so, digital health moves us closer to a model of care that is not only technologically advanced but also equitable and responsive to the needs of those who have historically been left behind.

“ True leadership in public health now requires a "digital-first" mindset. We must use the evidence presented in this survey to advocate for policies that protect patient privacy while promoting the ethical use of Big Data for disease surveillance and outbreak prevention. ”

I commend the authors for providing the practice and scholarly communities and policymakers with evidence needed to bolster health equity in African communities.



Dr, Yonette Thomas,
Founder and CEO, Urban Health 360;
Visiting Professor Rutgers
School of Public Health, USA



Expert Contribution

As a clinician, my primary concern has always been the person sitting across from me in the consultation room.

For too long, the "art of medicine" in Africa has been hindered by the "burden of administration", fragmented paper records, missing test results, and the inability to track patients across different levels of healthcare. This survey on digital health technologies reflects a turning point for the frontline medical professional.

“ Digital health is often discussed in the language of systems, codes, platforms, and policy frameworks. Yet for those of us working closest to patients, the real question is simple and more urgent: **How does technology improve the daily experience of care, especially for the patient seeking help and the health professional striving to provide it?** ”

The insights gathered in this survey show that digital innovation is not merely an abstract; it is becoming a significant practical tool that reshapes diagnosis, treatment, and the human relationship at the Centre of healthcare.

In healthcare, digital decision-support tools have the potential to transform diagnostic accuracy and speed. Health professionals, from physicians and nurses to laboratory scientists and public health practitioners, are increasingly using digital platforms to interpret data, track patient histories, and guide treatment decisions.

Patients are no longer passive recipients of care but active participants in managing their health. In this era, it is not surprising that patients “Google” or use ChatGPT to look up their symptoms before they visit a healthcare provider.

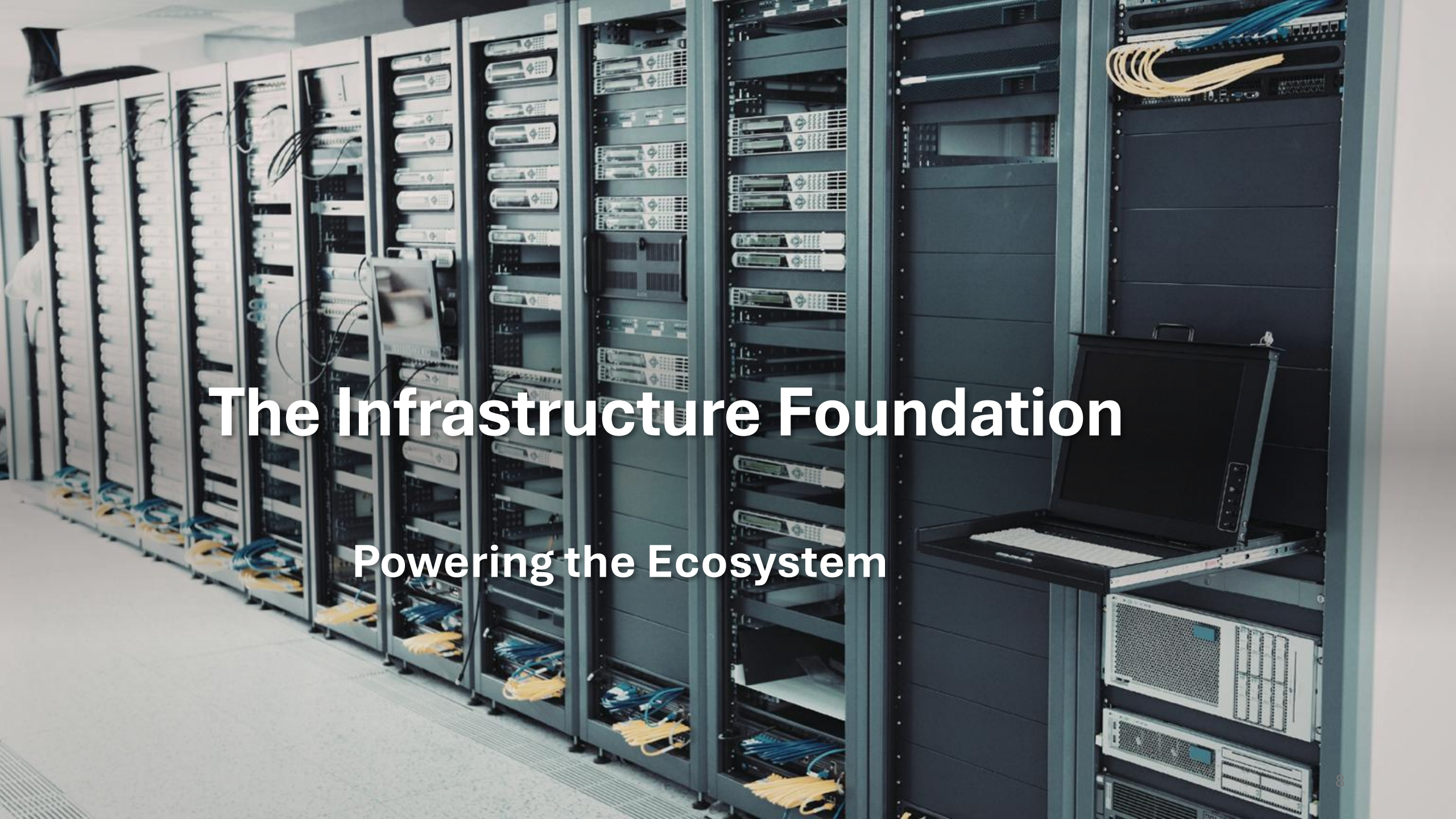
The impact of technology on patient care is profound. Through Telehealth and digital diagnostic tools, we are seeing improved accuracy and faster intervention times. But perhaps more importantly, these technologies are enhancing our professional efficiency. By streamlining workflows and automating routine data entry, digital tools allow us to return to what we do best: treating patients with the focus and empathy they deserve.

This report captures the reality of delivery of care improvement in our hospitals and clinics. Whether it is a rural doctor using a mobile app to consult a specialist in the city, or a nurse managing chronic hypertension via remote monitoring, the "last mile" of healthcare is finally being bridged.



Dr. Mable Kipenda
Director – Health Programs & Clinical
Research. Urban Health 360
Founder & CEO - Kambo Health Initiative





The Infrastructure Foundation

Powering the Ecosystem

The Infrastructure Foundation – Powering the Ecosystem

Reliable infrastructure and high-speed connectivity constitute the "central nervous system" of a digital health ecosystem. Without stabilised power and seamless data transmission, even the most sophisticated clinical software remains inaccessible.

This section evaluates the current state of the physical and digital assets that underpin healthcare delivery in the region.

Infrastructure Readiness

Healthcare professionals in major capitals benefit from relatively stabilised technical ecosystems. These environments report higher indices of power-grid reliability and fiber-optic penetration.

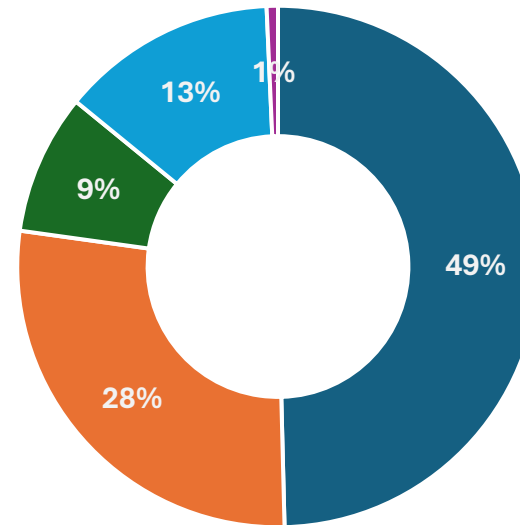
However, the strategic focus here must shift toward redundancy, ensuring that primary grid failures do not result in clinical downtime through the integration of industrial-grade Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) and high-speed failovers.

Frontline providers in peri-urban regions face significant structural headwinds. Characterised by intermittent "grid-edge" power and fragmented telecommunications.

