Built to Last: the Making of Sustainable Human Resources for Digital Health

August Meeting of Global Digital Health Network

Built to Last: the Making of Sustainable Human Resources for Digital Health

Tom Oluoch, PhD

HELINA President

Presentation to the Global Digital Health Network – 18th Aug. 2020

www.helina-online.org   HELINA   www.helinanet.org

About HELINA

- HELINA is the Pan African Health Informatics Association and the African regional body of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA). Founded in 1993 in Nigeria under the auspices of IMIA.

- Primary purpose is to promote education and research in health informatics and implementation of ethical, modern and evidence-based eHealth projects to enhance access to quality healthcare in Africa.

- HELINA subscribes fully to IMIA's vision: *"There will be a world-wide systems approach for healthcare"*.

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- HELINA holds annual scientific conferences (~150-200 participants). Conferences include hands-on pre-conference workshops run by experts in priority topics in digital health.
  - HELINA-2019 pre-conference workshops featured Data Science, Drones in Public Health and Scientific Writing.

HELINA's Vision and Mission

Vision:

Quality healthcare for all in Africa transformed through health informatics research, development, implementation, and education.
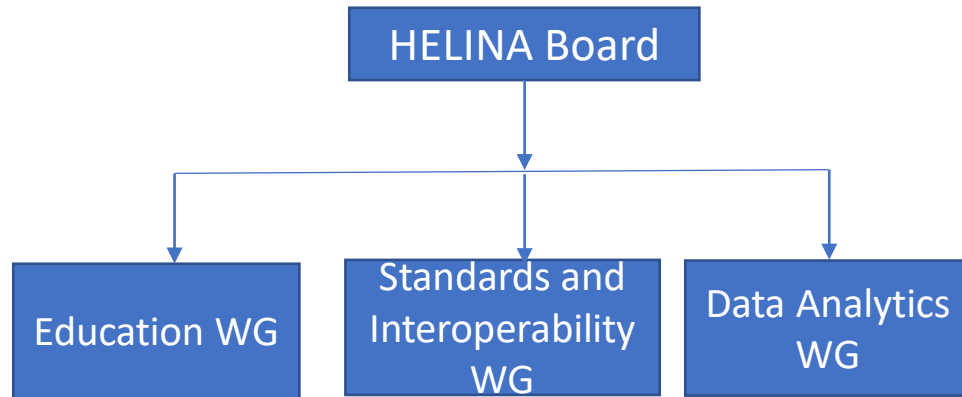
Mission:

To guide and support national member associations so that they can become the collective voice of health informatics in Africa, providing a meaningful forum for health informatics research, development, implementation, education, standards development, and technology adoption for the region.
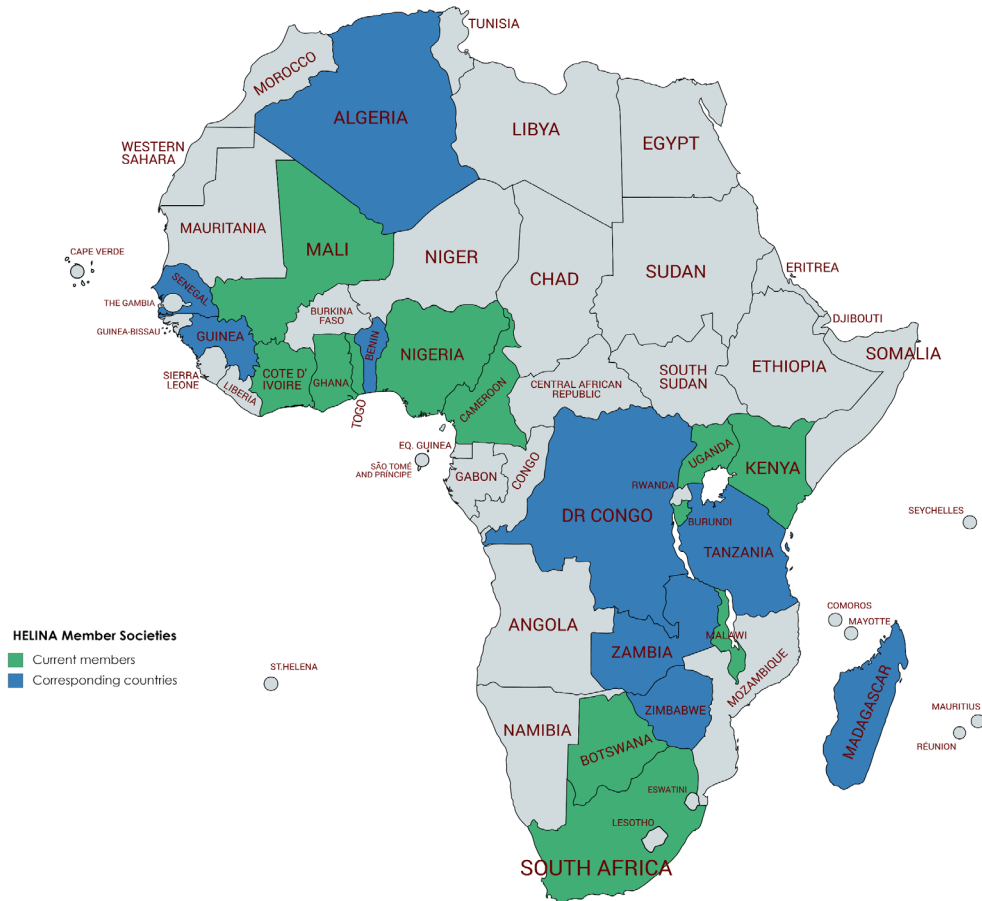
Governance Structure

