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# HUMANS OF GLOBE

Nov. 2024

Africa's 5 Most  
**Influential  
Healthcare  
Leaders**  
to follow in  
2024

PG. NO. 26

Collaborative  
Healthcare  
Models:  
The Power of  
Partnerships in  
Driving Change


PG. NO. 38

Innovations  
in Telehealth:  
Transforming  
Healthcare  
Access in Africa



# THABO TSELANE

Managing Director | NTP Radioisotopes

Driving progress.   
Supporting a billion ideas.







**MSP**

TMT BARS | STRUCTURALS | PIPES

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# HUMANS OF GLOBE

we recognize the passion and excellence of pioneering leaders making a difference worldwide.

## *Our vision?*

A global community united by uplifting stories that spark positive change.

Through our digital platform and print magazine, we spotlight change makers impacting business, technology, sustainability, and beyond.

By showcasing diverse voices, we inform and inspire action towards progress.

The world needs more stories of possibility, happiness, and success and we cover them with our magazine!

A team united by purpose, we are building a publication to showcase incredible, under-told stories.

With experience in leadership, writing, research, photography and design, we are driven to uplift humanity by celebrating achievement.

Our editors, writers, and designers proudly produce stories that wave across cultures. We take great honor in showcasing the journeys, struggles, defining moments, and successes of innovators and change-makers of today!

While our backgrounds are diverse, we share a belief in storytelling to inspire!





# Africa's 5 Most Influential Healthcare Leaders to follow in 2024

Sr. No	Featuring Person	Designation	Company Name
01	Marceleen Cilliers	Managing Director	Marcus Med
02	Peter Wharton-Hood	Group Chief Executive	Life Healthcare
03	Victor Litlhakanyane	CEO	Right to Care
04	Leigh-Anne Brierley	Master Recovery Coach	Be the Change

# EDITORIAL

## Quest for a Collective Vision of a Healthier Africa

Africa is on the brink of a healthcare revolution, where age-old wisdom meets groundbreaking innovation. Across the continent, a rich mosaic of ideas is being woven, transforming how health is perceived and delivered. From bustling cities to remote villages, communities are uniting to confront challenges head-on, crafting solutions that bring hope and enhance well-being for millions as the population surges.

In this edition, "Africa's 5 Most Influential Healthcare Leaders to Follow in 2024," Humans of Globe turns its focus to the remarkable individuals who are igniting this change. These leaders are not just overcoming the challenges of the



# NOTE

complex healthcare landscape; they are pioneers, shaping a brighter future with passion and purpose. Their stories reflect resilience and creativity, proving that effective healthcare is not just a dream but a tangible reality within reach.

Our goal with this edition is to celebrate the impactful work of these leaders and share their stories with you. By highlighting their journeys and achievements, we hope to inspire readers to join the movement for better healthcare in Africa. Together, we can explore new ideas and solutions that address the unique challenges faced by our communities.

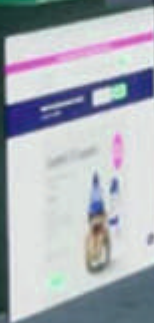
Looking ahead, we are excited to continue this important conversation about the future of healthcare in Africa. We believe that by working together and supporting local initiatives, we can create a healthier, brighter future for all. Join us as we embark on this journey of inspiration and transformation, celebrating the leaders who are paving the way for change in our beloved continent.



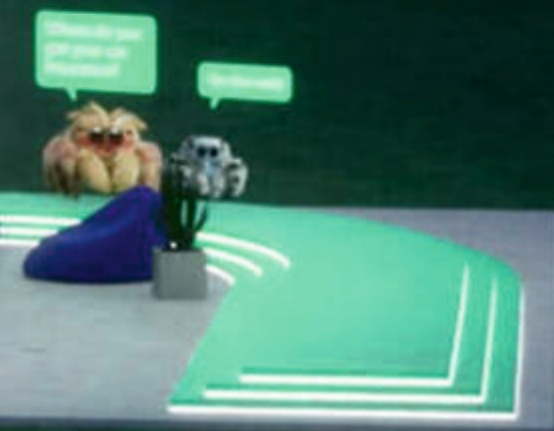
**Gopal Ingole**  
Editor In Chief



LaQO







**COVER STORY**

**THABO**

**TSELANE**

**Managing Director | NTP Radioisotopes**







“

In my role, driving innovation isn't just about adopting new technologies; it's about fostering a culture where creative ideas thrive and translate into tangible advancements in radiopharmaceuticals.

”

In navigating a career, especially in a specialized field like the nuclear industry, the path to success often involves more than technical skills alone. A combination of dedication, strategic vision and continuous adaptation is crucial. Understanding the importance of commitment and clarity in one's professional journey can help in effectively setting and achieving goals, driving innovation, and making a meaningful impact.

In this context, **Thabo Tselane** emerges as a prime example of these guiding principles. His career is a vivid illustration of how dedication and a visionary approach can elevate one to the pinnacle of their field guided by the mantra “Excellence is a habit”.

### Navigating the Nexus of Nuclear Innovation

Thabo Tselane's distinguished career has been marked by a series of challenging and rewarding roles, leading to his current position as **Group Managing Director at NTP Radioisotopes SOC Ltd.** His journey is characterized by a robust academic foundation, significant early career experiences, and notable leadership roles. Below are the key milestones that have been instrumental in shaping his professional path:

#### Academic Foundation in Nuclear Physics

- **Educational Background:** Thabo Tselane's career began with a solid foundation in Nuclear Physics and Chemistry, providing him with the technical knowledge and analytical skills essential for understanding the complexities of nuclear science and technology.
- **Advanced Qualifications:** His pursuit of additional qualifications in Senior Management, Project Management and Global Executive Development Management Programme (GIBS) further enhanced his ability to manage large-scale projects and contribute to international development initiatives.

