AFREhealth: Africa's opportunity for bridging continental inequities in health in an age of AI

Harnessing Technologies to Build Tech-Empowered Health Workers

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The Africa We want:
The African Union

- SDGs
- African Union Agenda 63
- A view beyond SDGs 30

AI’s potential in Africa: Recognition and Excitement

- Mainly digital literate youth and younger health workforce
- Less in older professionals: hold authority in policy-making
- DeepSeek: How China's AI heroes’ have stunned Silicon Valley
- Unlike Global Health opportunities

Background Context in Africa

- Unsatisfactory health services
- Urban-Rural divide in access to services

- Rapid changes (Diagnostics/ treatment)
- Weak technological resources
- Sub-optimal Integration of technologies in the health system

- Sustainability (funding, expertise)
- Islands of excellence
- Weak South-South partnerships

Last decade set a foundation for harnessing AI's potential

- Innovations in MEPI and NEPI programs
- H3 Africa: Genetics & Genomics research investments
- Data Science Innovations
- Greater focus of academic institutions on Innovations
- Countries' increased attention to value of science
- Africa CDC

AFREhealth: Following in the footsteps of Africa CDC

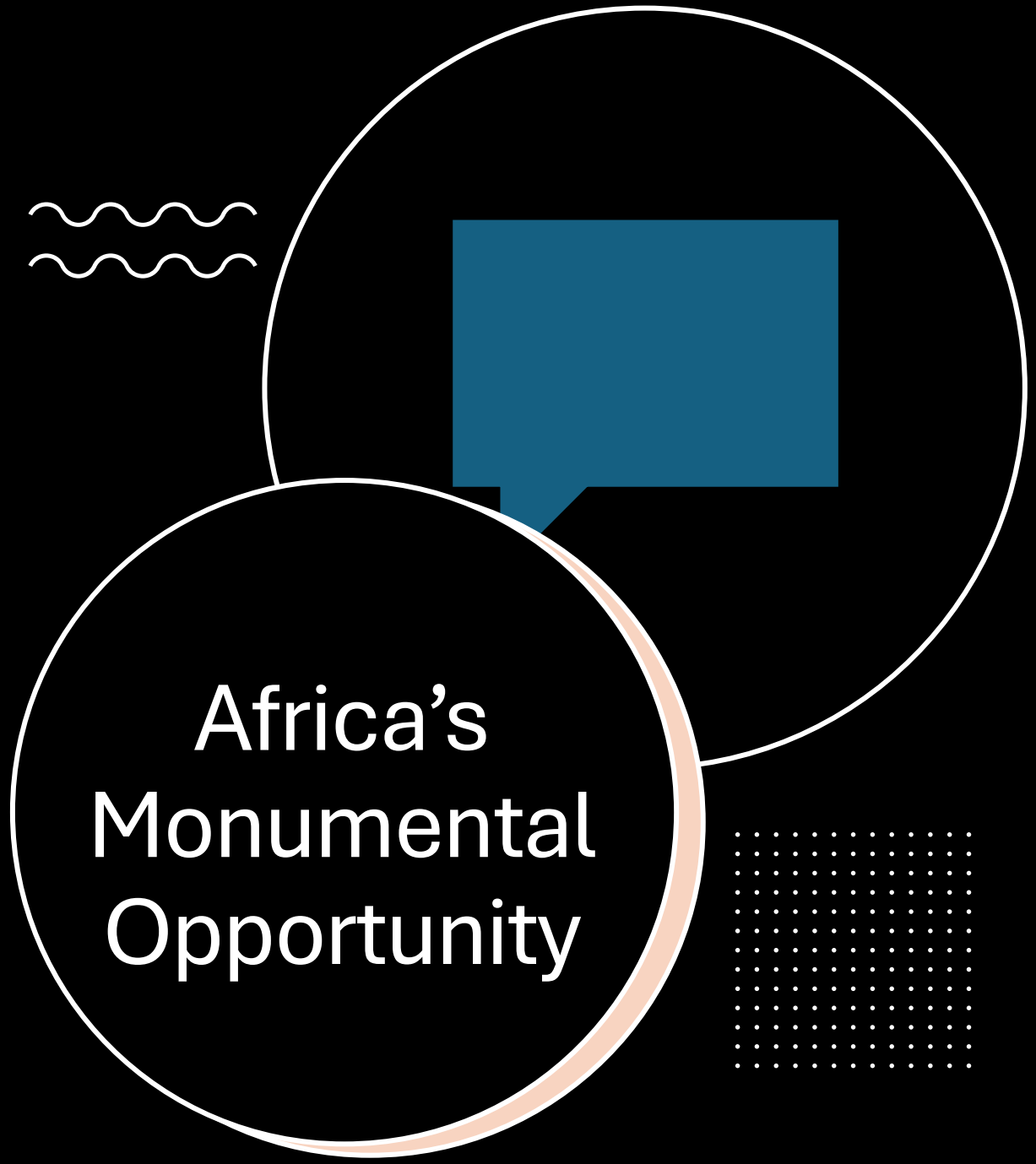
- AFREhealth: AFRICAN Forum for Research and Education in Health
- Successor to MEPI/NEPI in Africa
- MEPI = Medical Education Partnership initiative
- NEPI = Nursing Education Partnership Initiative

AFREhealth Platform

- An ambitious undertaking
- Partnerships: country, continent, with HICs and public-private partnerships
- Mutual Learning, herness country resource/ expertise
- Have centers of excellence
- M & E and Learn

Mobile phones' Informal Use

- AFREhealth's transformative potential akin to informal use of mobile phones in health
- Informally integrated in country Health Systems
- HW's Innovation, simplicity, access, affordable, informed by needs of HWs / pop
- Reach far in rural communities



- Fixed phones took 75 yrs to reach 100M users
- Mobile phones reached same step in 16 years
- Internet took 7 yrs
- Apple store took 2 yrs
- ChatGPT took 2 months
- Chines DeepSeek…?? a few days

Africa's Opportunity

Focus on our challenges

Build domestic capacity

Monumental opportunities