- *Education WG:* Focuses on building capacity through pre-service education and applied training on health informatics.

- *Standards and Interoperability WG:* Supporting countries establish standards and policies on health information exchange. Exchange experiences on implementation of open standards.

- *Data Analytics and Big Data WG:* Application of AI and ML for advanced data analysis and modeling to enhance data use.

HELINA Member Societies

HELINA Member Societies
- Current members
- Corresponding countries

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- Current members (n=12)
  - Botswana, Burundi, Cameroun, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Uganda

- Collaborating Countries (n=9)
  - Algeria, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Madagascar, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

  * collaborations are thru Ministries of Health and Universities.

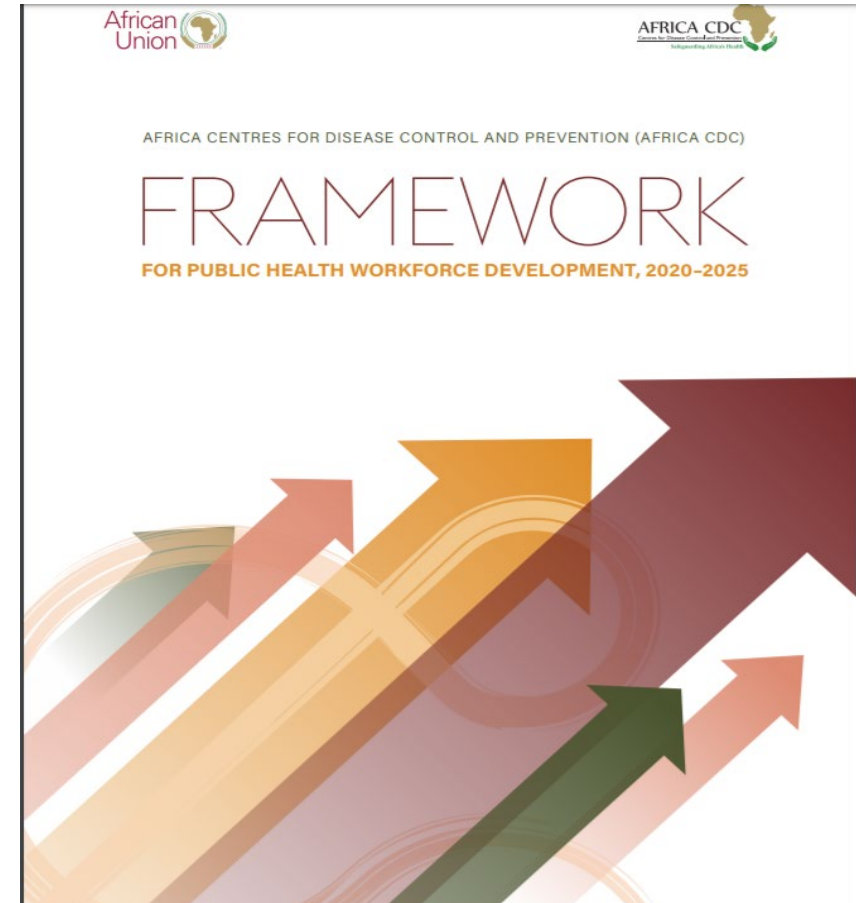www.helina-online.org   www.helinanet.org