### Early Career in the Nuclear Industry

- **Technical Roles:** Thabo's early career involved various technical and regulatory related roles within the nuclear industry. These positions afforded him hands-on experience (as a compliance assurance and inspector) in nuclear operations and safety protocols, crucial for developing a deep understanding of the industry's operational and regulator related aspects.
- **Research and Development:** Engaging in research and development projects as Chief Technology Officer, allowed him to contribute to innovative solutions and advancements in nuclear technology with the aim of commercialising these initiatives. This experience highlighted the importance of continuous improvement and innovation in this field.

### Leadership Roles at NNR and NECSA

- **Acting Group Executive: Corporate Services:** In this capacity, Thabo was responsible for overseeing diverse corporate functions, including human resources and administration. Managing these functions equipped him with a comprehensive understanding of organizational dynamics and strategic planning related to human resource management.
- **Interim Chief Executive Officer, National Nuclear Regulator (NNR):** Leading the NNR during a transitional period was a significant milestone. He ascended through the ranks of the NNR, from Regulatory Officer, Technical Manager in the regulation of Mining and Mineral processing facilities and later Compliance and Enforcement as an Executive Manager. His role involved ensuring regulatory compliance and enforcement, enhancing safety standards and engaging with multiple stakeholders in the nuclear industry, which



- honed his leadership and crisis management skills to Interim CEO of the NNR.

### International Engagement

- **IAEA Committees and Forums:** Thabo's participation in the Radiation Safety Standard Committee (RASSC) and the Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF) within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provided him with a global perspective on nuclear safety, security and safeguards related regulation. These experiences allowed him to collaborate with international experts and contribute to global nuclear safety standards development and discussions related to growth and development of global nuclear safety regime.
- **Global Partnerships:** Building international partnerships and representing South Africa in various global forums reinforced the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing in advancing the nuclear industry and now recently in the production of nuclear medicine Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients and the global marketing and selling of the life-saving products.

### Strategic Leadership at NTP Radioisotopes

- **Group Managing Director:** As Group Managing Director at NTP Radioisotopes SOC Ltd., Thabo Tselane oversees the production, distribution marketing and selling of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and radiopharmaceutical products globally in about 5 continents and more than 55 countries. His leadership involves driving strategic organisational growth and ensuring operational excellence while providing a reliable and sustainable products supply to all NTP Radioisotopes global customers.
- **Innovation and Expansion Leader:** Under his leadership, NTP has focused on expanding

production capacities and capabilities, adopting new technologies, and entering new territories and markets. These strategic initiatives are aimed at positioning NTP as one of the global leader in the production of these life-saving products and services to the global nuclear medicine industry.

### Key Achievements and Contributions

- **Enhancing Safety and Compliance:** Thabo has been instrumental in implementing robust safety protocols and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards in his previous roles as Nuclear Operations Executive. His commitment to safety has earned recognition both nationally and internationally, with his famous pay off line, “safety first, safety second and safety always”. The production of APIs in compliance with c-GMP and ISO standards, which are the gold standards” in the radio-pharmaceutical industry has been his key priority to ensure that compliance is placed at the centre of all NTP R operating and production facilities.
- **Driving Growth and Innovation:** He has led various initiatives to increase production capacity and capability, introduce new technologies, and optimize processes, driving NTP's growth and enhancing its competitive edge in the global nuclear medicine production market.
- **Building a Strong Team:** Fostering a culture of collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement has been a priority for Thabo. Empowering and developing his team has been crucial to achieving the company's strategic goals.

### The Triumphs and Trials

Thabo's leadership roles at NECSA and NTP Radioisotopes SOC Ltd. have been marked by







numerous challenges and rewarding experiences. These roles have facilitated both personal and professional growth while significantly contributing to the advancement of the nuclear industry and most specifically the nuclear medicine industry. Here is an overview of the key challenges and rewards he has encountered:

### Challenging Aspects

#### Navigating Regulatory Landscapes

- **Compliance:** Thabo has faced the significant challenge of ensuring strict adherence to complex and evolving global regulatory requirements. This involves continuous monitoring and updating of practices to stay compliant with both the best practice and the national and international standards.

**Stakeholder Management:** Balancing the expectations of various stakeholders—including regulatory bodies, government agencies, customers and the public perceptions—has required Thabo to employ effective communication and negotiation skills.

#### Resource Management

- **Funding Constraints:** Managing operations and driving growth amidst budgetary limitations has been a challenge for Thabo. Securing necessary funding for critical projects, such as facility upgrades, compliant facilities and new initiatives, has demanded strategic financial planning and advocacy to ensure that NTPR forges ahead with its growth initiatives.
- **Human Resources:** Attracting, developing, and retaining top talent in the highly specialized field of nuclear technology has been an ongoing challenge for Thabo. Ensuring that the team possesses the necessary skills and expertise and that they are suitably qualified and experienced is crucial for the organization's sustainability, growth and success.

## Technological and Operational Challenges

- **Innovation and Modernization:** Implementing new technologies and modernizing facilities to maintain competitiveness and compliance with industry standards has required significant investment and meticulous planning from Thabo.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Continuously improving operational processes to enhance efficiency and productivity while maintaining safety and quality standards is a complex task that demands constant attention from Thabo.

## Crisis Management

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Ensuring readiness to effectively respond to emergencies or incidents while maintaining public confidence has been a critical and challenging responsibility.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks associated with nuclear operations to protect employees, the public, and patient safety as well as the environment has been an ongoing challenge for Thabo.

