

Digital Health and AI in Africa: An Overview



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Challenges in African Healthcare

Shortage of clinicians: of the 54 countries in the continent, 31 have less than 10 doctors per 100,000 people compared to the 240 doctors for every 100,000 people in Germany and 370 to every 100,000 people in Italy.

Infrastructure gap:

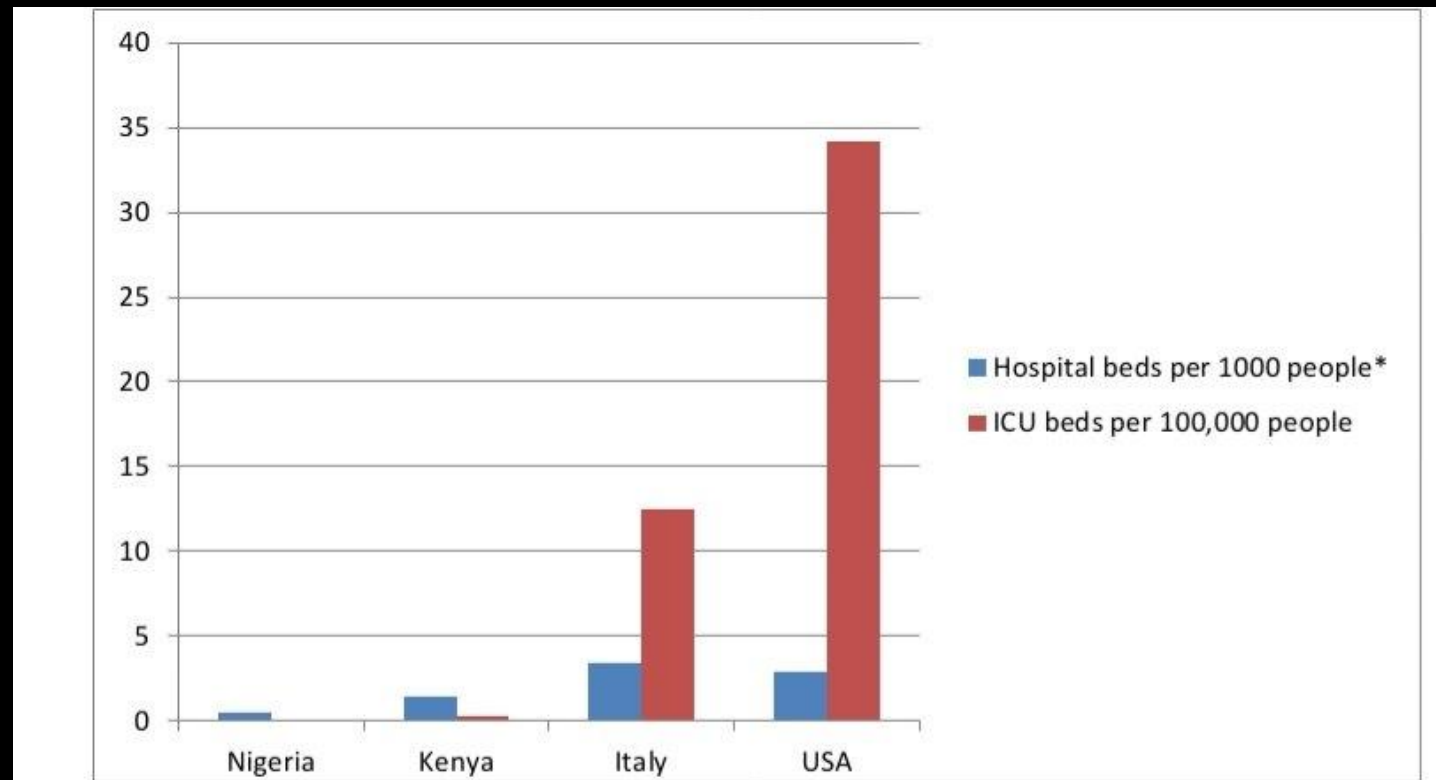
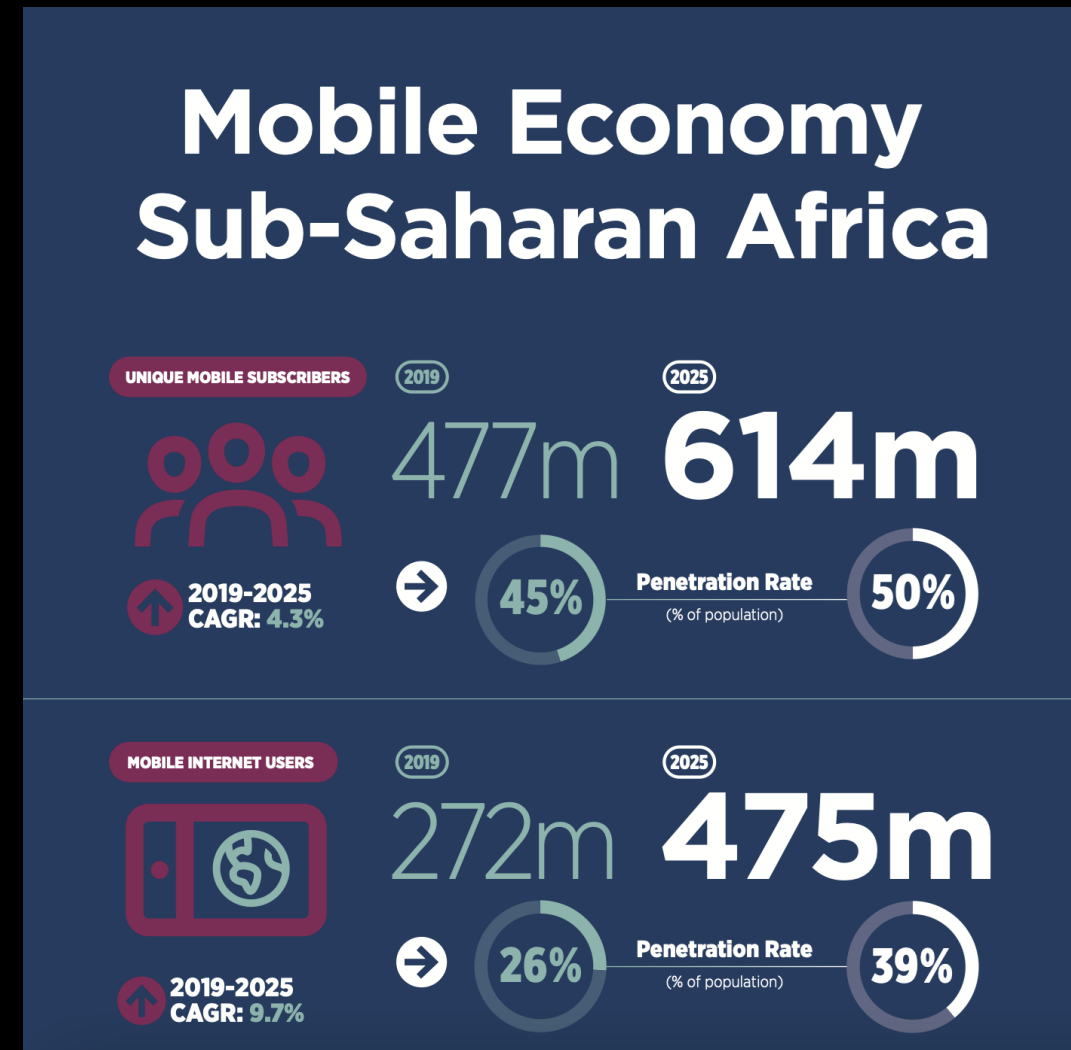