Recent and Current Capacity Development Activities

- EWGs Activities:
  - Harmonization of Curriculum for Master in Health Informatics in E. Africa
  - Online tools for capacity development and collaboration
  - Collaboration on GEEKS (Growing eHealth Expertise and Knowledge) with US CDC

- Annual HELINA conference: currently planning for HELINA 2021 in Uganda (jointly with UgHIA). Papers published in JHIA (https://www.jhia-online.org/index.php/jhia).

- Forging stronger community engagement (national societies, WGs, partners, individuals). Proposal to establish secretariat in Ghana.

Recent and Current HELINA Activities

- Collaboration with Africa-CDC
  - Members of Taskforce that developed the framework for public health workforce development 2020-2025: https://africacdc.org/download/framework-for-public-health-workforce-development-2020-2025/

- Actively seeking partnerships (technical and funding) for future sustainable capacity development initiatives for research, education and implementation of digital health.

African Union

AFRICA CDC

AFRICA CENTRES FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (AFRICA CDC)

FRAMEWORK

FOR PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, 2020-2025

Goals over the next 2 years

- Strengthening the activities of the WGs through networks and partnerships with key stakeholders (incl. academia)

- Enhanced participation of national societies in respective country digital health capacity development initiatives (policy, curricula review, eHealth strategies)

- Webinars, workshops and training opportunities on digital (targeting technical and leadership levels). Covid-related webinars as examples

- Enhanced visibility and participation in the HELINA Conferences for increased interest in research and collaboration with Universities.

Today's presenters

GHIA — GHANA HEALTH INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION
Promoting and Championing Excellence in Health informatics in Ghana

Uganda Health Informatics Association (UgHIA)

Kenya Health Informatics Association

Global Digital Health Network August Meeting

Theme:

Built to Last: The Making of Sustainable Human Resources for Digital Health

Frances Baaba da-Costa Vroom, PhD
Executive Member,
Ghana Health Informatics Association (GHIA)

About GHIA

- Non-profit organisation for Health Informatics Professionals in Ghana

- Need for a strong voice for the practice of health informatics by graduates of the various health informatics programmes in Ghana

- Membership include Health Informaticians, Doctors, Health Information Officers, Pharmacists, Researchers, Data Scientists, Nurses, Computer Scientists, Entrepreneurs and Students

Mission

To provide leadership to the Health Informatics community to support healthcare delivery in Ghana through modern and cutting edge ICT solutions

Vision

To improve healthcare delivery in Ghana through Information and Communication Technology (ICT), research and health information management

Strategic Objectives

- Advocate for scheme of service for HI professionals in Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service

- Provide learning and professional development for members

- Build linkages with other local health professional bodies and regulatory bodies (e.g. Ghana Medical Association, Nursing & Midwifery Council, Pharmacy Council)

- Advocate for the adoption of eHealth for service delivery at all levels

- Provide representation for members on all relevant national and international bodies to champion members' interests

Key Activities

- Meetings and presentations to key partners such as Ghana Medical Association etc.

- Obtaining appropriate placement for undergraduate students for National Service after graduation

- Development of digital health related CPDs for other health professionals

- Building member capacity through seminars and workshops

Some Lessons Learned

- Fiscal space in government agencies to hire HI professionals is limited in-country

- Trained HI professionals still play other roles as Biostatisticians and Health Information officers

- More public sensitisation on HI is needed

- More clear cut job roles need to be defined

www.ghanahia.org

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THANK YOU

GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH NETWORK AUGUST 2020

"Built to Last: The Making of Sustainable Human Resources for Digital Health"

Carolyn Kamasaka
President
Uganda Health Informatics Association
ckamasaka@ughia.org
www.ughia.org

18th August 2020

About UGHIA

- A Member based non for profit organization for Health Informatics Professionals in Uganda.

- Brings to Together, Doctors, Nurses, Clinicians, Health Scientists, Researchers, Computer Scientists, Data Scientists, Health Information Scientists, Health Informaticians and Digital Health Enthusiasts.