## Rewarding Aspects

### Driving Strategic Growth

- **Expansion Initiatives:** Leading successful expansion initiatives, such as increasing production capacities and entering new markets, has been highly rewarding for Thabo. These efforts have positioned NTP Radioisotopes as a significant player in the global nuclear medicine industry.
- **Innovation:** Spearheading innovative projects and witnessing their successful implementation, including the introduction of new technologies and products, has been immensely satisfying for Thabo.

## Enhancing Safety and Compliance

- **Regulatory Success:** Achieving compliance with stringent regulatory requirements and receiving positive feedback from regulatory bodies is a testament to Thabo's commitment to safety and excellence.
- **Safety Culture:** Fostering a strong safety culture within the organization and observing its positive impact on operations and the workforce has been incredibly rewarding for Thabo.

## Team Development and Leadership

- **Empowering Employees:** Investing in the development and empowerment of employees, and seeing them grow and succeed in their roles, has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of Thabo's leadership journey.
- **Building a Cohesive Team:** Leading a dedicated and talented team that collaborates towards common goals has been a source of great pride for Thabo.

## Impact on Healthcare

- **Improving Patient Outcomes:** Knowing that the production and supply of radiopharmaceuticals directly contribute to improving patient outcomes and advancing healthcare has been deeply rewarding for Thabo.
- **Public Health Contribution:** Contributing to public health by ensuring the availability of critical diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals has reinforced the importance and impact of Thabo's mission on ensuring patient safety and most importantly improved patient outcomes.



## International Collaboration

- **Global Engagement:** Participating in international forums and collaborations, sharing best practices, and contributing to the global advancement of nuclear safety and technology has been a highlight of Thabo's career most recently in the growth of the nuclear medicine industry.
- **Recognition:** Receiving recognition and accolades from international bodies for contributions to the nuclear industry and nuclear medicine has been a proud achievement for Thabo.

## Mastering the Art of Leadership in Nuclear Innovation

Thabo's academic background in Nuclear Physics (M.Sc), coupled with his additional qualifications in Senior management, Project Management and Global Executive Development Management Programme, has profoundly influenced his approach to leadership and management. His training in Nuclear Physics has developed his analytical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are crucial for tackling complex issues and making data-driven decisions. The rigorous nature of physics research has instilled a meticulous attention to detail in his leadership style, ensuring thoroughness and precision in project execution.

His Project Management expertise provides a solid framework for effective planning, resource allocation, and team management, helping deliver projects on time and within budget. The global perspective gained from his qualification in Global Executive Development Management Programme has broadened his understanding of sustainable development and long-term impacts, enriching his approach to leadership with a holistic and global view.

Thabo's interdisciplinary approach integrates scientific rigor with practical management strategies, fostering innovation and adaptability. His qualifications have also enhanced his communication and collaboration skills, enabling him to engage effectively with a wide range of stakeholders, from technical teams to international partners. This blend of technical expertise, strategic thinking, and global outlook equips Thabo for effective leadership in the dynamic field of radiopharmaceuticals.

## Leading the Change in Radiopharmaceutical Excellence

As Group Managing Director of NTP Radioisotopes SOC Ltd., Thabo is focused on driving sustainable growth, fostering innovation, and maintaining industry leadership. He is committed to expanding production capacities for key radioisotopes like Mo-99, I-131 and Lu-177 (mainly used for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases,) to meet increasing demand and support advanced therapies. Enhancing the company's radiopharmaceutical offerings, including cold kits and Tc-99m generators, is also a priority, aimed at broadening the product range and market reach.

Thabo places a strong emphasis on operational excellence by continually encouraging optimizing processes and embracing cutting-edge technologies to boost productivity and reduce costs. He is dedicated to advancing research and development to address emerging medical needs and improve patient outcomes.

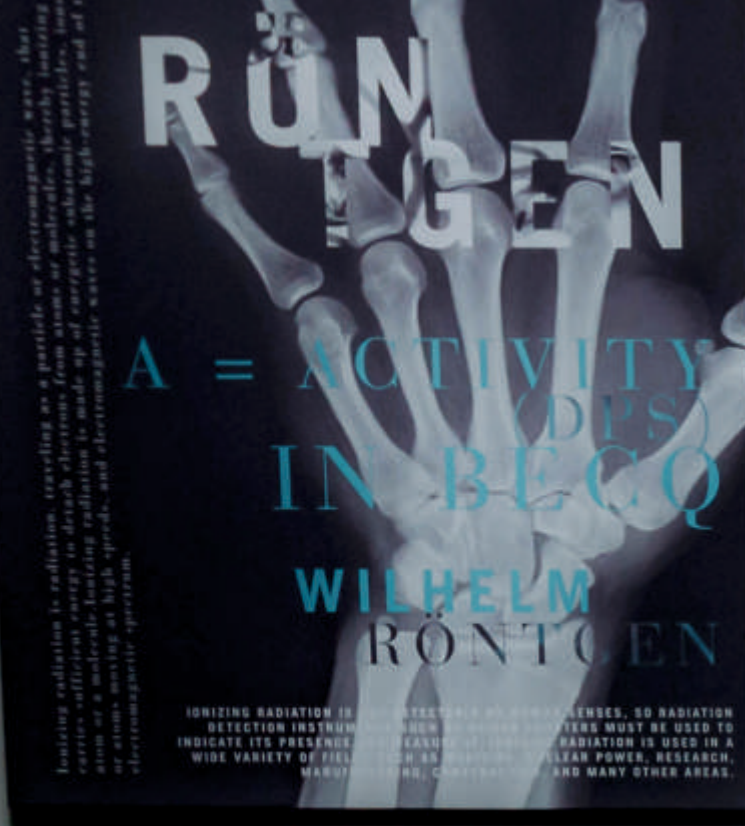
Regulatory compliance and quality assurance remain central to Thabo's strategy, with ongoing efforts to meet stringent standards and secure relevant accreditations. Expanding NTP Radioisotopes' global footprint through new



