

THE **Afya** NEWSLETTER

Issue 5 2025

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2025

www.afhea.org

AfHEA Conference 2025 – AFHEA Executive Board Chair Address

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished authorities of the City of Kigali, Distinguished representatives of AfHEA's partner institutions, Dear experts, colleagues, and participants, in your respective ranks and titles. It is with a deep pleasure and a special honor that I welcome you to the #AfHEA2025 Conference. This comes on the heels of our last conference in 2022, which was held virtually. First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Rwandan authorities, whose warm welcome and exemplary support have enabled us to organize this event here in Kigali. Kigali—a city emblematic of progress and innovation—symbolizes, for us Africans, the renewal and resilience of our continent as we gather to share our experiences and visions on a matter of crucial importance. “Resilient and Robust African Health Systems: Contributions of Health Economics and Policy.” This year's theme reflects our shared commitment to enhancing public health across our continent. A fundamental pillar of this endeavor is the strengthening of primary healthcare, the true cornerstone toward achieving universal health coverage. Indeed, health systems built on strong primary healthcare services are indispensable for ensuring equitable, continuous, and high-quality access to essential health services if we are to effectively progress toward universal health coverage. By placing primary healthcare at the heart of our health policies, we foster prevention, health promotion, and a rapid response to health emergencies. This intervention model, which integrates both community engagement and effective coordination among various stakeholders, not only enables more cost-effective management of health challenges but also strengthens the resilience of the entire health system.

This theme was carefully chosen to address the current and future challenges of our health systems. This conference will provide a forum to debate essential topics such as the strengthening of primary healthcare, innovative financing, equitable access to services, community engagement, improvements in infrastructure and digital technologies, as well as preparedness for health emergencies and governance. Each of these aspects, as you know, plays a decisive role in building a sustainable and high-performing health system.

At this point, I would like to express, on behalf of AfHEA, my sincere and deep gratitude to all our financial and institutional partners, without whom this gathering would not have been possible. Their unwavering support is a testimonial to the strength of our collaboration and our shared determination to transform health systems in Africa.

Dear participants, experts, and members of AfHEA, I sincerely hope that this conference will be a resounding success. May our discussions and reflections pave the way toward increasingly effective, evidence-based health policies. Together, let us make this gathering a decisive moment for the future of health in Africa, and ensure the ongoing prosperity of AfHEA in its mission to support and enhance health policies across our continent.

Have an excellent 2025 Conference.
Thank you! Murakoze!

Dr. Renée Tania Bissouma-Ledjou
AfHEA Board Chair

AFHEA NEWSLETTER

From its inception, AfHEA has been more than just an association. It has been a movement, a force for change shaping the future of health economics and policy across the African landscape. Even the name AfHEA was crafted with intentionality, chosen for its deep-rooted connection to the Swahili word “Afya”, meaning health; a term that resonates across multiple African languages. This linguistic harmony reflects our core mission: advancing African health and well-being through high-impact research, advocacy, and collaboration.

It is in this spirit that we bring you Afya, our official newsletter; more than just a publication, it is a pulse check on the latest innovations, milestones, and contributions from AfHEA. Through Afya, we keep our members, partners, and the global health community informed, engaged, and inspired by the transformative work happening within and beyond our network. Stay tuned, stay connected, and join us in shaping Africa's health future: one edition at a time.





About the seventh AfHEA International Scientific Conference

We are thrilled to welcome you to #AfHEA2025, the 7th Biennial Scientific Conference of the African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA), at the iconic Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda, from March 10 to 14, 2025. This year's conference theme, "Resilient and Strong African Health Systems: Contributions of Health Economics and Health Policy", sets the stage for critical discussions on transforming healthcare systems across the continent. As we navigate an era defined by global health challenges,

economic shifts, and technological advancements, this gathering will bring together thought leaders, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to explore groundbreaking solutions that will shape Africa's health future. The conference marks a return to fully in-person engagement, fostering dynamic, real-time interactions, networking, and collaborative discourse. With a history of convening over 250 leading experts, AfHEA remains at the forefront of pioneering health financing, policy innovations, and sustainable healthcare solutions in Africa. The broad sub-themes of the conference are:

- Strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- Health Financing and Economic Sustainability
- Healthcare Access and Equity
- Community Engagement and Empowerment
- Health Infrastructure and Workforce
- Health Information Systems and Digital Health Technologies
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Health Outcomes and Performance Measurement
- Strengthening Health Systems Governance

It is an honour to have you participate in the conversation that will drive transformative change for Africa's health future and encourage you to benefit from unparalleled insights and engage with cutting-edge Health Economics, Health Financing and Health Policy research, debates, and real-world case studies. Leverage the unique networking opportunities that AfHEA offers to connect with high-level policymakers, donors, researchers, and health industry leaders. Together, let us build a strategic impact and contribute to shaping health financing and policy strategies for the future of Africa. #AfHEA2025 #HealthForAfrica #ResilientHealthSystems #UHC #HealthEconomics



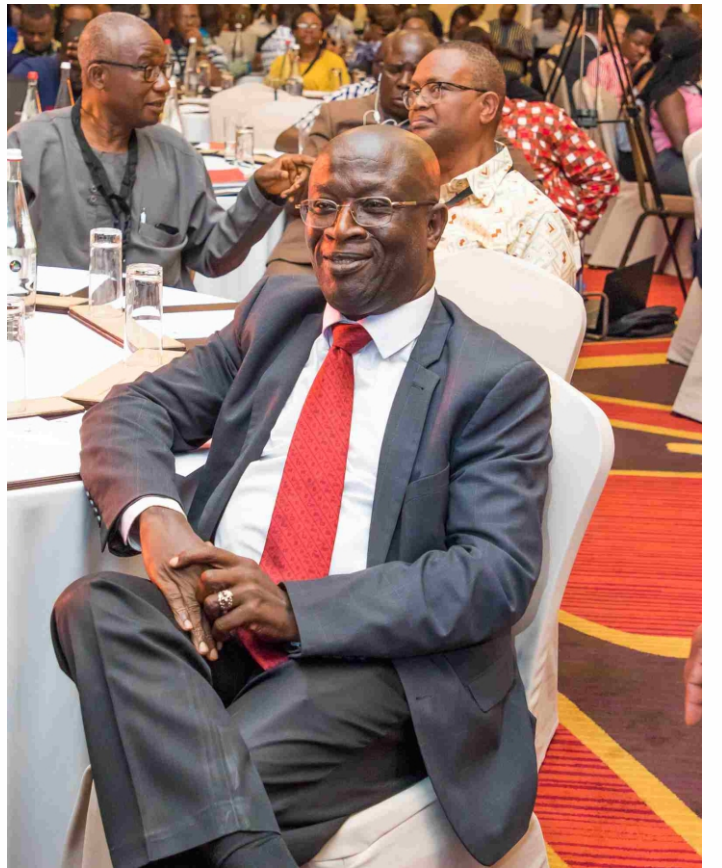
AfHEA's Scientific Conferences: Synopsis of participation over the years