While the infrastructure gap is real, it is no longer an insurmountable barrier. The rapid commercialisation of satellite internet and the plummeting cost of renewable energy storage mean that for the first time in history, we can architect around the grid.

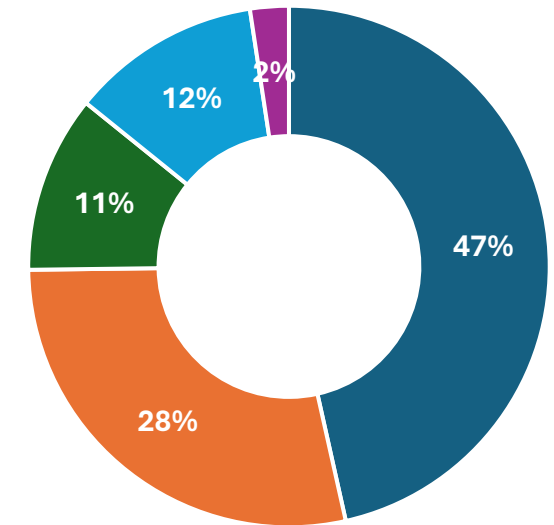
Infrastructure Readiness

How would you rate the reliability of internet or mobile network access in your healthcare facility or community?



■ Reliable ■ Unreliable
■ Very unreliable ■ Very reliable
■ Unsure

How would you rate the consistency of the power supply at your facility?



■ Reliable ■ Unreliable
■ Very unreliable ■ Very reliable
■ Unsure

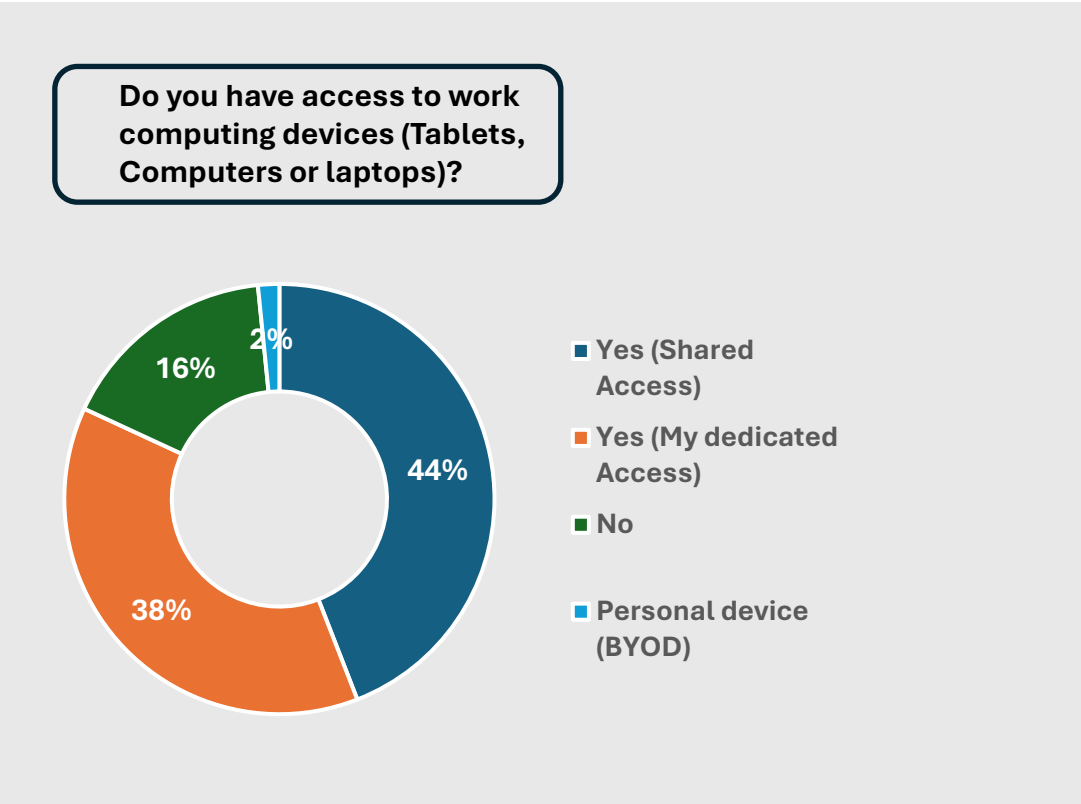
Strategic Implications

To achieve truly inclusive public health, infrastructure investments must prioritise the "Last Mile," ensuring that a provider's location does not determine their ability to access life-saving data and technology.

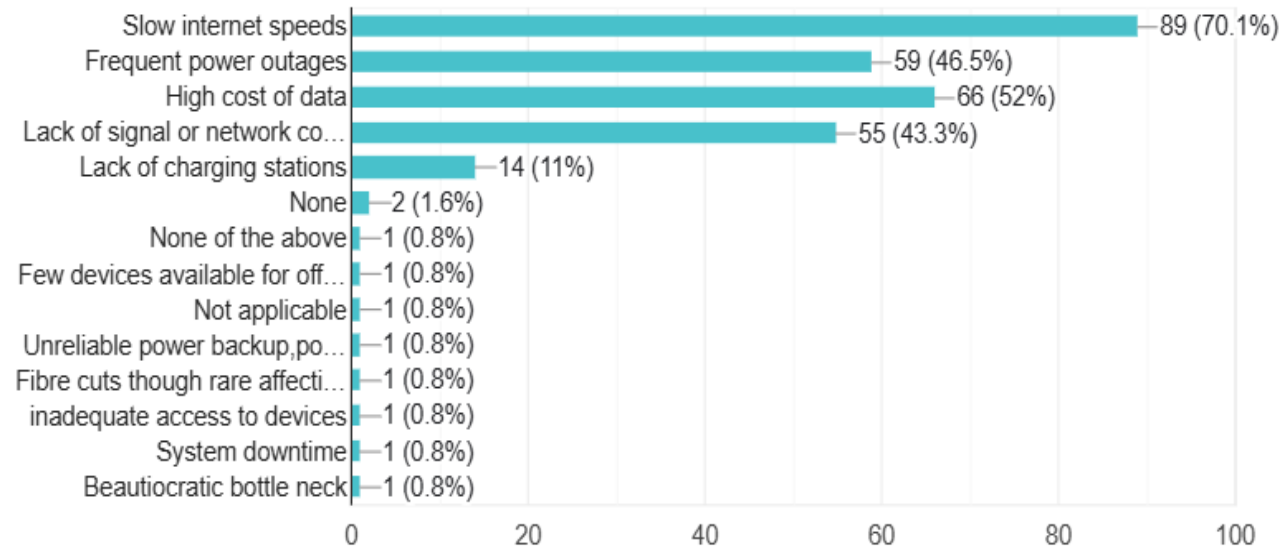
This geographic imbalance creates a **"Digital Tiering"** of healthcare quality.

Infrastructure & Scaling

- ❖ **Connectivity is the Catalyst:** Mobile-first solutions are driving 70% of new health-tech interactions.
- ❖ **Interoperability is Mandatory:** Future growth depends on "plug-and-play" systems that allow different clinics to share data securely.
- ❖ **Execution over Innovation:** The shift is moving away from "new ideas" toward the stable execution of existing tools at a national scale.



What are the biggest challenges you face with regards to using digital devices or systems due to infrastructure limitations? (Check all that apply)



Digital Health Value

Health Professional Perspectives



Digital Health Value: Health Professionals Perspectives

While Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) across the continent demonstrate an overwhelming consensus on the transformative power of digital health, a significant '**implementation friction**' remains.