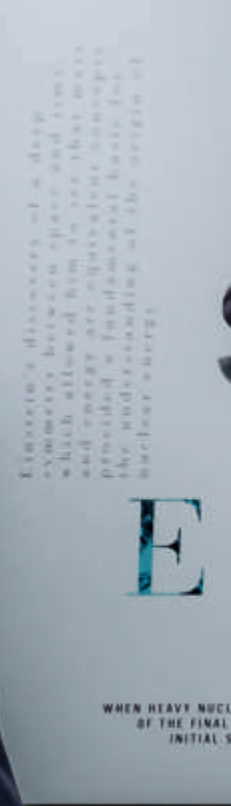
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Our commitment to sustainability goes beyond environmental impact; it's about optimizing resources and supporting our communities. Responsible growth means integrating sustainability into every aspect of our operations and ensuring that we contribute positively to society, including ensuring patient safety and improved patient outcomes as well as healthcare outcomes in South Africa, Africa and globally





partnerships and market entries is a key goal, alongside a commitment to enhancing customer engagement and satisfaction.

Sustainability and corporate responsibility are integral to Thabo's approach, focusing on reducing environmental impact, optimizing resource usage, and actively supporting local communities through various initiatives.

### **Guiding the Helm of Nuclear Integrity**

During his tenure as the Interim Chief Executive Officer for the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR), Thabo navigated a period of significant challenges and achievements. His leadership was crucial in steering the organization through a transitional phase, maintaining high safety standards, and fostering a collaborative team environment. Thabo's role involved overseeing rigorous safety inspections, implementing regulatory policies, and enhancing stakeholder engagement through transparent communication and international collaboration.

Key challenges included ensuring compliance with stringent regulations, balancing innovation with safety, and managing resource constraints, such as budget limitations and staff training. Thabo focused on strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving compliance rates, and enhancing emergency preparedness and incident response.

His tenure saw notable successes in policy enhancement, building public trust, and achieving international recognition for regulatory excellence. Thabo's experience at the NNR has profoundly shaped his leadership approach, emphasizing strategic vision, effective management, and a commitment to safety and compliance in the nuclear industry.

### **Cultivating Creativity and Continuous Growth**

At NTP Radioisotopes SOC Ltd., Thabo fosters innovation and continuous improvement through a multifaceted approach. He promotes a culture of creativity by encouraging open communication and using platforms for idea generation. Employees are empowered with autonomy and recognized for their innovative contributions, which enhances engagement and job satisfaction.

Thabo emphasizes continuous learning and skill development, investing in both technical and soft skills training. He implements lean and agile methodologies to optimize processes and establish feedback loops for ongoing improvements. By adopting state-of-the-art technologies and setting up innovation labs, Thabo ensures the team remains at the cutting edge.

Collaborative partnerships with industry experts and cross-functional teams further drive innovation. He provides clear strategic goals and measurable objectives to guide efforts and track progress. A customer-centric approach helps align innovation with market needs, while a growth mindset encourages resilience, adaptability, and learning from failure. Thabo also supports mentorship programs and creates a nurturing environment to cultivate future leaders and sustain continuous improvement.

### **Blueprints for Brilliance**

Thabo advises young professionals aspiring to build a career in the nuclear industry and pursue leadership roles to prioritize dedication and clarity of vision. He emphasizes that a strong commitment to one's work is crucial for success. Additionally, having a clear vision of future goals helps establish a solid foundation for achieving them. Thabo believes that dedicated individuals have immense potential to drive change and make a lasting impact in their field.











# *Collaborative Healthcare Models:* **THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS IN DRIVING CHANGE**

**I**n the complex landscape of healthcare, collaboration has emerged as a critical strategy for driving meaningful change. As nations face unprecedented health challenges, from communicable diseases to chronic conditions, the need for innovative solutions has never been more urgent. Collaborative healthcare models harness the strengths of various stakeholders—governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector entities, and communities—to create comprehensive approaches that enhance health outcomes. This article explores the significance of these partnerships and highlights successful initiatives that illustrate their potential.

## **Understanding Collaborative Healthcare Models**

Collaborative healthcare models are frameworks that bring together diverse stakeholders to address health challenges more effectively than any single entity could achieve alone. These partnerships can take various forms, including public-private

partnerships (PPPs), community health initiatives, and multi-sectoral collaborations that involve sectors such as education, transportation, and housing.

At the core of these models is the recognition that health is influenced by a multitude of factors beyond medical care. Social determinants of health—such as income, education, and access to resources—play a significant role in shaping health outcomes. By pooling resources and expertise, collaborative models can tackle these determinants, leading to more holistic and sustainable solutions.

## **The Importance of Collaboration**

**1. Enhanced Resource Allocation:** Collaborative models enable more efficient use of resources. By pooling funding, expertise, and facilities, stakeholders can minimize duplication of efforts and maximize the impact of their interventions. For instance, a partnership between a government health department and an NGO can lead to joint health campaigns that reach a larger audience.





## **2. Shared Knowledge and Best Practices:**

Collaboration fosters an environment where stakeholders can share insights and learn from each other's experiences. This exchange of knowledge is crucial for identifying effective interventions and avoiding common pitfalls. For example, health systems in different countries can learn from successful programs implemented elsewhere, adapting them to fit local contexts.