For over a decade, the AfHEA Biennial Scientific Conferences have stood as a beacon of thought leadership, shaping the health research and policy agenda across Africa (click [here](#) to learn more on how we have contributed to research agenda setting). These high-level gatherings have provided a platform for groundbreaking research, strategic networking and discussions, as well as cross-sector collaboration, driving progress toward stronger, more resilient health systems.

- **Setting the Research Agenda:** Through rigorous discourse and evidence-based insights, AfHEA conferences have influenced health policies and financing strategies, reinforcing the role of health economics in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- **Capacity Building & Networking:** More than just a conference, AfHEA fosters a thriving community of health economists, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners. These events serve as catalysts for mentorship, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, equipping experts with the tools to drive impactful change.
- **A Growing Global Reach:** What started as a niche gathering has evolved into a premier scientific platform, attracting an average of 250+ participants from Africa and beyond—with the 2019 and 2022 editions surpassing 400 attendees. From students to senior policymakers, AfHEA conferences bring together a diverse mix of stakeholders, all united by a shared commitment to advancing healthcare systems.
- AfHEA has successfully held six (6) international scientific conferences since its inauguration, all directly or indirectly related to universal health coverage (UHC).

DATE	LOCATION	THEME
10-12 March, 2009	Accra, Ghana	Priorities of Health Economics in Africa
15-17 March, 2011	Saly, Senegal	Towards Universal Health Coverage in
11-13 March, 2014	Nairobi, Kenya	The Post-2015 African Health Agenda
26-29 September,	Rabat, Morocco	The Sustainable Development Goals
11-14 March, 2019	Accra, Ghana	Securing PHC for all: the foundation for making progress on UHC in Africa. The
7-11 March, 2022	Virtual	Towards Resilient Health Systems in Africa: The Role of Health Economics and Policy Research

Each AfHEA conference has successfully contributed uniquely to **policy innovations, health financing strategies, and evidence-driven reforms** towards **strengthening**



Photos: 5th Biennial Scientific Conference

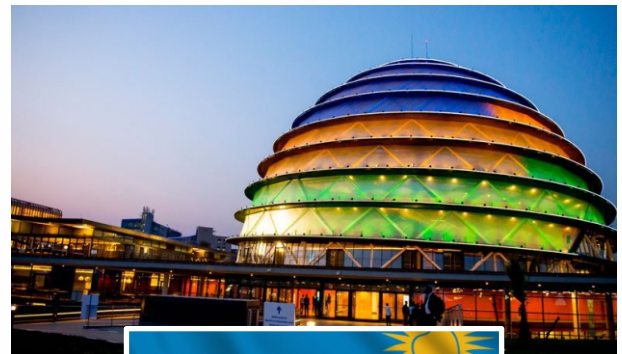
Recognizing our

Virtual Host— Kigali, Rwanda

Rwanda, known for picturesque scenery and warm, friendly people and considered the 'Land of a thousand hills' is one of the most remarkable countries in Africa and the world. Rwanda is a beautiful nation blessed with an incredible array of wildlife and biodiversity, vibrant culture and breathtaking landscape and architecture, making it a favourite tourist destination for many travelers. Having been ranked by the World Economic Forum as the 9th safest country in the world, it is a country big on climate action with plastic bags completely banned since 2008 and one of the cleanest places on the continent of Africa to visit.

Rwanda, our conference host is the perfect fusion of modernism, culture, and sustainability. It is considered the “Land of a Thousand Hills”, where breathtaking landscapes meet cutting-edge innovation, a deep heritage and forward-thinking design. A country of unparalleled beauty, resilience, and ambition, the East African country, has become a shining beacon in Africa and beyond. Rwanda has an incredible array of wildlife and biodiversity, vibrant ethos and breathtaking architecture, making it a favourite tourist destination for many travelers. As a global leader in sustainability and safety, Rwanda took a bold step in 2008 by banning plastic bags, setting a global benchmark for environmental responsibility, and climate action. Kigali, Rwanda's capital, is lauded as one of the cleanest & greenest nations, for its pristine streets and strong commitment to sustainability. A testament to Rwanda's stability, security, and hospitable environment is its ranking as one of the safest countries in the world by the World Economic Forum. Rwanda is also the hub of creativity, business and innovation, fast emerging as a leading tech incubator that is fostering groundbreaking advancements across AI, Fintech, and smart cities.

Coupled with being adjudged as one of the easiest place to do business in Africa by the World Bank, Rwanda offers one of the continent's most dynamic investment landscapes and spearheaded the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) to drive industrial growth and unlock immense economic potential across the continent. As AfHEA gathers the brightest minds in health economics and policy for #AfHEA2025, we are honored to do so in one of Africa's most remarkable nations. Rwanda is not just a conference destination—it is an experience of transformation, resilience, and possibility.



Photos: Rwanda, its flag and its beautiful sceneries



ABOUT AFHEA: SELECTED ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Who are we?

The African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA) is a bilingual (English and French) non-political and non-profit-making association inaugurated in March 2009 with headquarters in Accra, Ghana.

AfHEA's Vision:

Better and equitable health for Africans through better policies and efficient use of resources

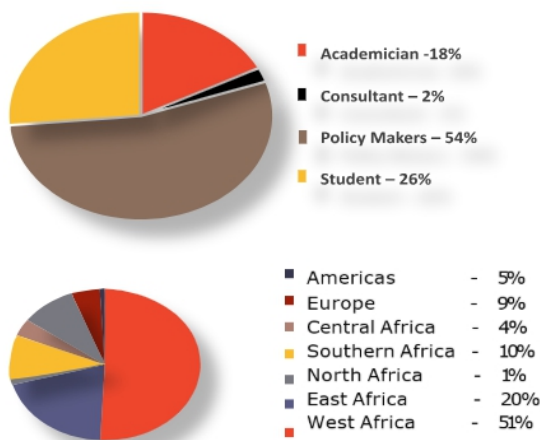
AfHEA's Mission:

To improve health outcomes, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable population groups, by promoting high-quality standards in the generation of policy-relevant evidence and the use of appropriate health economics tools within the discipline of health economics and financing in Africa.