Clinicians are ready to innovate, yet they are being held back by a dual deficit;

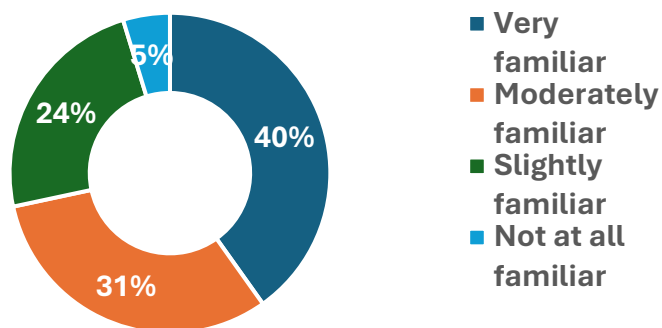
(1) **Digital infrastructure resilience and**

(2) **Specialised technical training.**

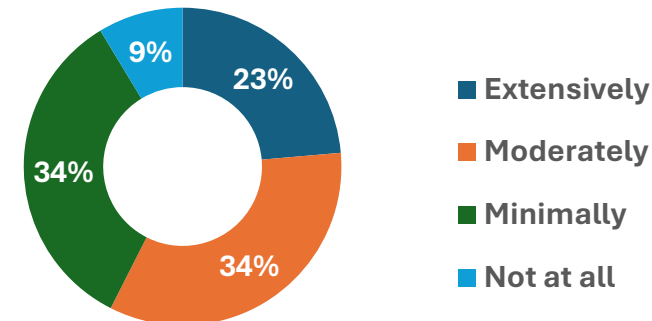
Our findings reveal that the promise of improved community health outcomes is currently compromised by unstable connectivity and a lack of structured professional development.

The following data points quantify this gap between clinician readiness and systemic support.

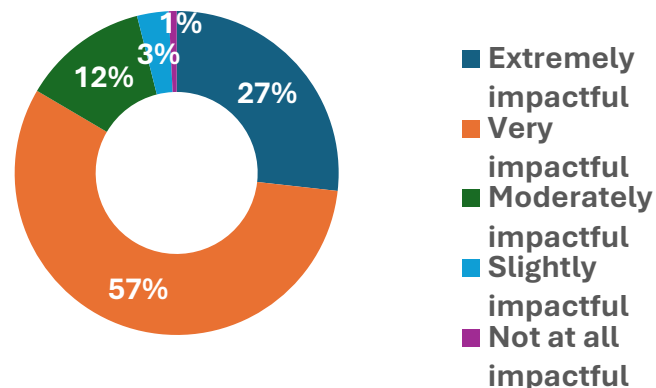
Familiarity with Digital Health Technologies



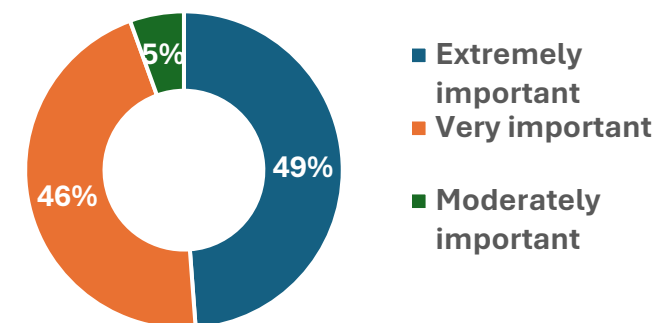
Extent of Digital Health Technology Use



Digital Health Impact in Public Health



Importance of Digital Health Training



Patient-centric care

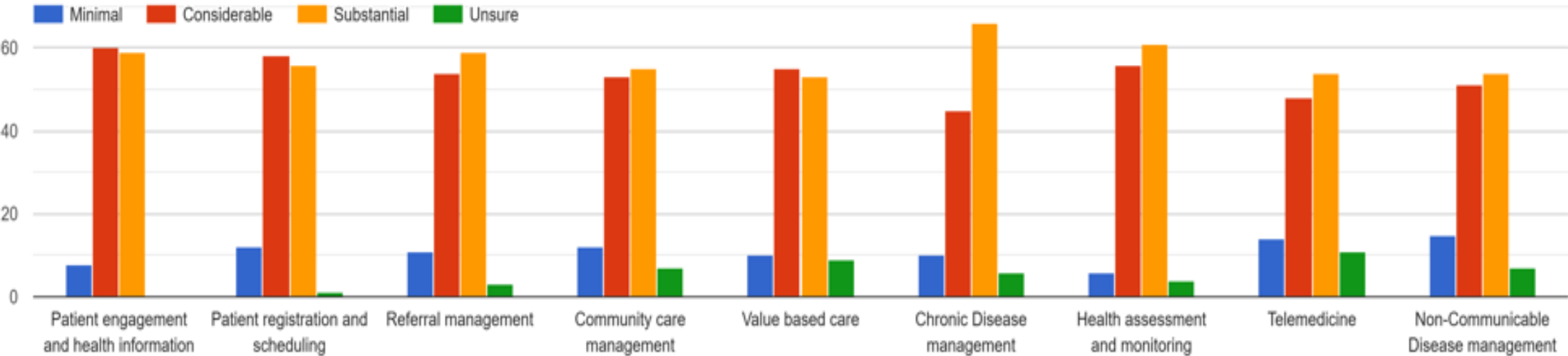
Patients are no longer passive recipients of care but active participants in managing their health. In this era, it is not surprising that patients “Google” or use ChatGPT to look up their symptoms before they visit a healthcare provider. For individuals living with chronic diseases such as diabetes or hypertension, real-time monitoring and digital communication with providers can mean the difference between crisis management and continuous care.

This report offers valuable insights into how digital health technologies are already shaping the practice of medicine across the region. More importantly, it reminds us that innovation must remain grounded in the realities of frontline care.

If we invest in the right training, infrastructure, and ethical frameworks, digital health can transform not only how healthcare is delivered but how it is experienced by providers and patients alike.

Where do you think the biggest opportunities to substantially improve healthcare delivery for patients lie?

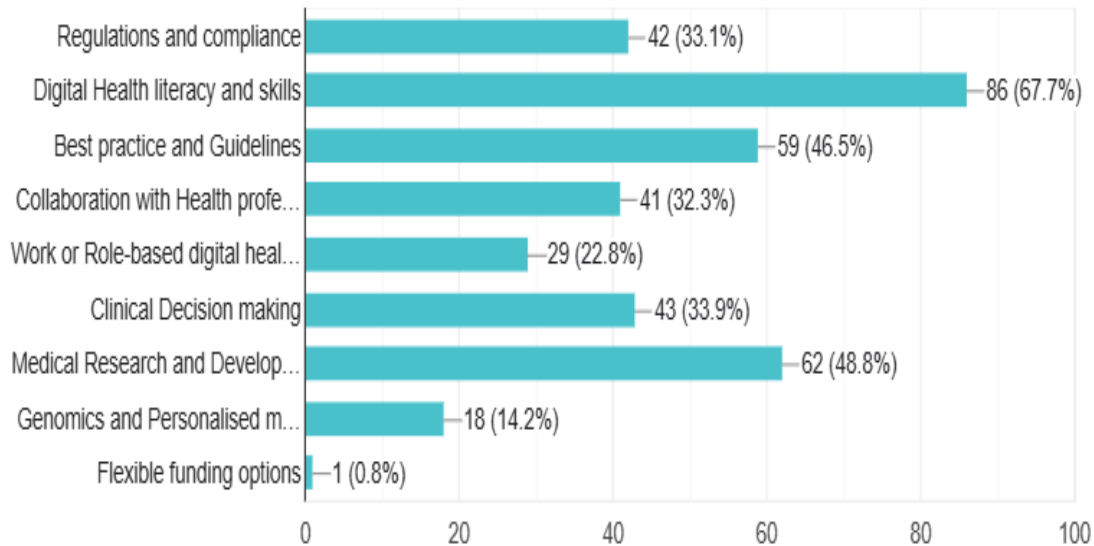
The survey question below reflects the viewpoint of HCPs on the benefits of digital health for patients.