Chart 1: A comparative analysis of Hospital beds per 1000 people and ICU beds per 100,000 people in selected countries. *source: World Bank

Opportunities for Digital Health

Growing access to smartphone, computing devices and internet in Africa

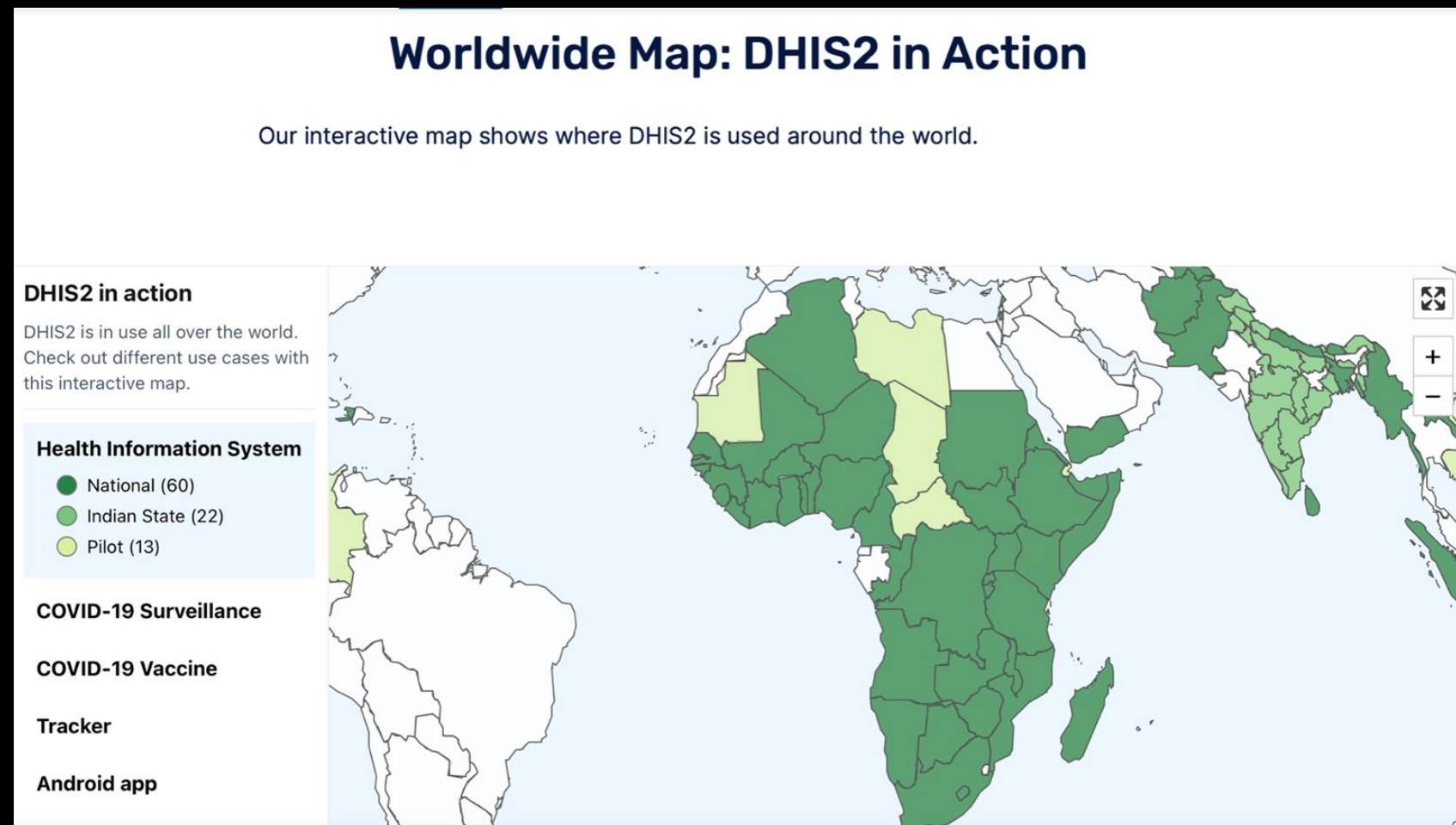
475M people in the region will be mobile internet users by 2025 - GSMA



African governments

District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2) has been adopted by majority of African countries
DHIS2 is used for health data collection, validation, analysis, management, and visualisation.

Kenya (2011), Ghana (2012)



African governments

Delivery Drones

Ghana and Rwanda are using drones to deliver medical supplies to remote regions in order to reduce delivery time and cost.