AfHEA's Membership Membership is at the core of AfHEA, and is open to all Africans and non-Africans (including institutions) working on health and health care issues related to Africa. AfHEA membership has grown tremendously (and continues to grow) since it was officially registered on the 17th of September 2008. Our membership includes over 350 individual health economics, financing and policy experts, professionals and students, as well as health care practitioners from African countries residing within and outside the continent in non-governmental organizations, multilateral agencies, Universities or other research institutions and in government ministries across Africa. Membership also includes policy makers who share a passion for improving health care delivery through the implementation of best-practice research evidence and advocacy, in addition to institutional members including School of Public Health of the University of Ghana, Health Economics Unit of the University of Cape Town, CESAG of Senegal, Wits Health Consulting PTY Ltd, Results for Development (R4D), Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office (HE2RO) and BDOM (Bureau Diocésain des Oeuvres Médicales).

Join Us!

Prospective individual members are invited to complete a registration form and make a payment of \$106.00 which includes a one-time admin fee (\$20) and a year's membership fee (\$80), with the additional \$6 charged for online payment processing. Details on institutional membership can be found in the link below. As part of operational effectiveness and sustainability reforms, we are currently reviewing our membership strategy and benefit package to give more value to members. The new membership strategy and benefit package is expected to be completed and launched by mid-year. The strategy aims to provide more added value for members and keep members engaged not only at conferences, but all year round. The registration forms (in English and in French) can be downloaded from the AfHEA website at www.afhea.org or here for individual membership and here for institutional membership. Take action and kindly join us today.



Photos: Wide network of very committed individual members made up of 63% Male, 37% Female

OUR OBJECTIVES

Two overarching objectives drives AfHEA's core business model namely;

- Capacity strengthening in health economics, financing and policy
- Promotion of use of health economics tools to support policymakers in their decision-making process

The specific objectives that feed into these overarching objectives are to:

- Be a forum for information sharing and exchange among those working in health economics and related fields in Africa;

- Promote the development and retention of health economics capacity within Africa, with particular emphasis on supporting the needs of lower income countries to train and retain such experts
- Promote the production and dissemination of high-quality research findings by health economists and health policy analysts working in Africa and on Africa-related issues;
- Support health policy development and advise policy makers and health partners in African countries on viable options for equitable health care financing;
- Represent the interests of African health economists and health policy analysts in international forums (such as the International Health Economics Association) as well as to facilitate communications and relationships between health economists working in Africa and the broad international networks of academic, scientific and policy experts to foster mutual respect and understanding.



OUR OBJECTIVES

AfHEA offers technical expertise on critical health economics, financing and policy issues as related below:

- Policy analysis and advice
- Universal health coverage
- Adolescent, sexual & reproductive health
- Maternal newborn & child health
- Strategic Purchasing
- Costing of health services & economic evaluations
- Cost effectiveness analysis
- Technology assessments

SELECTED ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

i. Bilingual Character and Volunteerism

AfHEA is one of the very few genuinely bilingual communities of people on the continent, although not perfectly so. Also, AfHEA's hallmark unique culture of tremendous trust which motivates members to volunteer for assignments time and again. That is priceless.

ii. Health Economics and Financing Technical Assistance

Since its inception in 2009, AfHEA has provided technical assistance to various organizations and meetings. We highlight some of the more recent below:

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1. Technical Support to UNAIDS on global strategic analytical pieces. The Executive Director of AfHEA is a member of the Global Council on Inequality, AIDS and Pandemics set up by the UNAIDS and has provided support including developing guideline document for integrating HIV/AIDS into National Universal Health Coverage plans.

2. Technical Support to UNFPA on Investment Cases for Transformative Results. AfHEA since 2020 has been supporting UNFPA with technical support to support the development of Investment Cases for Transformative Results in some African Countries. This support has continued up to date with about five countries completing the development of their Investment Cases for Transformative Results (Botswana, Burundi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Sudan) while 2 others are currently ongoing, namely, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. The key UNFPA Transformative Results include ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning and ending gender-based violence. These pieces of work are key for advocacy for increased investment in these areas.

3. Technical contribution to a regional workshop on vaccine equity and manufacturing. As part of efforts towards vaccine equity in Africa, which is a key focus area of AfHEA's ECOVA project, AfHEA participated in a high-level two-day NextGen Experts Workshop organized by the African Constituency Bureau (ACB) of the Global Fund on the theme, "*African Position on Global Fund NextGen Market Shaping Strategy and Local Manufacturing*". The workshop took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from February 23 to 24, 2023 with participants from NEPAD, WHO, AFDB and UNAIDS among others. The discussions centered on local vaccine manufacturing in Africa and the four approaches of Global Fund's NextGen Market Shaping Strategy. The high-level meeting was aimed at developing a roadmap for advocacy and political engagement, drafting a position statement for Africa and its implications for NextGen Market Shaping, and providing inputs to guide the next market-shaping strategy's implementation among other objectives. See link here for more information about this workshop: <https://shorturl.at/6Mkgy>.