Opportunities and Benefits

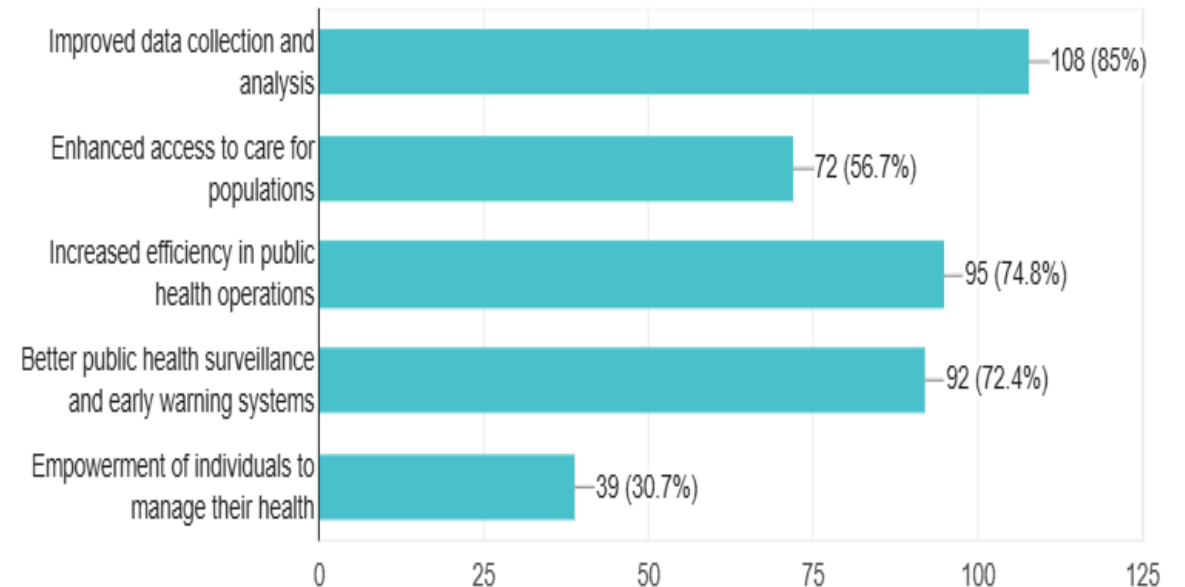
The survey responses highlight the importance of practical, hands-on training and reliable digital infrastructure to ensure these technologies truly support, rather than complicate, the daily workflow of healthcare worker.

Select 3 opportunities within the healthcare sector on the continent that could deliver significant value in patient-centric healthcare delivery in Africa



The benefits of digital health technologies extend beyond clinical outcomes. Administrative burdens are among the most significant drivers of burnout in modern healthcare systems. When digital systems are designed thoughtfully, streamlining patient records, automating reporting processes, and simplifying data management, they free clinicians to focus on what matters most: **The Patient**.

In your opinion, what are the greatest benefits of using digital health technologies in public health? (Please rank the top 3)





“

With the promise of technology amidst us, one truth must remain clear: healthcare is, and will always be, a profound human endeavor. The compassion of a nurse, the reassurance of a physician, the trust built between provider and patient.

”

Dr. Mable Kipenda

These elements cannot be digitised. Technology must therefore serve as a bridge, not a barrier, strengthening the empathy and connection that defines quality care.

When implemented robustly, digital tools amplify the capacity of healthcare professionals to listen, understand, and respond to the needs of those they serve.

Human and Technical Capacity Analysis



Digital Maturity Levels

Human and Technical Capacity Analysis

Assessment of Digital Maturity

- The "Human and Technical Capacity" index serves as a primary indicator of digital maturity within the Sub-Saharan healthcare sector. This section evaluates the intersection of practitioner competency (Digital Literacy) and the deployment of advanced medical technologies.
- Our findings indicate that while the **disposition** toward technology is high, the **maturity level** is heterogeneous varying significantly based on facility type (public vs. private) and regional digital infrastructure.

Literacy vs. Knowledge Gap

- Despite the rise in tool availability, a "Capacity Chasm" persists. Digital literacy is often high regarding general mobile technology, but formal **Digital Health Knowledge**, specifically concerning data ethics, interoperability, and the clinical application of AI remains a critical area for development.

Comparison of Maturity: Public vs. Private Sectors

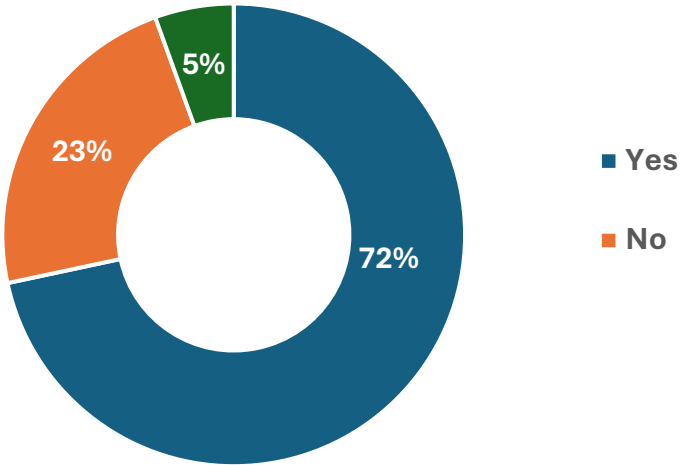
Technology Tier	Public Sector Status	Private Sector Status
EMR/EHR	Scaling (Donor/Govt funded)	High (Market-driven)
Telemedicine	High in Rural Pilots	Widespread in Urban Centres
AI Scribe/Tools	Low/Experimental	Emerging (Early Adopters)
IoMT/Wearables	Limited by Data Costs	Growing for Chronic Care

The Technological Landscape: Trends in Adoption

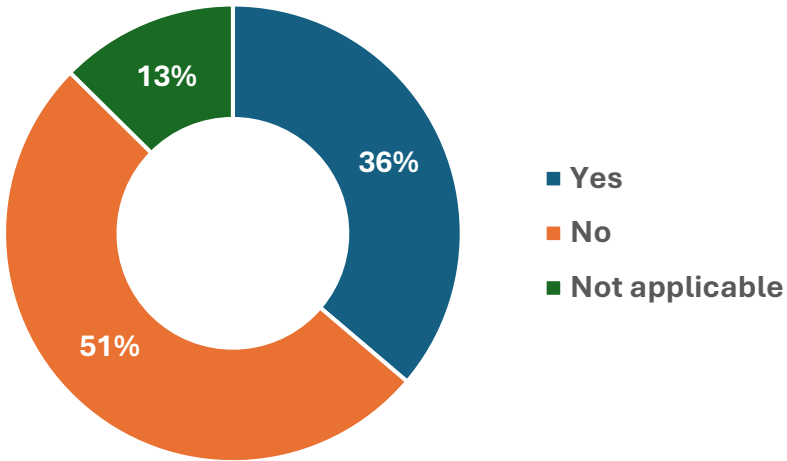
The survey identifies a clear upward trajectory in the adoption of several core and emerging technologies. The "Digital Toolkit" of the modern African HCP is expanding across the following tiers:

- **Foundational Systems (EMR/EHR):** The implementation of Electronic Medical Records (EMR) is seeing accelerated growth. This trend is visible in the private sector for operational efficiency and increasingly in the public sector as a tool for population health management.
- **Decentralised Care (Telemedicine & IoMT):** The rise of Telemedicine is bridging physical gaps in care, supported by the **Internet of Medical Things (IoMT)**. Wearables and remote monitoring devices are moving from consumer novelties to integrated clinical tools for chronic disease surveillance.
- **The Frontiers of Innovation (AI, VR, & AR):**
 - **AI & Automation:** There is a burgeoning interest in **AI Scribe tools** to mitigate documentation burnout, alongside AI-driven diagnostic support systems.
 - **Immersive Tech: Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)** are gaining traction, particularly in surgical simulation and advanced medical education.