- To provide a **STRONG ADVOCACY PLATFORM** to discuss collective interests related to use of Digital Health in Uganda.

- Works by engaging in activities that bring its members to discuss e-health matters such as Trainings and Seminars, Research, Participation in digital health national policy formulation

Our Vision and Mission

- **Vision** – "*To grow and nurture a collaborative Health Informatics community that encourages and supports the use of Information Technology innovations that contribute to improved health care, better quality, accessible and sustainability of health services and health outcomes in Uganda and it neighbors.*"

- **Mission -** *"To bring together health informatics professionals in Uganda to advance health informatics science education, and practice through mutual learning and exchange of knowledge, skills and ideas"*

Our Objectives and Strategies

Objectives: *Advocacy, Collaboration, Membership and Capacity Strengthening, Promote Academic and Professional Excellence through Research.*

Strategies
- Build individual and institutional health Informatics capacity in Uganda.

- Work with the government and health partners to support development and implementation of digital health policies, strategies, and standards for digital health governance and stewardship in Uganda

- Support ehealth Research

Our Key Activities

1. To Host the HELINA Pan African Scientific Conference in March 2021

2. Hold Monthly Topical Seminars for members to share Knowledge

3. Publish a Quarterly Newsletter with Topical issues for knowledge sharing.

4. Conduct Focused Short IT Courses for Health Workers across Uganda to improve their IT knowledge and skills through the **BUHIC** Program.

5. Partner with Institutions of Higher Learning to Promote Health Informatics Focused research.

6. Build a Collaboration Innovations Hub to produce relevant Digital Software Application for use in the Health Sector

Call to the Global Health Community/GDHN

1. *To call on the Global Health Community to ready themselves to attend the HELINA Pan African Conference in March 2021 in Uganda.*

2. *To call the Global Health Community to Collaborate and engage with our members on e-health related Research.*

3. *To partner with the Association as the First point of contact for Digital Health Labour to advance Jobs as well volunteer opportunities to our members for tested knowledge and trusted skills.*

4. *To partner with Association to Build an Innovation Hub and Software Testing Center to Produce relevant Software Tools & skills.*

Contact Us

www.ughia.org
info@uhgia.org

Sustainable Human Resources for Digital Health

Kenya Health Informatics Association

secretary@kehia.org | www.kehia.org

What is KeHIA?

★ A professional member society legally registered by the Government of Kenya in 2012.

★ Primary goal is to promote development and practice of biomedical informatics in Kenya

★ More than 250 active members drawn from; Health Sciences, Information Sciences, Computer Science, Public Health, Bioethics and Law, Policy and Governance primarily in public and private health sector

History and Leadership

A group of practising Kenyan informaticians attending the MEDINFO 2010 hosted by SAHIA were inspired to start a professional society in Kenya

Investments in digital health were just starting to pick with significant digital health initiatives like country-wide implementations of EMRs just commencing

Tom Oluoch CDC

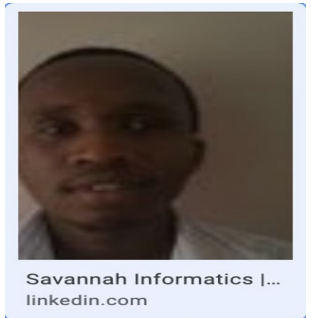**Chairman**

Davies Kimanga, CDC

Deputy Chairman

Martin Osumba,
RTI International

Treasurer

Steven Wanyee, IntelliS...

Secretary General

Savannah Informatics |...
linkedin.com

Deputy Sec. Gen

Key Achievements...

Convened and hosted various international digital health conferences and workshops including; HELINA, OpenMRS, Interoperability Maturity Toolkit Validation

As a neutral convener, hosted several digital health symposia on sensitive topics of national interest

Contributed critical input to informatics pre-service curriculum development

Opportunities to Partner...

Technical Advancement through
WGs across;

FIGURE 2 COMPONENTS CONTRIBUTING TO DIGITAL HEALTH IMPLEMENTATIONS

Key Activities:

Establishment KeHIA Informatics Journal (KIJ)
following successes of KeHIA Newsletter

Neutral convener/host for important digital
health discussions

Certification of professional competency

Professional opinion about the local landscape...

...

If interested learn more and to explore partnership with KeHIA, please write to

secretary@kehia.org