4. Technical Support to the World Health Organization Africa Region Office (WHO-AFRO) to Develop Health Budget Execution Case Studies in Selected African

Countries. AfHEA's strength lies on the diversity of expertise of its members across the African continent making it the best choice for strong technical support in the areas of health economics, financing, policy and in deed public health as a whole as it is often able to leverage on this strength to carry out high quality cross country analysis. Given this unique distinct value, AfHEA worked with WHO-AFRO to analyze health budget execution during the heat of the COVID-19 pandemic to inform public financial management best practices and reforms not only in these selected countries but as learning case studies across Africa. The purpose is to understand the trends of health budget execution, root causes of poor budget execution and the potential policies that can be introduced to mitigate these. This can then serve as learning examples for other countries to improve health budget execution. The case studies were done in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Senegal and Uganda.

iii. Key Projects and Initiatives

As the go to organization especially on multiple country research and policy analysis activities, AfHEA continues to collaborate with donor organizations and development partners to implement impactful projects that ultimately contribute to improved health outcomes within the continent. Among these are:

Table 1: New Projects since the 2022 AfHEA Conference

Project title/period	Funder	Description
Addressing Neglected Areas of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa (ANeSA) (July 2024 – December 2030)	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	<p>Recognizing the existence of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues that have been neglected in SSA which are sometimes perpetuated by cultural norms and other barriers, IDRC selected AfHEA as the Health Policy and Research Organization (HPRO) in West and Central Africa's (WCA) to implement specific planned activities to fulfil ANeSA's core objectives. The core of objectives of ANeSA are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing collaborations for gender-transformative outcomes in the WCA region, especially among under-served women and organisations that serve them; 2. Strengthening capacities; increasing the availability and translation of evidence on implementing gender-transformative SRHR interventions; 3. Increasing decision-makers' demand for evidence on gender-transformative SRHR interventions; and 4. Advocacy for promotion of SRHR, especially among under-served women and organizations that serve them. <p>ANeSA's activities will focus on collaborating implementation research teams (IRTs) in WCA to share evidence-based approaches to SRHR issues and increase the translation of evidence to policy by linking supporting the dissemination of IRTs work in appropriate fora, capacity building and cross learning opportunities and community of practice that provides opportunities for building networks.</p> <p>So far, two major activities have been accomplished:</p>

Table 1: New Projects since the 2022 AfHEA Conference

Project title/period	Funder	Description
Addressing Neglected Areas of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa (ANeSA) (July 2024 – December 2030)	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity development workshop to support potential IRTs to develop competitive proposals for selection as IRTs. Development of a comprehensive assessment of the state of neglected areas of SRHR in WCA.
UNFPA East and Southern Africa Region (ESARO) undertaking of (a) Transformative Results for Investment Cases in Democratic Republic of Congo and (b) Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Budget and Expenditure analysis in five ESARO countries (Phase III) (October 2024-April 2025)	UNFPA	This project is a continuation of the collaboration between AfHEA and UNFPA, which started in 2020. Under this phase III of the collaboration, AfHEA is supporting the development of the investment cases for transformative results in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and SRHR budget and expenditure analysis in five ESARO countries, namely, Burundi, DRC, Madagascar, Rwanda and South Sudan. The purpose of the SRHR budget and expenditure analysis particularly is to enable us gain insights on how governments are prioritizing SRHR following the launch of specific country investment cases studies.
UNFPA Investment Cases for Transformative Results Phase II (Mar. 2023 –Dec. 2023)	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Phase II of the UNFPA Investment Cases for Transformative Results started in March 2023 with an arrangement between UNFPA ESARO and AfHEA again to extend technical support to Burundi, Mozambique and Rwanda to develop their investment cases for transformative results. This follows the successful completion of work in phase I. The development of the investment cases have since been completed in Burundi and Mozambique while that of the Rwanda investment cases are still being developed.

Table 2: Old and Existing Project before the 2022 AfHEA Conference

Project title/period	Funder	Description
<p>Equitable Access to the COVID-19 Vaccines in Africa (ECOVA) (Feb 2022-Mar 2025)</p>	<p>International Development Research Centre (I D R C)</p>	<p>Following the observed inequities in COVID-19 vaccines distribution, access and uptake in Africa, which occurred as a result of numerous factors including unequal distribution of healthcare resources, limited availability resulting from limited production in Africa, heavy dependency on global supply chains as well as misinformation and disinformation, AfHEA collaborated with Africa CDC and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to implement the ECOVA project. This project is funded by IDRC.</p> <p>The project aims to glean lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic by generating evidence to support equitable access to vaccines in Africa especially by addressing the structural, economic, social, cultural, and political factors that impede vaccine equity and inform future strategies for pandemic preparedness. It focuses on deciphering the complex barriers to equitable vaccine access and provides a framework for strengthening health systems to be more responsive in times of global health crises. Special emphasis is placed on actionable insights and sustainable strategies that can be implemented by African governments and health stakeholders to foster greater equity in vaccine distribution. The project which started in 2022 and will end in March 2025 has a scope centered on equitable vaccine access in Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Morocco, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.</p>

Table 2: Old and Existing Project before the 2022 AfHEA Conference

Project title/period	Funder	Description
<p>Economics of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (EcASaRH) Interventions in West Africa (Apr. 2019 – Sept. 2023)</p>	<p>International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</p>	<p>The EcASaRH project, funded by the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), kick-started in April 2019 and was completed in September 2023. The project has contributed to our understanding of how to identify 'promising' or 'priority' adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) interventions, with the West African Health Organization (WAHO) framework identified as a key tool for the identification. Under this project, the costs and funding gaps of the promising interventions and the strategies for mobilizing resources were also brought to light especially in the context of Ghana and Senegal. The importance of stakeholders' mapping and engagement in the process of such an exercise was emphasized. A number of the key outputs of the project have been published in diverse form to support evidence based ASRH policy making not only in Ghana and Senegal but also in West Africa as a whole. Among these are peer reviewed scientific publications and policy brief. See links to access the article and policy brief here: Article: https://shorturl.at/pXV0k Policy brief: https://tinyurl.com/2t7uwfrb Other articles from this project are under journal review.</p>

Table 2: Old and Existing Project before the 2022 AfHEA Conference

Project title/period	Funder	Description
<p>Health Budget Execution and Public Financial Management (PFM) Project (Dec. 2021 to May 2022)</p>	<p>World Health Organization African Region (WHO-AFRO)</p>	<p>Towards the end of 2021, AfHEA was awarded a grant by WHO-AFRO to undertake research on health budget execution and public financial management in four countries: Uganda, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Cameroon. The aim of this project was to unearth the root causes of low budget execution in these countries as case studies, document and understand the mitigation measures for low health sector budget execution and accordingly inform policy change for improved health sector budget execution in Africa.</p> <p>This project has successfully been completed and the reports generated are supporting PFM reforms not only in these countries but also in many African countries to improve health budget execution for improved health outcomes.</p>
<p>UNFPA Investment Cases for Transformative Results Phase I & II (Oct. 2020 –April 2021)</p>	<p>United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</p>	<p>Between October 2020 and April 2021, AfHEA was selected by UNFPA for phase I of the Investment Cases for Transformative Results. Under this project, AfHEA's role lies in providing technical support to selected countries in East and Southern Africa region (ESARO) to develop investment cases for transformative results. These transformative results include ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning and ending gender-based violence. The countries involved are: Botswana, Madagascar, Namibia, and South Sudan.</p> <p>The aim of the project was to develop strong investment cases argument to support</p>

