

## Press Release

### Catalyzing Scalable Health Innovations for UHC Impact

The Lake Region Economic Block in partnership with Insight Health Advisors Limited, are elated to host the second health innovation fair themed; 'Catalyzing Scalable Health Innovations for UHC Impact'. The innovation fair aims at supporting public sector scaling of health innovation as a key solution to health system strengthening and attainment of universal health coverage. The fair will be held at Maseno University, Main campus on May 28,2025.

#### Background

In September 2020, Insight Health Advisors (IHA), in collaboration with R4D, carried out a Landscape Assessment in Kenya commissioned by Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) to understand the barriers to public sector scaling of innovations on supply and public sector demand side. Building on the insights from the Landscape Assessment, a broad six-stage public sector scaling model called **mountain model** was designed to make sustainable progress in sourcing and scaling innovations to meet public health sector needs.

The stages of the Mountain Model include; **(1) articulation of demand; (2) scanning, assessment and selection of priority innovations by the counties; (3) identification of relevant, feasible and prudent scaling pathways for the selected innovations; (4) identification, quantification, attraction, mobilization and allocation/reallocation of resources needed to successfully scale selected innovations;(5) implementation and execution of appropriate agreements and arrangements between county governments and innovators to procure and initiate adoption and scaling of innovations; and (6) an overarching continuous process of ensuring institutionalizing of relevant structures, systems and policies for scanning, identifying, adoption and scaling of health innovations and for driving the necessary change management aspects to integrate innovations in the public health system.**

IHA in consultations with the Council of Governors (COG), CEC Health Caucus and Ministry of Health in Kenya, selected and received expressions of interest from Kajiado and Makueni county health departments to undertake a facilitated process to implement the Mountain Model to identify and scale demand driven health innovations that will support county health goals and objectives. Following a very intensive bottom-up demand articulation process in stage 1 of the model. The priority demand areas for Kajiado and Makueni county respectively included; **Kajiado County - Human resources for health distribution, supply chain management systems, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) -Rural and urban sanitation, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child Health (RMNCH)Service and Healthcare Financing. In Makueni County, the prioritized demand areas included; Health information management systems, Maternal and new-born care, Level 1 care: Community health services sustainability and human resources for health management.**

An innovation fair was held that drew participation from both local and international innovators, ministry of health and the Canadian Embassy. Makueni county department of health cohort selected two innovative solutions as per their articulated demand priorities. The two were;

- i. **VACCIBOX**, a product/device innovation – IOT enabled, solar powered and portable refrigerator for sustaining the cold chain storage and movement of Vaccines.
- ii. **CHUSLA**, a process innovation to support the CHPs in provision of Primary healthcare.

**Similarly, Kajiado county chose:**

- I. **Sono Mobile** - An innovation that provides high-quality obstetric ultrasonography services in primary healthcare clinics (PHC).
- II. **Sanivation** -Proprietary waste processing system for non-sewered, low-income urban communities that cost-effectively manages, treats and converts fecal sludge into biomass fuel for sale to industries

### **Phase two of the public sector scaling of health innovation and innovation fair.**

The phase two of public sector scaling of health innovation under the mountain model is being implemented in the lake region economic block (LREB). Through an intense and consultative demand articulation process with the LREB selected cohort members in the 14 counties, there were five demand areas that were identified that include;

- a) **Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH);** Poor utilization of RMNCAH services leading to poor outcomes such as high maternal and perinatal morbidity, high HIV infections among the youths and neonates and high teenage pregnancies.
- b) **Health Information Management Systems (HIMS);** non responsive system that does not support evidence-based decision making.
- c) **Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** and other Specialized services; Inadequately resourced services to support quality accessible services
- d) **Emergency medical Response & Referrals Systems.** Ineffective medical response and poor transport system
- e) **Community Engagement;** Ineffective provision of community health services due to inadequate support of community health promoters

LREB incollaboration with IHA is currently implementing the stage two of the mountain model. The main objective of stage two is to scan and identify the existing innovations that meet the above identified needs of LREB region that were prioritized during the demand articulation.

LREB in partnership with IHA and Maseno university will be hosting the second health innovation fair at Maseno University this is a rigorous innovations search that was initiated by an open call for innovations using various digital platforms. Thereafter an intense assessment will be done by selected judges and panel of experts through a well defined and inclusive selection criteria.

Insight Heath Advisors Limited is a health systems strengthening and research firm, working in various African countries to strengthen health systems and markets to facilitate greater access to and use of quality healthcare services, products, and information for improved health outcomes.

IHA deploys innovative interventions at the health system and health market levels that catalyze change and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery. IHA's strategy is based on building strong partnerships with the public and private health sectors, communities and various local and international actors in health.