## **3. Increased Community Engagement:**

Community involvement is essential for the success of healthcare initiatives. Collaborative models often emphasize local participation, ensuring that interventions are culturally sensitive and aligned with community needs. By engaging community members, stakeholders can build trust and encourage greater utilization of health services.

**4. Comprehensive Solutions:** Health issues are rarely isolated; they often intersect with other sectors. Collaborative models allow for a multi-faceted approach to problem-solving. For instance, addressing childhood malnutrition may involve healthcare providers, educators, and agricultural organizations to promote healthy diets and improve food security.

## **Successful Examples of Collaborative Healthcare Models**

### **1. The Global Fund**

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a prime example of a collaborative model that has made significant strides in global health. By bringing together governments, civil society, and the private sector, the Global Fund has mobilized billions of dollars to combat these diseases. This multi-stakeholder approach has led to innovative strategies, such as community-based testing and treatment programs that have reached millions in need.

## **2. Partners In Health**

Partners In Health (PIH), an NGO founded in the United States, exemplifies the power of collaboration in addressing health disparities in resource-limited settings. In partnership with local governments and communities, PIH has implemented comprehensive health systems in countries like Haiti and Rwanda. By integrating medical care with social support services, PIH has improved health outcomes and strengthened local health systems, demonstrating that addressing social determinants is crucial for effective healthcare.

## **3. The Healthy Cities Initiative**

The Healthy Cities Initiative, launched by the World Health Organization (WHO), showcases how cities can collaborate to promote health at a local level. This initiative encourages partnerships between local governments, health agencies, and community organizations to develop health-promoting policies and environments. Successful examples include cities that have implemented pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, improved access to green spaces, and promoted healthy eating through community gardens.

## **Overcoming Challenges**

While collaborative healthcare models offer significant benefits, they also face challenges. Establishing and maintaining effective partnerships requires clear communication, mutual respect, and shared goals. Misalignment of interests or priorities among stakeholders can hinder progress. Additionally, varying levels of capacity and resources among partners may create disparities in contributions and expectations.

To overcome these challenges, it is essential to establish clear frameworks for collaboration. This includes defining roles and responsibilities, setting



measurable objectives, and ensuring ongoing communication among stakeholders. Building trust and fostering a culture of collaboration can also enhance the sustainability of partnerships.

### **The Future of Collaborative Healthcare**

As healthcare systems worldwide evolve, the need for collaboration will only grow. Emerging health threats, such as pandemics and climate change, require coordinated responses that transcend traditional boundaries. Collaborative healthcare models present an opportunity to build resilient health systems that can adapt to these challenges. Furthermore, the integration of technology into healthcare presents new avenues for collaboration. Telehealth platforms, data sharing, and digital health innovations can enhance communication

and coordination among stakeholders, making collaborative models more efficient and effective.

### **Conclusion**

Collaborative healthcare models represent a powerful approach to addressing the complex health challenges faced by communities today. By harnessing the strengths of diverse stakeholders, these partnerships can create comprehensive solutions that enhance health outcomes and promote equity. As we look to the future, fostering collaboration in healthcare will be essential for building resilient systems capable of navigating the uncertainties ahead. Embracing the power of partnerships is not just a strategy; it is a necessity for driving meaningful change in global health.





*THE ONLY TECHNOLOGY CAPABLE OF OUTSMARTING CATS*

### **PROBLEM**

Every day, cats are robbed of their best lives by a common, yet often overlooked disease: osteoarthritis (OA) pain. Nearly 40% of cats suffer from it in silence, yet most of their owners don't know how to spot its signs. So we asked ourselves: what if there was a way to interpret what cats were feeling so they could get the help they need? The answer was Cat Pain IQ.

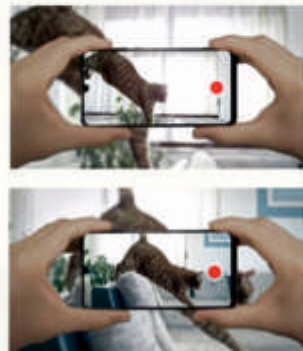
**32 million**  
households in the US have cats