Table 2: Old and Existing Project before the 2022 AfHEA Conference

Project title/period	Funder	Description
UNFPA Investment Cases for Transformative Results Phase I & II (Oct. 2020 –April 2021)	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	<p>advocacy for investing in reducing maternal mortality, support advocacy for the UHC agenda on family planning, ending female genital mutilation and ending gender-based violence. Work has since been completed in these countries and some of these reports which are publicly available are supporting advocacy for increased investments in these transformative results not only in these countries but also in Africa as a whole.</p> <p>Botswana: https://tinyurl.com/ykry23x9 Namibia: https://tinyurl.com/47shr5vk South Sudan: https://tinyurl.com/36rjxt4u Phase III of the investment cases work is currently in progress in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, and is being accompanied by SRHR budget and expenditure analysis.</p>

iv. Capacity Strengthening

One of the overarching objectives of AfHEA is capacity strengthening in health economics, financing and policy in Africa. Therefore, capacity strengthening has been at the centre of AfHEA's activities over the years. We outline here some of the most important capacity strengthening activities of AfHEA since the 2022 conference.

1.Virtual Capacity Strengthening Webinar on Scientific Communication for French-speaking Researchers

To support early career researchers especially in Francophone countries in Africa to improve their presentations quality for the 7th AfHEA conference, the Burkinabe network of health economists (CoBES) collaborated with AfHEA to organize a 2-day virtual training on the topic: *Formation à la communication scientifique pour les jeunes chercheurs Francophones (scientific communication training for young French-speaking researchers)*. The workshop which took place from February 13-14, 2025 was aimed at equipping French-speaking early career researchers with adequate scientific communication skills including how to prepare power-point presentations and communicate effectively their research results to stakeholders. The workshop attracted about 100 participants over the course of the two days. You can access the workshop recording here:

Day 1: Feb 13, 2025 01:45 PM Greenwich Mean Time

<https://shorturl.at/UYbKy>

Day 2: Feb 14, 2025 01:45 PM Greenwich Mean Time

<https://shorturl.at/hCuFL>

2. AfHEA – Global Fund Health Financing Capacity Strengthening Workshop

With support from the Global Fund, AfHEA organized a capacity strengthening workshop in Abuja, Nigeria for researchers and policy makers from Ghana and Nigeria on the topic “Enhancing Data Collection and Evaluation for Sustainable Health Financing (ALM Tracker Tool)” from November 26-29, 2024. The purpose of this capacity building workshop is to strengthen the capacity of health and finance professionals in African Union (AU) member states specifically Ghana and Nigeria to assess and reform their health financing systems. By focusing on practical tools and strategies (the Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM) Tracker Tool), the workshop was aimed at equipping participants with the skills to collect, analyze, and use health financing data effectively, ensuring that public health funds are allocated and spent efficiently to improve health outcomes. The workshop trained approximately 34 participants on the above topic.



Participants at the ALM workshop in Abuja, Nigeria

3. Policy Brief, Manuscript Writing and Gender Considerations in Project Implementation Capacity Strengthening Workshop

As part of the ECOVA project, AfHEA organized a capacity strengthening workshop for about 9 consultants from 9 African countries working on the ECOVA project. The purpose of the workshop is to equip these consultants with adequate skills to effectively package and disseminate the ECOVA project results and findings from the research work in multiple ways to increase their chances of uptake into policy making in Africa. This writing capacity building workshop was convened in Accra, Ghana from April 29 – May 3, 2024. The workshop built the capacity of about 19 participants, especially the consultants working on the ECOVA project to package their findings in various formats such as policy briefs and manuscripts and in integrating gender dimensions into their research thereby enriching their work and increasing the chances uptake into public health policy in Africa. The workshop was also used as an avenue to quality assure the draft reports, policy briefs and manuscripts. There were about 19 participants drawn from eight African countries and the Middle East (Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Lebanon).



Photo shots from the writing workshop in Accra

4. Organization of a Virtual Capacity Strengthening Webinar on How to get Published

AfHEA in collaboration with Elsevier on October 11, 2023 organized a webinar titled *Academic Journals – How They Operate, How to Get Published, and How to Get Involved*. The webinar was intended to inspire researchers to publish their research papers in academic journals. The webinar was also in line with AfHEA's mentorship programme where senior researchers were selected to mentor early career researchers who presented papers at the IHEA congress to support the publication of their papers in a special issue with SSM Health Systems Journal. The webinar recorded over 150 participants from across different African countries as well as Europe and Asia. The main resource persons for the webinar were Prof. John Ataguba, Co-Editor-in-Chief, SSM – Health Systems and Canada Health Economics Chair, University of Manitoba, Canada and Matthew Smaldon, Executive Publisher, Elsevier, UK. The webinar recording can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6ads57>. Passcode: &y%Bb@n7

The webinar provided overall insights into the publishing process shared participants the inspiration to be more confident as an author in the world of academic publishing, which is required to help them get their papers published more easily without giving up. The webinar equipped participants specifically with skills on:

- Typical article structure and language
- The process of writing – building the article
- A clear idea of the steps needed to be taken before starting to write a paper.
- Skills to choose the right journal to submit a paper to
- Insights about author rights and responsibilities
- Understanding of sensitive areas such as publishing ethics, plagiarism and duplicate publishing.
- Clear perspectives on how peer review works and how to respond to feedback
- Useful resources to support researchers publish their papers

5. Co-organization of a Capacity Strengthening Webinar on Extended Cost Effectiveness Analysis

On August 23, 2023, AfHEA collaborated with Africa CDC to organize a webinar titled *Introduction to Extended Cost-Effectiveness Analysis and its Applicability for Public Health Decision Making in Africa*. This webinar aligns with the capacity building pillar of AfHEA and attracted over 200 participants from different parts of Africa and some parts of Europe and Asia. Dr. Ahmed E Ouma, Deputy Director General of Africa CDC provided opening remarks on behalf of Africa CDC while Prof. John Ataguba shared some remarks on behalf of AfHEA. The key resource persons who supported the extended cost effectiveness analysis presentations at the webinar were: Prof. Stéphane Verguet, Associate Professor, at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA and Dr. Lelisa Fekadu Assebe at Africa CDC's Health Economics and Financing Programme Division.