Electronic Health Records (EHR) Adoption



Telehealth/Telemedicine Usage



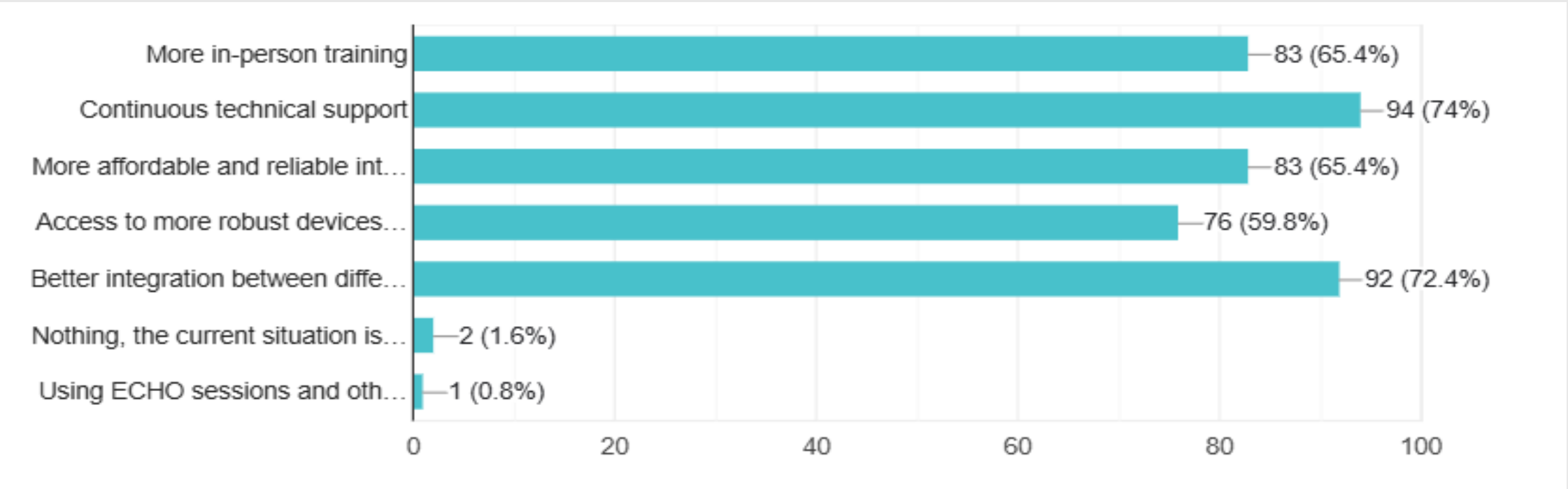
This question aimed to identify the most effective mix of training methods for healthcare professionals. **Over 65%** of respondents highlighted the need for more in-person training alongside affordable and reliable internet access.

In addition, **more than 70%** emphasised the importance of continuous support and better integration across digital tools, reinforcing the need for a more connected and sustained approach to digital training.

Generally, there is high confidence in basic digital and mobile tools, with **80%** eager for advanced digital certification.

However, only **15%** feel confident interpreting AI-driven diagnostics or large datasets, revealing a clear skills gap between usage and analytical capability.

What kind of support would be most helpful to you in effectively using digital health technologies? (Check all that apply)

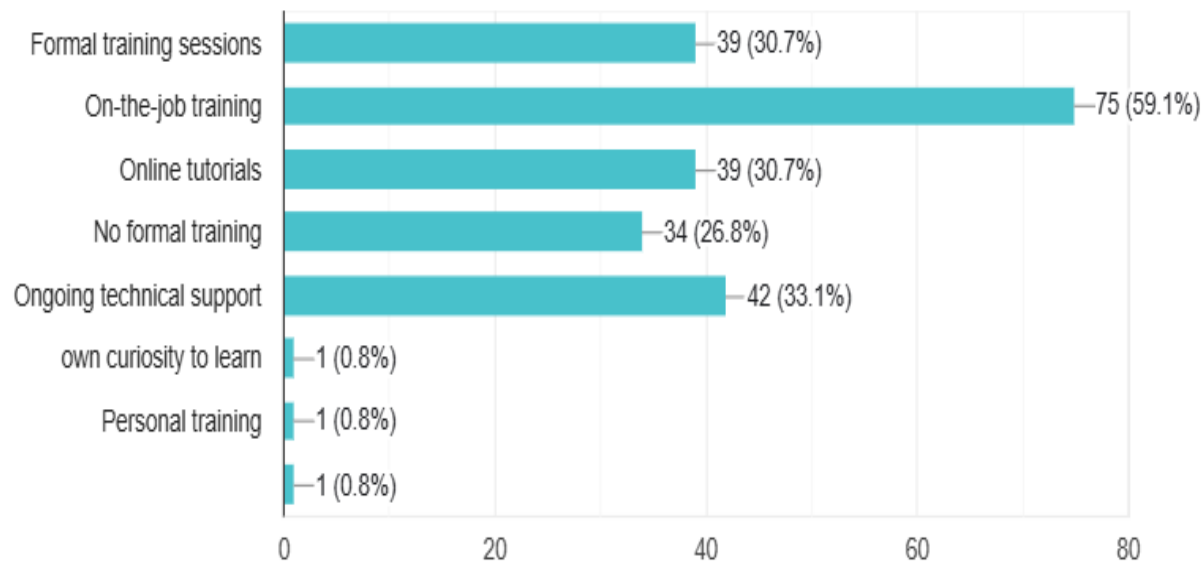


Assessing digital skills across a company helps identify workforce needs and informs a focused upskilling and training plan aligned with organisational goals.

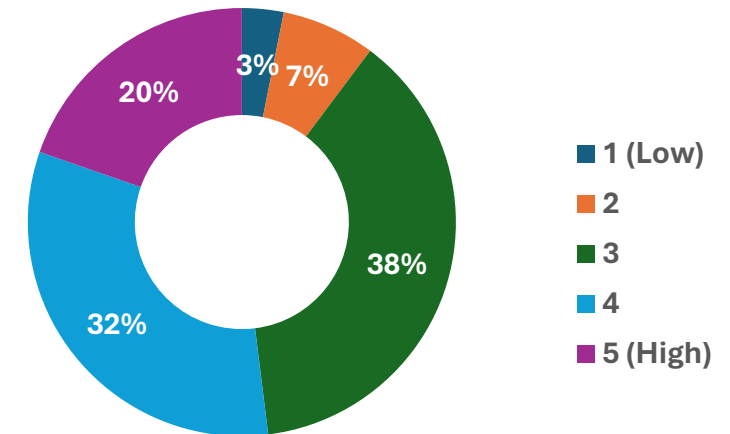
In the graph below, HCPs selected the types of training they have received.

In addition, they also rated their levels of digital literacy on a scale of 1 (being the lowest) to 5 (being the highest). A slightly different question on assessing the HCP's view of the organisation's digital proficiency on a scale of 1 to 5 was also asked.

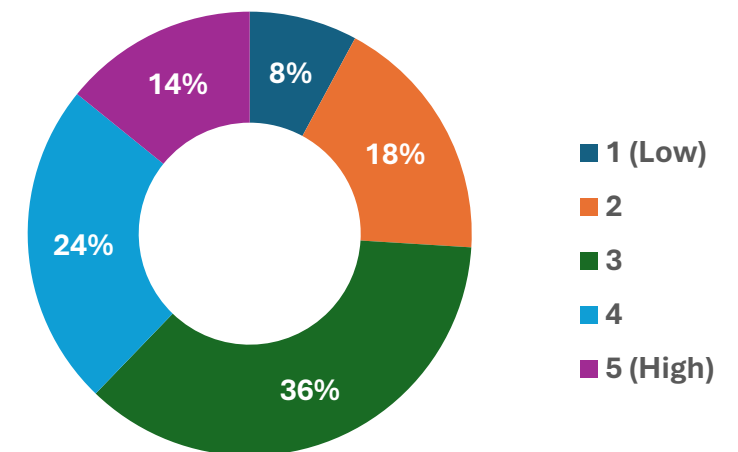
What kind of training or support have you received to use digital health technologies? (Check all that apply)



Self-Rated Digital Literacy Level



Organisation Digital Proficiency Rating



Policy, Governance, and Trust

A wooden gavel with a gold band and a brass scale of justice on a wooden base, set against a dark background.