**40%**  
of cat owners who  
recognized OA pain signs

**50%**  
of cat owners who recognized OA pain signs  
in their cat were motivated to visit their vets

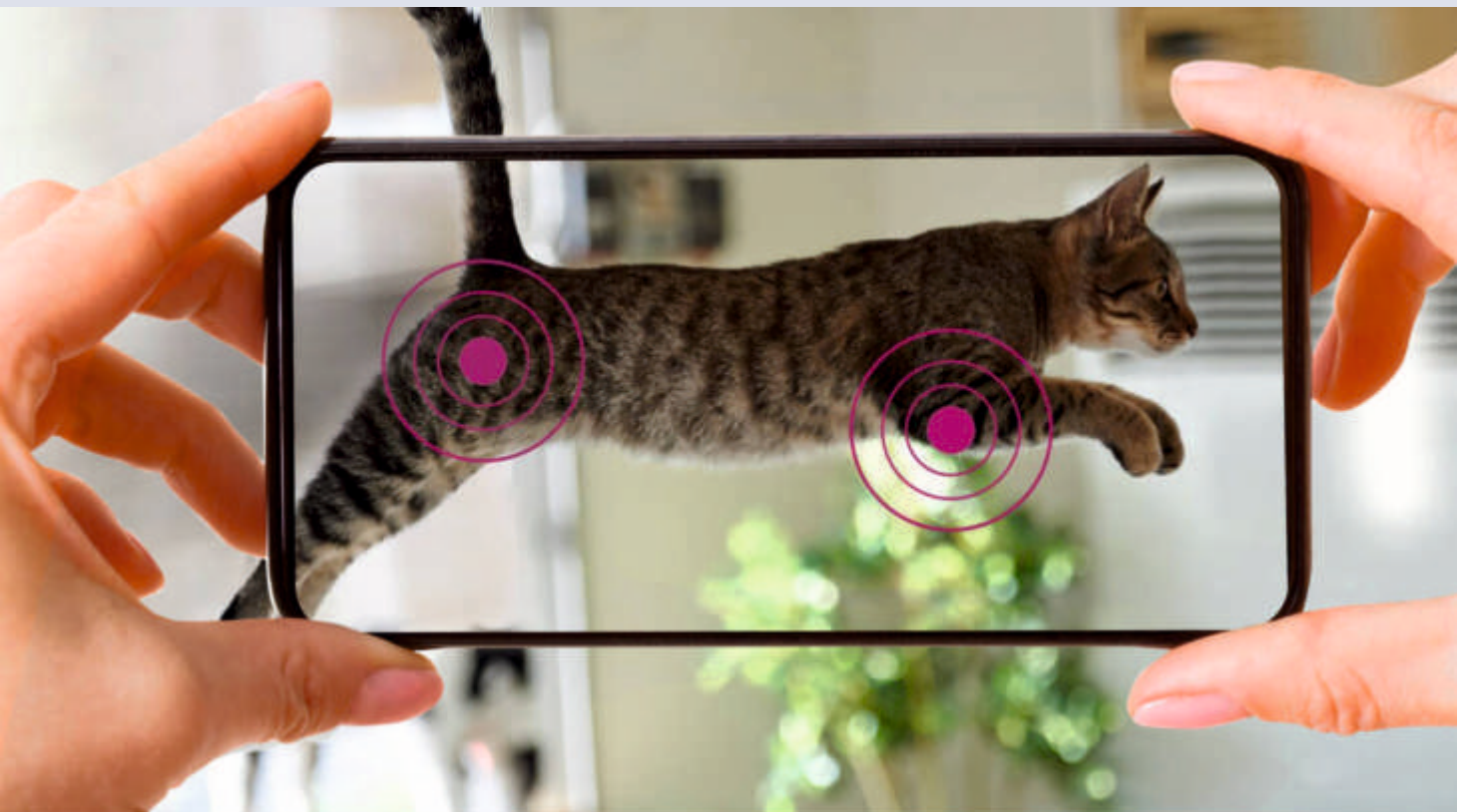
### **SOLUTION**

Cat Pain IQ uses the power of AI to analyze for signs of OA pain. While rigorous testing of the technology, the result is simple. To use it, you take a video of your cat. The AI analyzes it, and the results are automatically shared with you and your veterinarian.



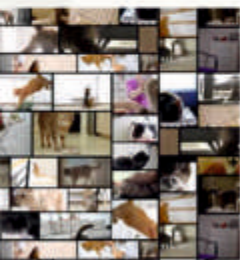
Six 2-week sprints and were performed





zoetis

a cat's movements  
went into training  
the app, owners simply  
and the results are  
ts.



500,000 analyses  
to train the AI

## RESULTS

This first-of-its kind app promises to change the way we care for cats by encouraging pet owners to partner more closely with their vets. Not only does this mean healthier, happier cats, but it means millions of cat owners' lives will be improved as well.

750,000 of pet owners  
signed up to use CPIQ

400,000 of videos  
submitted by pet owners

375,000 of screenings  
results reports viewed







# TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN AFRICA THROUGH LOCAL HEALTHTECH INNOVATORS

## **I**ntroduction

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the vulnerabilities of Africa's healthcare systems, highlighting systemic inefficiencies and significant access challenges. With an expected population growth of over 30% by 2030, reaching 1.7 billion people, the urgency for innovative healthcare solutions has never been greater. This case study explores how local healthtech innovators are addressing these challenges by transforming supply chains and enhancing access to essential health products across the continent.

## Background

Before the pandemic, Africa's healthcare systems faced longstanding issues, including limited access to medical facilities and inadequate supply chains. Approximately 50% of Africans live more than two hours from the nearest health facility, complicating access to vital healthcare services and products. The pandemic exacerbated these issues, causing uncertainties around the availability of critical items, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and vaccines.

In response, African healthtech innovators have emerged as key players, leveraging technology to improve healthcare access and efficiency. By developing local solutions tailored to regional challenges, these innovators are revolutionizing the way health products are distributed and accessed.

### **The Rise of Healthtech Innovators** **Kasha: Streamlining Health Access**

Kasha, founded in Rwanda, exemplifies the impact of local healthtech innovation. The platform streamlines the purchase of health products, enabling pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals to efficiently manage their inventories. With plans to expand across East, West, and Central Africa by 2024, Kasha has the potential to reach a vast network of healthcare providers.

By facilitating remote restocking, Kasha helps minimize stockouts and empowers consumers with information about health products. This shift not only ensures reliable access to medicines but also diverts pharmacies from the risky open drug markets, promoting safer health supply chains. With nearly 50,000 healthcare providers now sourcing quality medicines directly from

manufacturers, Kasha's model is transforming healthcare accessibility for over 250,000 patients daily.

### **Remedial Health: Improving Procurement and Financing**

In Nigeria, Remedial Health has developed a tech-enabled procurement platform that serves 4,000 pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals. By raising \$12 million, the company has expanded its services beyond inventory management to offer financing solutions, thereby addressing cash flow constraints that often limit product availability.

Remedial Health's approach not only enhances access to genuine medicines but also ensures that local pharmacies remain financially viable. This dual focus on procurement and financing illustrates how tech-driven solutions can mitigate supply chain fragmentation and empower local health providers.