During this capacity building webinar, a clear distinction was made between cost effectiveness analysis (CEA) and extended cost effectiveness analysis (ECEA). While CEA is a comparative analysis of alternative courses of action in terms of both their costs and consequences, ECEA is an extension of CEA that goes beyond costs and health outcomes to include additional dimensions like financial risk protection and equitable distribution of costs and effects in decision-making. ECEA evaluate health intervention/programs/policies in 4 dimensions while considering context-specific factors for policy impact assessment:

- Health gains – deaths or DALYs averted.
- Financial risk protection benefits – CHE or IHE averted.
- Distributional impact – health and financial outcome per SES.
- Costs of policy (e.g., borne by government).

Participants were provided with specific ECEA analysis in different settings including Africa, Asia and the Americas. They were also taken through the rudiments and processes of conducting ECEA as well as the interpretation of results and findings of ECEA.

6. Organization of Pre-congress Capacity Training Workshop on Health Inequality and Equity in a Developing Country Context at the 2023 IHEA Congress in Cape Town, South Africa

AfHEA with support and collaboration from CHAI, Africa CDC and UNAIDS organized a pre-congress capacity building workshop on July 9, 2023 during the 15th IHEA congress in Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop was under the topic: *Assessing and explaining health inequality and equity in a developing country context*. Over 50 participants attended the workshop which trained participants on how to assess inequalities and inequities in the context of developing countries. The training can be accessed via the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=196nGA42DCI>.

7. Co-organization of Pre-congress Capacity Training Workshop on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) at the 2023 IHEA Congress in Cape Town, South Africa

This workshop was a collaborative initiative between AfHEA, Africa CDC, KEMRI Wellcome Trust and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). The workshop which took place on July 8, 2023 as one of the pre-congress activities of the 15th IHEA congress was titled “*Introduction to Health Technology Assessment (HTA)*”. It was overly subscribed and attracted more than 70 participants including policy makers and researchers. The approach adopted for the workshop was a blend of technical analytics, policy and practice as facilitators were drawn from among researchers from KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Kenya and policymakers from Ghana's Ministry of Health HTA unit. The workshop provided foundational knowledge on HTA and its link and importance to UHC. Participants were made to appreciate the concept of HTA, why we need HTA, its benefits and application including practical examples of its application in different African countries such as Ghana and Kenya. The workshop videos can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC9u9Wt3xVs>.

8. Co-organization of Pre-congress Capacity Strengthening Workshop on Sustainable Health Financing Capacity Strengthening in Africa

AfHEA collaborated with Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and Africa CDC to organize a pre-congress workshop on the above topic. Prof. John Ataguba was one of the resource persons for this workshop which discussed sustainable financing mechanisms in Africa. The workshop videos can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riemyp5c-RM>. The workshop which was held on July 9, 2023 took the form of panel discussion from different perspectives including policy, implementation, research and community perspectives as these groups were largely represented as per the panel composition. Discussants were Prof. John Ataguba (AfHEA), Dr. Regis Hitimana (Rwanda Social Security Board), Dr. Mieraf Tadesse Tolla, (Africa CDC), Kate Langwe, Director of Planning & Policy Development, MoH (Malawi), Vishal Brijlal (CHAI) and Sheetal Silal, Modelling Expert, University of Cape Town, (South Africa). Over 50 participants took part in the workshop and contributed to the discussion.

9. Communicating Research to Policy Makers: Reflections from practitioners

On August 18, 2022, AfHEA in collaboration with Africa Health Observatory Policy held a virtual capacity strengthening webinar on the topic: *Communicating Research to Policy Makers: Reflections from Practitioners*. The target of this workshop was for researchers, especially early career researchers in health economics, financing and policy space in Africa. The workshop was organized to fill the observed gap between researchers and policy makers where it has been observed that while most research work is circulated and shared amongst the academic and scientific circles, little of it is shared in appropriate forms with other key stakeholders who need it most – the policy makers and end users. This workshop was therefore designed to enable researchers gain an appreciation for the knowledge and skills needed to effectively communicate research to policy makers. Researchers need an appreciation for how evidence is used to inform the policy making process. The nature of information that policy makers need is often different from research findings in papers, articles, and journals. Policy makers appreciate clear and concise information packaged in an easy-to-understand language. It is therefore important for researchers to learn the art and science of communicating research to policy makers so as to increase the usefulness of their research to policy makers. The workshop recordings can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/4uytyjd4>. Passcode: e#Xb7UZ&.

V. Other Initiatives and Activities

1. Formation and Operationalization of the Health Economics Curriculum Working Group (HEC-Group)

In collaboration with Africa CDC, AfHEA initiated the **Health Economics Curriculum Working Group (HEC-Group)** to redesign health economics and financing curriculum in Africa to better match the needs context of African countries. The 9 - member working group has representation from North, South, East and West Africa and is Co-chaired by AfHEA and Africa CDC. While preparatory work for the HEC-Group started in early 2024, with concept notes and preparatory virtual meetings, the maiden in-person meeting of the group took place in Accra, Ghana from June 20 - 21, 2024. This was followed by monthly virtual meetings until December when the second and final in-person meeting took place in Kigali, Rwanda from December 12-14, 2024. The objectives of the Health Economics Curriculum (HEC) are to:

- Develop core competencies of health economics training at various levels.
- Develop health economics modules/courses for masters, diploma, CPD etc. that can be offered using different delivery modes.
- Propose various assessment modalities for the proposed curricula.

The HEC work is supported by IDRC, AFD, The World Bank and CHAI. The task of the HEC-Group is to development a better African context specific aligned HEC and disseminate this standardized HEC in Africa for possible uptake by institutions which could result in harmonization of health economics curriculum in Africa. The curriculum has since been developed and is scheduled to be launched and disseminated at the 7th AfHEA Scientific Conference in Kigali, Rwanda on March 10, 2025. Make a date to be part of this.