The Governance Framework

Policy, Governance, and Trust

Policy and governance represent the bedrock upon which scalable digital health ecosystems are built. For digital transformation to move from isolated pilots to national and continental integration, governments must move beyond simple regulation to **active stewardship**. This requires a collaborative "guardrail" approach, integrating insights from:

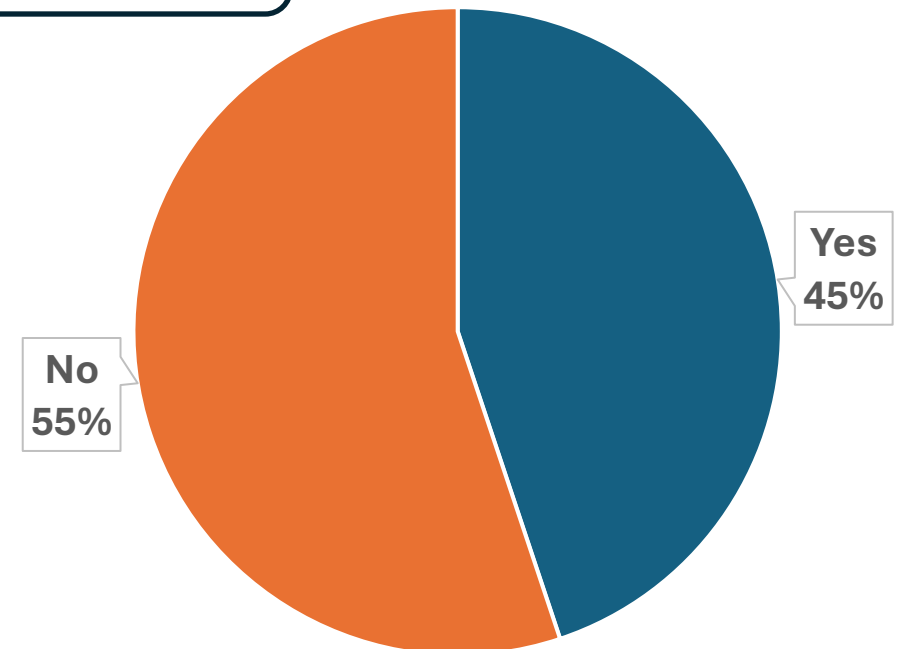
- **National Regulatory Bodies:** To ensure legal compliance.
- **Professional Medical Associations:** To maintain clinical standards and protect the patient-provider relationship.
- **Technical Experts:** To ensure the safety and efficacy of emerging algorithmic tools.

Strategic Progress and Global Alignment

Across the continent, a "**Digital First**" legislative trend is emerging. Several nations have successfully ratified **National Digital Health Transformation Strategies** and, more recently, **National AI Governance Frameworks**. These documents provide the necessary mandate for public-private partnerships; however, the transition from "Strategy" to "Enforcement" remains a key milestone for 2026.

“ **Governance should not be a barrier to innovation, but a catalyst for it. By establishing clear, ethical, and technical standards, we reduce the risk for HCPs and encourage the private sector to invest in the long-term health of the continent.** ”

Are you aware of any digital health strategy for your African country?

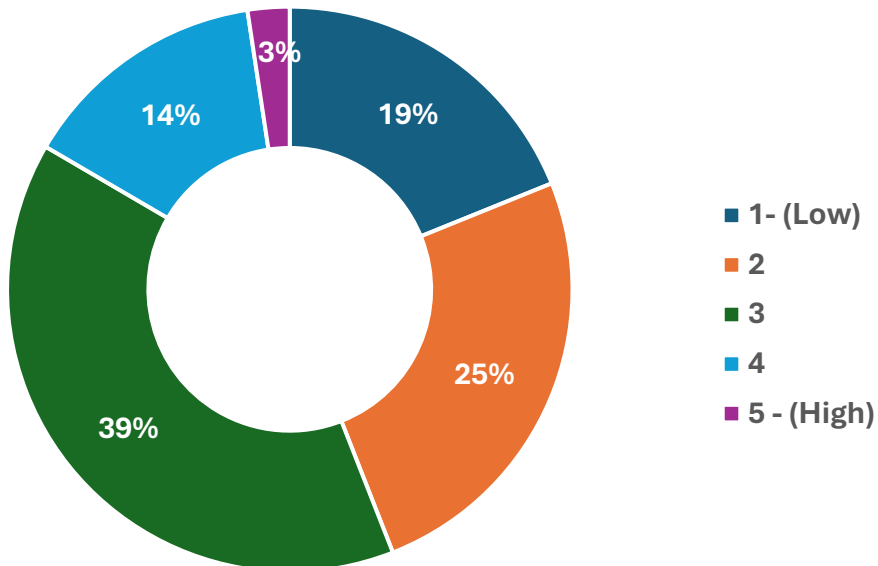


Standards, Interoperability, and Health Information Exchange (HIE)

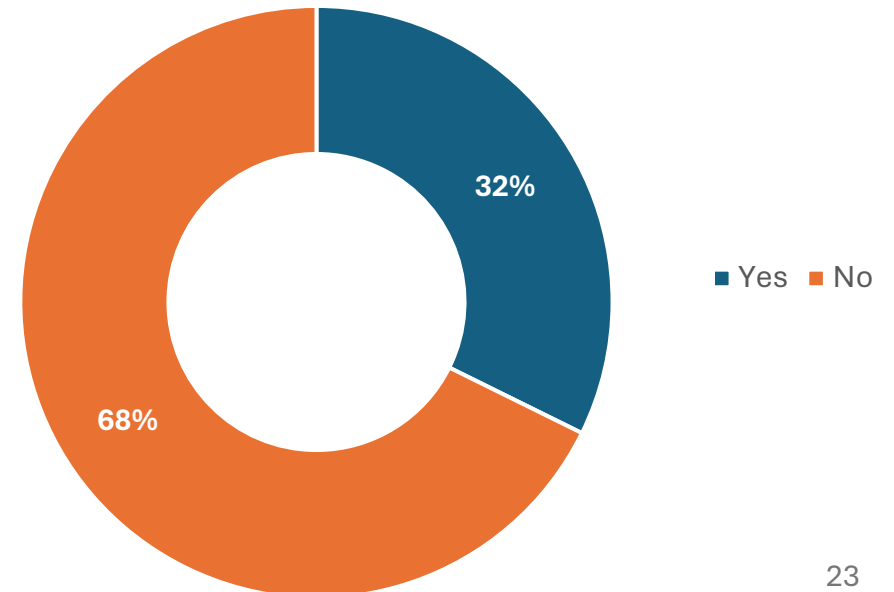
A major barrier identified in our 2026 survey is the fragmentation of health data. To power a true **Health Information Exchange (HIE)**, the following technical governance pillars are required:

- ❖ **Open Data Standards:** Adopting global frameworks such as **HL7 FHIR** and **DICOM** to ensure that data is portable across different proprietary systems.
- ❖ **Semantic Interoperability:** Ensuring that a diagnosis recorded in a rural clinic is interpreted with the same clinical meaning by a specialist in a national hospital.
- ❖ **Open APIs:** Encouraging a "Plug-and-Play" ecosystem where innovative local startups can securely connect to national health backbones.

What is your level of familiarity and knowledge of digital health strategies, governance and policies in general (from other Non-African countries, Global health organisations, etc.)?



Do you have access to governance information and policies (Open data, AI, Privacy, etc.) for your African country?

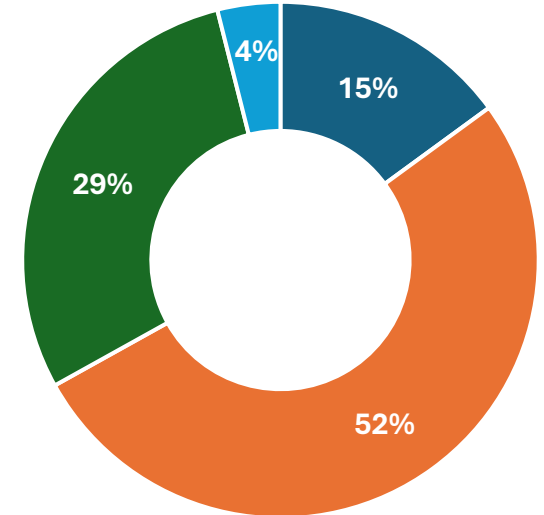


Equity & Policy

- **Closing the Digital Divide:** Strategies must prioritise "offline-first" capabilities to prevent rural communities from being left behind.
- **Data as a Public Good:** Ethical frameworks are needed to transform raw survey data into actionable national health policies.
- **Leadership Training:** There is a critical need for "Digital Literacy" programs for health ministry officials and hospital boards.
- **Data Sovereignty & Localisation:** As cloud computing becomes the norm, policies must clarify where African patient data is stored, who owns it, and how it is protected from extra-continental exploitation.
- **Algorithmic Accountability:** With the rise of AI Scribes and diagnostic tools, governance must define **liability**. If an AI tool provides a suggestion, the policy must clearly state the clinician's role as the final decision-maker to maintain trust in the technology.