### **Yodawy: Bridging the Gap in Health Insurance**

In Egypt, Yodawy is redefining access to health products through its evolution into a pharmacy benefits manager. With \$16 million in Series B funding, Yodawy has partnered with 3,000





pharmacies and 15 insurance companies, processing over 4 million prescriptions since its inception in 2018.

By integrating health insurance systems into its platform, Yodawy addresses the historically low coverage rates in the country. This model not only facilitates access to essential health products but also encourages greater adoption of health insurance, ultimately leading to improved health outcomes.

### Challenges Faced by Healthtech Innovators

Despite their potential, local healthtech innovators face several challenges that hinder their growth and impact. These include:

- **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Navigating long sales cycles and complex regulations can slow down the process of bringing innovative solutions to market. Many startups find themselves entangled in red tape, making it difficult to scale their operations effectively.
- **Limited Support from Global Organizations:** Global health organizations often prioritize partnerships with large multinational companies, overlooking local startups that develop cost-effective, tech-driven solutions. This disconnect stifles the potential for homegrown innovations to thrive.
- **Resource Constraints:** Many healthtech startups operate with limited financial and human resources, impacting their ability to invest in technology and expand their reach.

### The Path Forward

To unlock the full potential of local healthtech innovators, it is crucial for global organizations to shift their focus from Western solutions to African-developed technologies. This involves:

- **Investing in Local Solutions:** By providing funding and support specifically for African startups, global organizations can foster a self-sustaining ecosystem of innovation that responds to the continent's unique healthcare needs.
- **Streamlining Procurement Processes:** Simplifying the tendering process and criteria for local solutions can encourage more startups to participate, enabling them to contribute effectively to health supply chains.
- **Fostering Collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships between local healthtech innovators and established organizations can help create synergies, leading to more robust healthcare delivery systems.

### Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgent need for effective healthcare solutions in Africa, revealing the critical role that local healthtech innovators play in addressing these challenges. Companies like Kasha, Remedial Health, and Yodawy are leading the way in transforming healthcare access by leveraging technology and responding to local needs.

As Africa's population continues to grow, embracing locally-developed, cost-effective solutions is essential for building resilient healthcare systems. By shifting focus towards homegrown innovations, stakeholders can ensure that Africa's healthcare future is not only sustainable but also equitable, ultimately improving health outcomes for millions across the continent. Leveraging African solutions for African challenges is not just a necessity; it is a pathway to a healthier future.





**penny,** for many, nothing.



For the buyer, the decision.

For the entrepreneur, profit.

For the accountant, the balance.

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## **Career in Contabilidad and Audit.**



Find what makes you great.

# **INNOVATIONS IN TELEHEALTH: TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN AFRICA**





In recent years, Africa has witnessed a significant transformation in its healthcare landscape, primarily driven by technological advancements. One of the most impactful innovations has been telehealth, which has emerged as a vital solution for improving healthcare access across the continent. With vast geographical barriers, limited healthcare infrastructure, and a shortage of medical professionals, telehealth offers a promising avenue to address these challenges and enhance health outcomes for millions of Africans.

### **Understanding Telehealth**

Telehealth encompasses a range of technologies and services that facilitate remote healthcare delivery. It includes video consultations, mobile health applications, remote monitoring, and telemedicine. This approach allows healthcare providers to connect with patients in real time, regardless of their physical location, thereby breaking down barriers to access.

In Africa, where urban-rural disparities are stark, telehealth can be a game changer. Many rural areas lack adequate medical facilities and specialists, forcing patients to travel long distances for care. Telehealth mitigates this issue by bringing healthcare services directly to patients, enabling timely diagnosis and treatment.

### **Bridging the Access Gap**

One of the most pressing issues in African healthcare is access. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about 60% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa lacks access to essential health services. Telehealth has the potential to bridge this gap significantly.

In countries like Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria, innovative telehealth platforms have been launched

to connect patients with healthcare providers. For instance, mHealth initiatives in Kenya allow patients to consult doctors via SMS or mobile apps. This is especially beneficial in areas where internet connectivity may be limited. By providing information and consultations through simple mobile technology, healthcare providers can reach communities that otherwise would remain underserved.

### **Cost-Effectiveness**

Telehealth also presents a cost-effective solution to healthcare delivery. Traditional healthcare often involves significant costs for both patients and providers, including transportation, waiting times, and the overhead of maintaining physical facilities. Telehealth reduces these expenses by minimizing the need for in-person visits and allowing healthcare providers to serve more patients efficiently.

For example, telehealth services can help manage chronic diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension, through regular remote monitoring and consultations. Patients can receive ongoing support without frequent visits to healthcare facilities, ultimately reducing the financial burden on both patients and the healthcare system.

### **Enhancing Quality of Care**

Innovations in telehealth not only improve access and reduce costs but also enhance the overall quality of care. Telehealth platforms often integrate electronic health records (EHRs), allowing healthcare providers to access patient histories, lab results, and treatment plans quickly. This comprehensive view enables better-informed decision-making and personalized care.

Furthermore, telehealth facilitates continuous education and training for healthcare providers,

particularly in rural areas where access to professional development opportunities is limited. Through webinars and online training sessions, healthcare workers can stay updated on the latest medical practices and technologies, ultimately improving the standard of care they provide.

## Overcoming Challenges

Despite its potential, the widespread adoption of telehealth in Africa is not without challenges. Issues such as limited internet connectivity, especially in rural regions, and the digital divide can hinder access to telehealth services. Moreover, the lack of regulatory frameworks and reimbursement policies for telehealth can create barriers for both providers and patients.

To overcome these challenges, various stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and private companies, must work collaboratively to enhance the technological infrastructure. Initiatives to improve internet access in remote areas, along with efforts to create supportive regulatory environments, are essential for the sustainable growth of telehealth.