HEC-Group together with staff of AfHEA and Africa CDC: Accra, Ghana, June 21, 2024

2. Organization of the All-Africa Side Event at the Sidelines of the 15th IHEA congress

The African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA) organized an All-Africa Side Event at the sidelines of the 15th IHEA congress in Cape Town, South Africa in collaboration with Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and Africa CDC. The event took place on 10th July 2023 at the Gold Restaurant, Cape Town and was aimed to:

- Share experiences on recent and ongoing Health Economics (HE) capacity-strengthening activities and initiatives on the continent, and
- Identify and develop strategic capacity development activities and groups on teaching health economics (including curriculum design), policy engagements, research/early-career mentorship and strengthening, and other strategic health economics focal areas for Africa.

A total of 122 participants attended the informal event and discussion forum which served as a platform for key stakeholders to engage in meaningful conversations and share insights on HE in general, Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and other pertinent health economics issues. Overall, the All-Africa Event served as an invaluable platform where stakeholders exchanged experiences, ideas, and best practices and fostered strategic collaborations to strengthen health economics capacity in Africa. The event reignited conversation on health economics curriculum redesign, policy engagement, early-career mentorship, and cross-cutting strategic initiatives and laid the foundation for sustainable advancements in the field and ultimately improved health outcomes across the continent.

vi. Other Webinars and Stakeholders' Engagements

1. The ECOVA Conference in Abuja, Nigeria

From November 20 – 22, 2024, AfHEA organized a conference under the theme *Equitable Access to Vaccines in Africa: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic for Future Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*. The conference which was held in Abuja, Nigeria was aimed at mobilizing and sharing research findings around equitable access to vaccines in Africa including the country level studies of the ECOVA project. Research outputs mobilized from the ECOVA project as well as additional research around equitable access to vaccine within the African continent, selected through competitive call for abstracts formed the foundation for the conference. The conference brought together participants and stakeholders from North, South, East, West and Central Africa and attracted over 40 participants from over 13 African countries, majority of which attended physically with only a few participating virtually.



Group pictures of participants of the ECOVA conference in Abuja, Nigeria.

3. Organization of a Side Event at Africa CDC's 3rd International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA), Lusaka, Zambia

The side event which was organized on November 29, 2023 at the side-lines of the Africa CDC's 3rd CPHIA was one of the key activities of AfHEA's ECOVA project. The event was meant to share findings from a rapid assessment exercise conducted on governance, legal and economic policy frameworks to boost vaccine research and development (R&D) and production in Africa. The theme of the event was: *Evaluating Policy, Legal and Governance Frameworks to Enhance African Research and Development Capacity: Feasibility of attaining the 60% Vaccine Manufacturing Goal in Africa.*

The side event featured two key presentations that highlight opportunities for moving Africa on the path of the 60% vaccine manufacturing goal as well as a panel discussion. The two presentations included:

i. *Progress towards achieving Africa's COVID-19 vaccination uptake and the 60% manufacturing target by 2040:*

ii. *Enhancing R&D for vaccine development in Africa through effective Policy frameworks:*

These were followed by a panel discussion with representation from key stakeholders in the vaccine landscape in Africa namely, Africa CDC and UNECA and AfHEA.



Panel discussion at the AfHEA side event at the 3rd CPHIA in Lusaka, Zambia

1. Organization of 3 ECOVA Stakeholders' Engagement Webinars

AfHEA organized three webinars that were focused on vaccine equity in Africa between November 2022 and July 2024. These webinars were part of the stakeholders' engagement activities under the ECOVA project and were aimed at engaging key stakeholders to discuss pertinent issues that can contribute to the advancement of the 60% vaccine manufacturing in Africa by 2040. These series of webinars include:

Date	Theme	Webinar Recording link
June 27, 2024	Exploring how Public-Private Partnerships can Improve Equitable Access and Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccine, especially among Vulnerable Populations in Africa.	https://tinyurl.com/vredswd7 Passcode: JxFfMM9!
June 14, 2023	A Rapid Assessment Review of Existing Policy, Legal and Governance Frameworks to Improve Research and Development Capacity and Infrastructure for Vaccine Production	https://tinyurl.com/4bnexdpr Passcode: 0r^?w=Mw
November 30, 2022	Guaranteeing equitable access to vaccines in Africa: is Africa ready for	https://tinyurl.com/23w3rseu Passcode: s5H&C\$p

4. High-Level EcASaRH Stakeholders' Engagement Workshop in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

A major stakeholders' engagement forum on Adolescent, Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire as part of activities to climax AfHEA's EcASaRH project which was implemented between April 2019 and September 2023. This workshop which took place in Abidjan was organized by AfHEA in collaboration with the West African Health Organization (WAHO) from September 12-14, 2023. The workshop brought together over 30 Participants from 11 West African countries to discuss and disseminate findings from the EcASaRH project and to enhance the chances of uptake of these findings into national policies and strategies for addressing gaps in ASRH financing and programs in West Africa. The workshop had high-level participation from national ministries of health, the WAHO Director General and high-level representations from development partners such



Snapshot of participant stakeholders at the workshop



UNFPA representative delivering remarks

1. Co-organization of the Africa Health Economics and Financing Capacity Forum

This activity was a joint effort involving three partner-organizations, namely, AfHEA, Africa CDC and Strategic Purchasing Africa Resource Center (SPARC). The event was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from September 13 - 15, 2022. The objectives of the forum were to:

- i.** Brainstorm on the key gaps and challenges around health economics and health financing capacities in Africa, including gender and regional representation;
- ii.** Identify, map and engage key stakeholders for strengthening and scaling up health economics and health financing capacities in Africa;
- iii.** Develop an operational framework, specific actions, roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in institutionalizing capacity strengthening for health economics and health financing in Africa;
- iv.** Discuss and refine the framework with donors and other key stakeholders;
- v.** Concretize next steps and actionable plans.

The forum resulted an operational framework document for health economics and financing capacity strengthening in Africa which is guiding implementation of the core activities outlined at the

vii. CONCLUSION

Through its diverse projects and strategic initiatives, AfHEA remains at the forefront of health economics and policy research in Africa. The organization's commitment to evidence-based policymaking, capacity building, and equitable health financing continues to make a significant impact on the continent's healthcare landscape. As AfHEA prepares for its upcoming conference and new project phases, the Association looks forward to continued collaborations with stakeholders to achieve its vision of strengthened health systems across Africa.