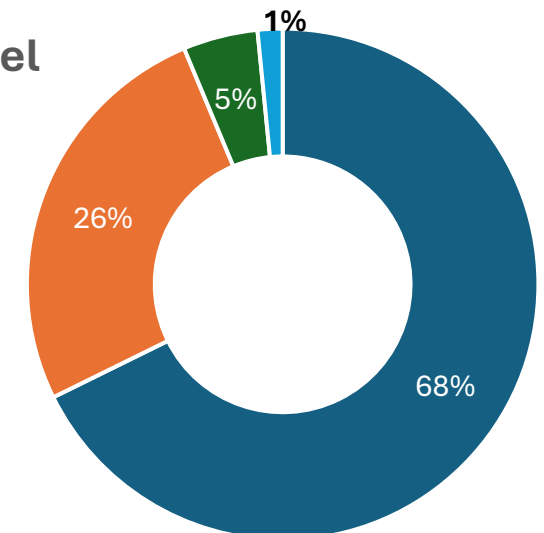
Community Trust in Digital Health

- Yes, trust completely
- Open but hesitant
- Skeptical/resistant
- No trust



Data Privacy Concern Level

- Very Concerned
- Somewhat Concerned
- Not Very Concerned
- Not Concerned at all



Implementation of Digital Health Solutions

To conclude the assessment, we performed a deep dive into the institutional mechanics of digital health.

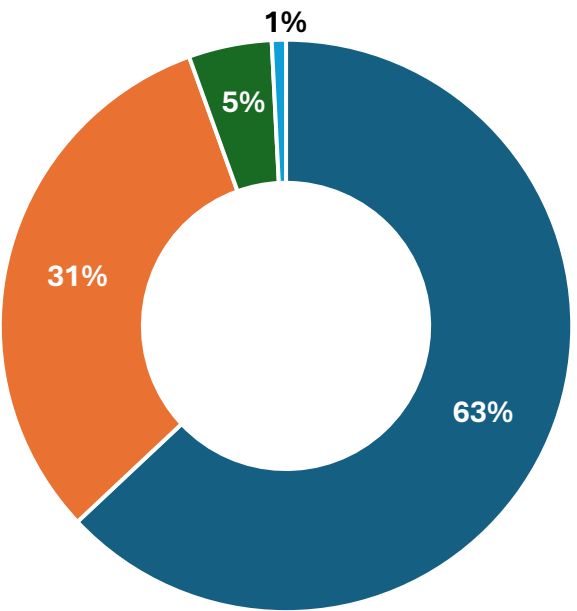
By evaluating healthcare professional experiences with **pilot programs, Health IT and Electronic Health Record (EHR) deployments**, this section identifies the 'success factors' that distinguish sustainable projects from those that fail to scale.

Key areas of focus include the adequacy of technical training and the impact of inclusive stakeholder involvement in the early design phases of clinical technology.

These insights provide a blueprint for moving from fragmented experimentation to sustainable, institution-wide digital health transformation.

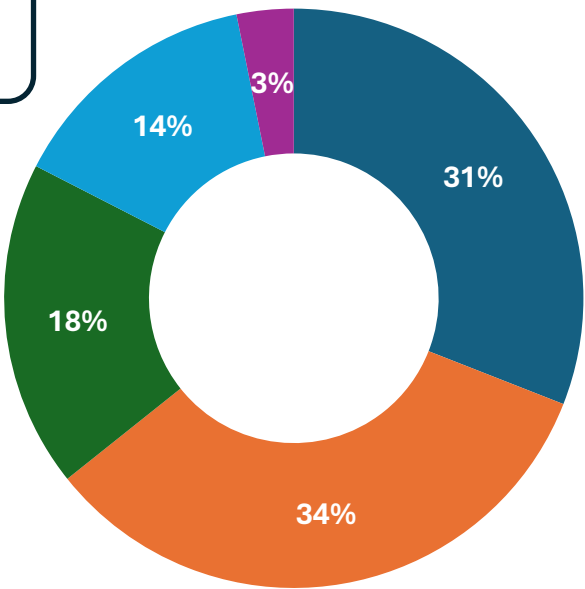
How important is it for digital health solutions to be developed by local innovators rather than foreign companies?

- Very important
- Important
- Not important
- Not important at all



How successful has pilot projects in digital health technology been in your organisation?

- Successfully implemented
- Partial - poorly implemented
- Partial - short use
- No projects done
- Unsuccessful



Strategic Imperatives for Digital Health Transformation



Strategic Imperatives for Digital Health Transformation

Africa's digital health ecosystem is at a pivotal inflection point. The findings of this survey highlight not only growing momentum, but a clear alignment between technological capability, clinical demand, and policy intent. However, realising the full potential of this opportunity requires deliberate, coordinated action.

To move from isolated innovation to systemic impact, six strategic imperatives must be prioritised by stakeholders across the healthcare landscape.

1. Healthcare Leadership

Executive leadership teams play a critical role in defining a clear digital vision, aligning it with organisational strategy, and embedding accountability for outcomes. Leaders must move beyond sponsorship to active ownership and championing digital health as a core pillar of clinical and operational excellence.

2. Governance and Regulatory Frameworks

Robust governance structures are essential to build trust and enable scale. This includes clear policies on data privacy, security, and ethical AI, as well as harmonised regulatory standards that support cross-border collaboration. "Trust by Design" must underpin all digital health initiatives to ensure patient confidence and long-term sustainability.

3. Architect for Interoperability and Scalability

Fragmented systems remain a significant barrier to progress. Healthcare organisations must prioritise interoperable, cloud-native architectures that allow seamless data exchange and integration across platforms. Designing for scalability from the outset will enable solutions to expand beyond pilot phases and deliver system-wide value.

4. Operationalise Human-Centered Design (HCD) in Clinical Settings

Digital solutions must be designed with the end user in mind—**both patients and healthcare professionals**. Embedding Human-Centered Design principles into clinical workflows ensures that technologies are intuitive, relevant, and capable of improving real-world outcomes. This shift from system-centric to human-centric design is fundamental to adoption and impact.

5. Workforce Training and Digital Upskilling

Technology adoption is only as effective as the people who use it. There is an urgent need to invest in continuous digital skills development across the healthcare workforce. Role-based training, tailored to clinical and administrative functions, will be critical in building confidence, competence, and long-term capability.

6. Change Management and Digital Transformation

Digital health transformation is not purely a technology initiative; it is an organisational change journey. Structured change management approaches are required to address cultural resistance, redesign workflows, and ensure alignment across stakeholders. Successful transformation depends on integrating digital into the fabric of how care is delivered, not layering it on top.

“ *The future of healthcare in Africa will not be determined by the technologies we adopt, but by how intentionally we align leadership, people, and systems to turn digital potential into real-world impact.* ”

Joel Ugborogho
Cenhealth



Healthcare Leadership

- ❖ **Cultivate Evidence-Based Leadership:** Hospital boards and health ministries must transition to data-informed decision-making, using real-time analytics from this digital ecosystem to allocate resources where they are most needed.
- ❖ **Transition to "Digital Champions":** Move beyond being end-users. Participate in hospital IT steering committees to ensure software procurement prioritizes clinical workflow over administrative ease.
- ❖ **Advocate for Interoperability:** Refuse the adoption of "siloes" tools. Push for platforms that use global standards (like HL7 FHIR) to ensure patient data follows the patient, not the provider.
- ❖ **Prioritise Offline-First Functionality:** Given the rural connectivity gap, procure digital tools that allow for data synchronisation once a connection is re-established, ensuring continuity of care in remote areas.



Governance and Regulatory Frameworks

- ❖ **Establish Cross-Border Data Standards:** Governments and regional bodies must collaborate to create unified standards for Open Data and Data Sovereignty. This ensures that digital health solutions can scale across borders without facing fragmented legal hurdles.
- ❖ **Incentivise "Privacy by Design":** Policy should move beyond mere compliance to incentivising organisations that bake high-tier cybersecurity and patient data protections into the very foundation of their tech stack.
- ❖ **For AI programmes, Cross-governance integration** is what is required. This is because AI systems don't introduce a single category of risk, they concentrate data risk, cyber risk, and operational risk into one capability.
 - **Data Governance** - Ensures that the data used to train and operate AI systems is lawful, high-quality, and ethically sourced.
 - **Security Governance** - Focuses on protecting AI systems from adversarial threats such as data poisoning, model manipulation, and unauthorised access.
 - **Operational Risk Integration** - Positions AI risk within the organisation's existing Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework.