## Success Stories

Several success stories from across the continent illustrate the transformative impact of telehealth. In South Africa, a telehealth platform called HealthForce has connected thousands of patients to specialists, reducing waiting times for consultations. The service has proven especially beneficial for individuals with chronic conditions, who require regular monitoring and follow-ups.

In Nigeria, the company 54gene has leveraged telehealth to provide genetic testing and health consultations. By utilizing telemedicine, they have expanded access to advanced healthcare services, enabling patients to receive specialized care that was previously unavailable to them.

Similarly, in Ethiopia, the government has implemented a telehealth initiative that connects health workers in remote areas with specialists in urban centers. This program has improved diagnostic capabilities and treatment options for patients in rural communities, significantly enhancing healthcare access.

## The Future of Telehealth in Africa

As we look toward the future, the potential for telehealth in Africa is vast. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of telehealth technologies, leading to increased awareness and acceptance among both patients and providers. This momentum presents an opportunity to further integrate telehealth into the broader healthcare system.

Investments in digital health technologies, coupled with government support and public-private partnerships, can help scale telehealth solutions across the continent. Additionally, as mobile phone penetration continues to rise, more Africans will gain access to telehealth services, improving health outcomes and reducing inequalities.





## Conclusion

Telehealth is not just a temporary solution; it represents a paradigm shift in how healthcare is delivered in Africa. By overcoming geographical barriers, reducing costs, and enhancing the quality of care, telehealth is poised to transform the healthcare landscape on the continent. As innovations continue to emerge, the focus should remain on creating an inclusive and supportive environment that allows telehealth to thrive, ensuring that every African has access to the healthcare they deserve. The journey is just beginning, but the promise of telehealth is clear: a healthier future for all.

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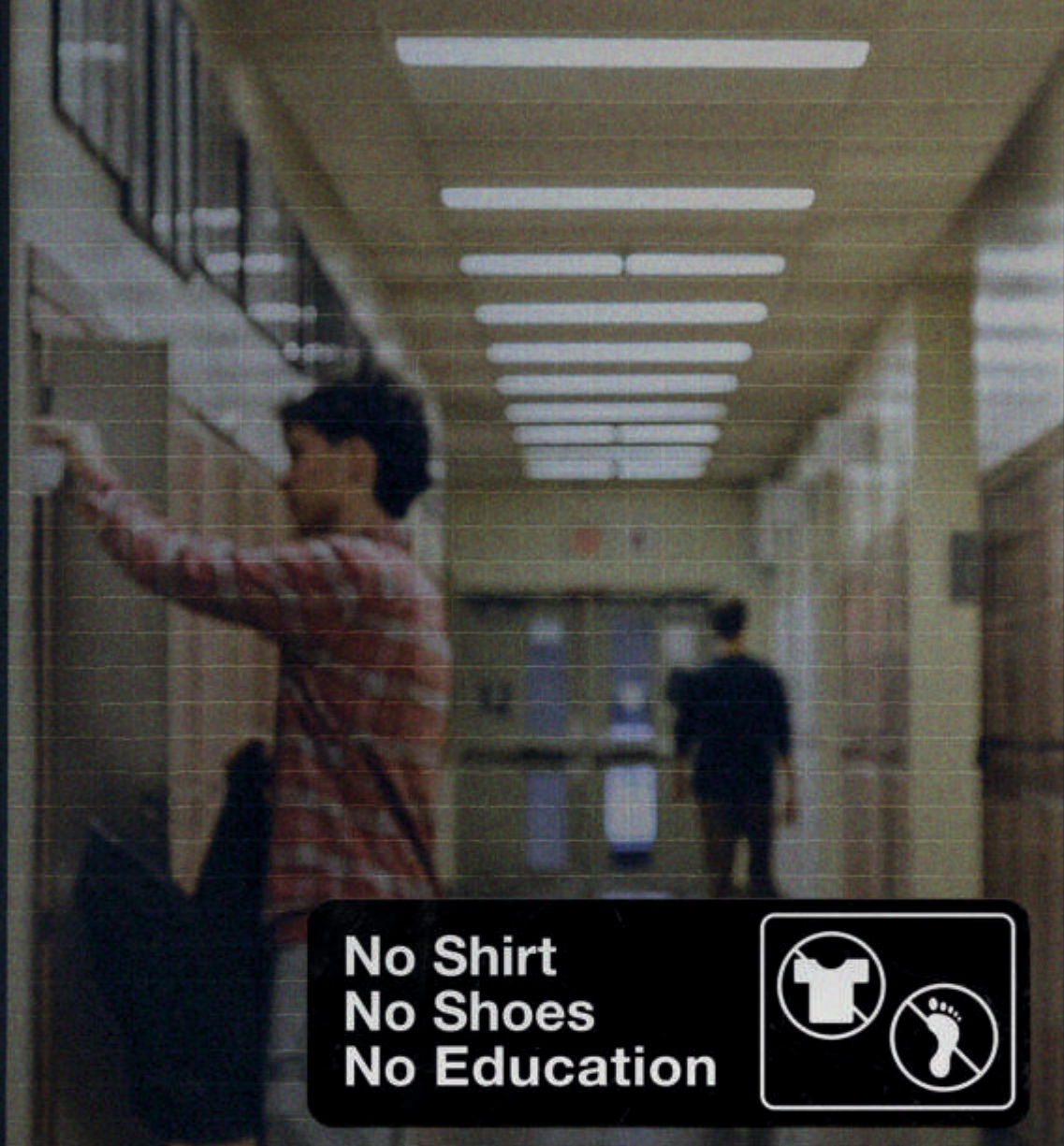
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