8. Grants Management

At the African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA), we are deeply committed to the efficient and impactful use of resources. Our approach to grant management is founded on three core principles: efficiency, accountability, and trust. These principles guide us in managing the funding we receive, ensuring it is used to create maximum positive and lasting impact in society.

We have robust financial and internal control processes that are meticulously documented in our policy manuals, providing comprehensive guidelines on grant management and expenditure. This rigorous framework ensures that we meet and exceed the requirements of our major donors and partners.

Our extensive experience in managing donor and partner expectations strategically positions us as an organization with strong financial management capabilities, donor compliance, and effective sub-grantee management. We pride ourselves on maintaining the highest levels of accountability and risk management, which are essential to the success and sustainability of our initiatives.

At AfHEA, we believe in the responsible stewardship of all resources entrusted to us. We are dedicated to practicing the efficient and appropriate use of these resources to achieve significant and sustainable outcomes in health economics, financing, and policy. Our commitment to excellence in grant management not only supports our mission but also fosters trust and confidence among our stakeholders.

9. Building Strong Partnerships: AfHEA's Donors and Partners

Throughout our journey since 2009, AfHEA has built and maintained strong relationships with key donors and partners, enabling us to achieve significant milestones in health economics, financing, and policy. Our strategic collaborations have been instrumental in attracting over 10 million US Dollars in funding, which has fueled our mission and projects.

Here are some of our notable donors and partners:

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: A key partner in supporting our research and capacity-building initiatives.
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC): Providing crucial funding for various projects aimed at improving health outcomes across Africa.
- Rockefeller Foundation: Supporting our efforts to enhance the quality of policy-making and build capacity in health economics.
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): Collaborating on projects that address maternal health, family planning, and gender-based violence.
- World Health Organization (WHO): Partnering on research initiatives to improve health budget execution and public financial management.
- African Union (AU): Working together on health policy and strategic planning initiatives.
- West Africa Health Organization (WAHO): Collaborating on regional health planning and policy development.
- World Bank: Engaging in technical partnerships to advance health financing in Africa.

See some of our key donors' and partners' logos listed below.

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



10. World Congress 2025 on Health Economics – IHEA

IHEA is pleased to announce that the 16th IHEA World Congress on Health Economics will be held from July 19-23, 2025. Indonesia (instead of Canada as originally planned), where the 2025 IHEA Congress will be held, has the fourth largest share of IHEA members in Asia (after China, India and Japan). The Bali International Convention Centre will host the 2025 Congress. The IHEA congress, held every second year, is the only global forum for health economists to engage around the latest methodological developments, present recent research findings and explore the implications of this research for health policy and practice. The IHEA congress includes presentations across the full spectrum of health economics' fields. The IHEA board and team will continue to provide updates should any changes occur.

#IHEACONGRESS2025



DONATE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2025 IHEA CONGRESS

Many students from high-income countries lack the financial support to attend international conferences, limiting their opportunities to share research and grow professionally.

Receive a tax receipt for your donation and feedback on the use of your funds after the Congress.



To learn more about the Congress [click here](#)



Message to AfHEA Founding Executive Director

We take this special moment to honour our Founding Executive Director, Dr. Chris Atim, whose leadership and dedication have been instrumental in AfHEA's success. Dr. Atim is a distinguished health economist with over 25 years of experience in health systems financing worldwide. He currently serves as the Senior Executive Program Director at Results for Development (R4D), overseeing health systems and financing work in Ghana and Nigeria. His illustrious career includes roles at the World Bank, PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative in Geneva, the HISP Institute in London, Abt Associates, the Belgian government on health schemes, and the ILO in Senegal among others. Dr. Atim's vision and efforts propelled AfHEA to greatness and he handed over the reins on April 1st 2022 to Prof. John Ataguba who has taken the Association to new heights, making it a cornerstone of health economics and policy in Africa. We duly acknowledge the recent passing of Dr. Atim's beloved wife, Sadi Atim. Sadi's unwavering support and strength were pivotal to Dr. Atim's achievements and the growth of AfHEA. Her memory will forever be cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Chris, your exceptional leadership and outstanding contributions live on in AfHEA's success story till this day. We wish you continued success and fulfillment in your future endeavors.



Message from AfHEA Executive Director



It was with a deep sense of responsibility and profound honour and enthusiasm that I assumed the Executive Director role on April 1st, 2022. Taking stock of the journey so far, I have been privileged to lead AfHEA into its next chapter, building upon the extraordinary legacy of our Founding Executive Director, Dr. Chris Atim, whose visionary leadership has been instrumental in shaping our impact across the continent. As we gather for the 7th AfHEA Scientific Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, I am filled with excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead, not just for AfHEA but beyond. This year's theme, "Building Resilient Health Systems for Africa's Future," is more than a call to action; it is a reflection of our collective resolve to address the pressing challenges of health economics, policy, and financing in Africa and ensure that our health systems remain resilient in the face of future challenges. The success of AfHEA is not the work of one person but of a community. It is the product of passion, dedication, and relentless collaboration among our board, executive, members, partners, supporters and stakeholders. Together, we have built a formidable network that advances the use of health economics and policy to create more equitable, efficient, responsive and sustainable health systems across Africa.

Our conference is not just an event but a formidable platform that gathers many of the most brilliant minds in the field, whether researchers, students, policy- and decision-makers, and practitioners who are all united by a shared commitment to driving innovative solutions, shaping policy, and forging partnerships that will define the future of health services on the continent and how health systems respond to people's needs. I want to encourage students and early-career researchers to participate in the many opportunities at the #AfHEA2025 conference, including capacity-building sessions to enhance their skills. As we stand at this pivotal juncture of the #AfHEA2025 conference, I want to assure all stakeholders that their investment in AfHEA, whether through time, expertise, or resources, will continue to yield a meaningful impact on the health systems of our vibrant continent. Our work is far from over. With your unwavering support, we will scale new heights, break new ground, and drive transformative change in Africa's health systems. To every AfHEA board member, executive, staff, member, partner, stakeholder and supporter, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your relentless commitment to our shared mission. Let us seize this opportune time to embrace innovation and propel Africa towards a healthier, more equitable future. I look forward to engaging with each of you at the conference and beyond, where together, we will continue to push the boundaries of what is possible.

Thank you! Merci! Murakoze!

Prof. John Ele-Ojo Ataguba
AfHEA Executive Director



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