Interoperability and Scalability

- ❖ **Move Beyond "Pilotitis":** We recommend a shift in funding and strategy toward Enterprise-Grade Infrastructure. Solutions should be evaluated based on their ability to integrate with existing national health information systems (NHIS) rather than operating as standalone "silos."
- ❖ **Prioritise Cloud-Native and AI-Ready Backends:** To truly "leapfrog" legacy systems, investments must favour modular, API-first architectures that allow for the seamless integration of emerging AI diagnostic tools and remote monitoring devices.



Workforce Training and Digital Upskilling

- ❖ **Build a "Digital-First" Workforce:** The success of these technologies relies on the people using them. We recommend national-level training programs that equip healthcare professionals from community health workers to specialist surgeons with the skills to interpret data-driven insights.
- ❖ **Hybrid Training Models:** Move away from one-off workshops. Implement peer-to-peer "Shadowing Programs" where tech-savvy clinicians mentor those struggling with new digital workflows.
- ❖ **Upskill in Data Interpretation:** Focus professional development on "Data Hygiene" and basic analytics. The ability to interpret AI-assisted diagnostics will be a core clinical competency by 2030.



Human Centered Design (in clinical settings)

- ❖ **Workflow Integration over Tech Insertion:** Technology should not be an "add-on" to a doctor's day; it must be the "engine." We recommend co-designing digital tools with frontline clinicians to ensure that EMRs and diagnostic apps reduce administrative friction rather than increasing it.
- ❖ **Enhance the Patient Journey:** Digital health tools must be designed with the end-consumer's digital literacy in mind. **Prioritising "Offline-First"** capabilities ensures that the benefits of digital health reach the last mile, regardless of intermittent connectivity.



Change Management and Digital Transformation

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Survey Methodology and Scope



Methodology and Scope

Conducted between November and December 2025, this study represents a collaborative initiative by **Cenhealth Academy, UrbanHealth 360 and Kambo Health Initiative**.

The survey successfully engaged **127 practitioners** spanning more than **15 African nations**, including members of the African diaspora with extensive professional and clinical experience on the continent.

The research framework was built around five core **Thematic Pillars**:

- **Respondent Profile:** Understanding the professional background of the workforce.
- **Technical Infrastructure:** Assessing the foundational hardware and connectivity landscape.
- **Human Capacity and Capability:** Evaluating skills, training, and workforce readiness.
- **Policy, Governance, and Trust:** Analysing the regulatory and ethical environment.
- **Digital Health Literacy:** Measuring baseline awareness and knowledge of emerging technologies.

To ensure a high-fidelity data set, the survey utilised a hybrid instrument comprising multiple-choice, binary, and qualitative open-ended questions.

Outreach was executed through a targeted multi-channel strategy, leveraging LinkedIn and direct engagement with healthcare professional networks to ensure the quality of responses.

Methodological Context and Geographic Reach

We acknowledge that the survey window coincided with the Q4 year-end close for many organisations, which likely impacted the overall response volume. However, the data gathered provides a **robust and statistically significant baseline** for the current state of the industry.

Future iterations of this study will be scheduled to optimize participation windows and further broaden our geographic footprint across the continent.

Primary Geographic Representation:

- **Top 5 African Nations:** Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, and Uganda.
- **Top Diaspora Hubs:** United Kingdom and Canada.

Despite the concentrated timing, the diversity of perspectives captured, ranging from local clinicians to international experts, which provides a rich, multifaceted view of the African digital health landscape.

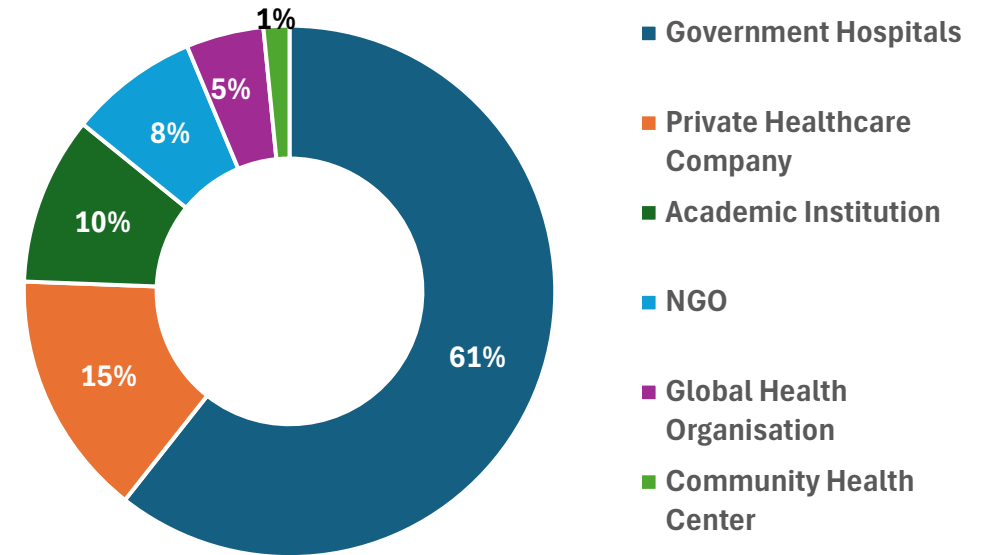
This diversity ensures that the insights within this report are both grounded in local reality and informed by global best practices, setting a vibrant stage for the digital transformations ahead.

Demographics

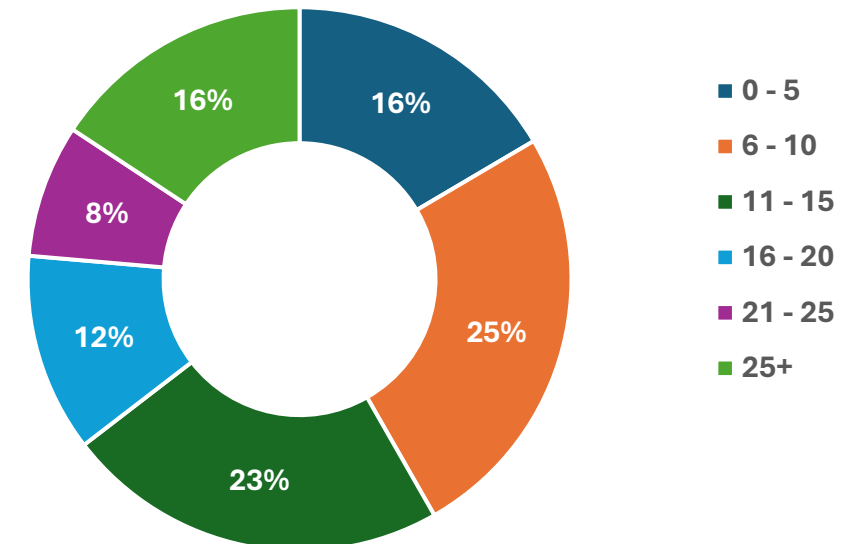
Job roles/Description

- **Medical Doctors and Physicians:** A significant number of responses indicated roles as Medical Doctor, Doctor, Physician, or Medical Officer.
- **Laboratory Professionals:** There is a high frequency of responses from Medical Laboratory Scientists, Lab Scientists, Medical Laboratory Specialists, Technicians, and those in laboratory management or services.
- **Nurses and Midwives:** Several respondents identified as Registered Nurse, Nurse, Nurse Researcher, or Occupational Health Nurse Practitioner.
- **Public Health and Research:** Roles related to Public Health Specialist/Expert, Researcher, and those overseeing healthcare delivery or technical detection and response were noted.
- **Management and Leadership:** The responses included roles such as Director, Manager, Head of Department, Coordinator, and CEO/Founder.

Type of Healthcare Organisation



Years of experience



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