Medical Robots

Kenya - 3 robots - deployed in hospitals and the airport

Rwanda - 5 robots - deployed in hospitals

It takes the temperature of 200 people per minute,
records their data for storage

Tells those not wearing masks to put them on

Tells those standing too close to others to respect social distancing rules

Fumigates as well

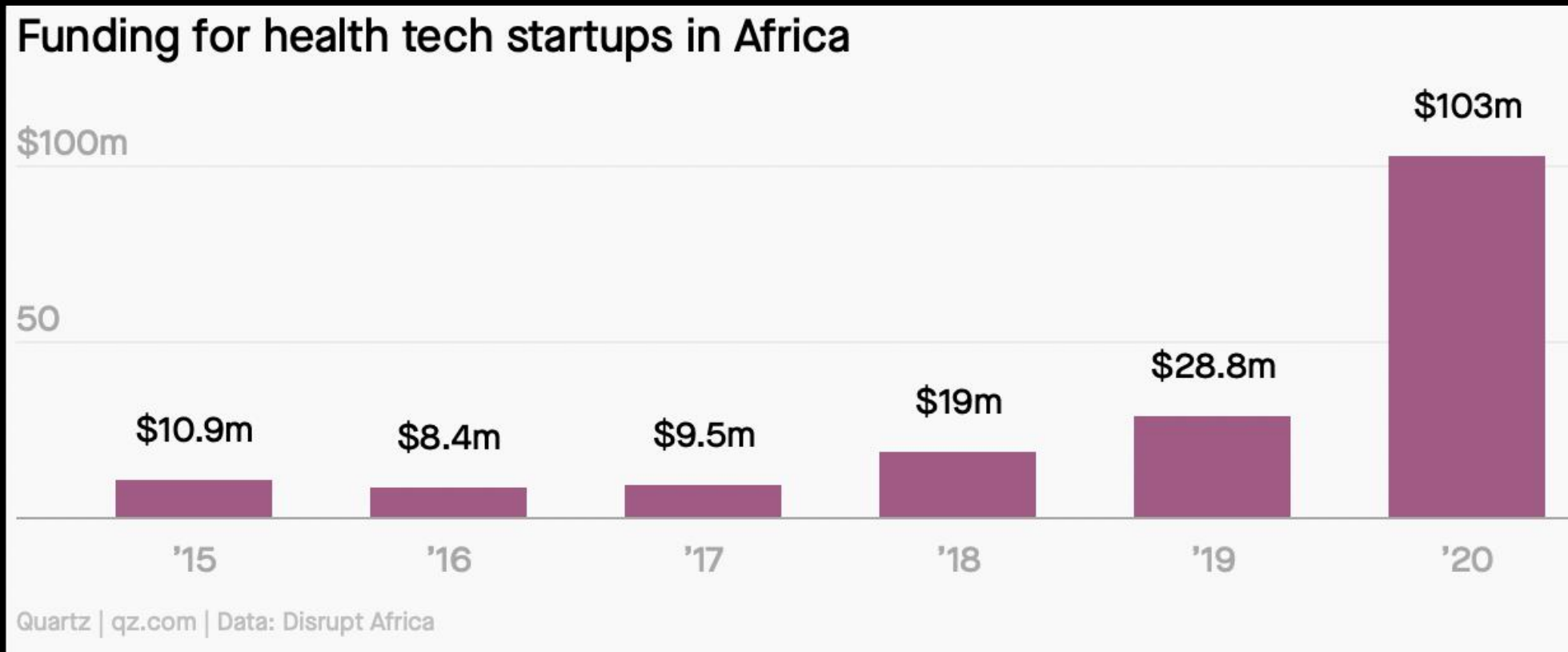
African Digital Health Startups



More than 180 active digital health startups in Africa
They raised over \$103 million in 2020

minoHealth.ai

minoHealth AI Labs - AI for Radiology, AI for Infectious Diseases, AI for Oncology, AI for Biomedical Sciences
Partners - ITU & WHO FG-AI4Health, Imperial College London, Oxford University, WACCBIP etc



Challenges Facing Digital Health Startups in Africa



Funding

African startups accounted for only a small fraction of funds raised in 2020

That last group bankrolled 372 funding rounds for 351 companies, and by MobiHealthNews' count pumped about \$13.8 billion into the digital health sector. - MobiHealthNews

Sufficient digital infrastructure

Lack of Data culture

Stakeholders not adopting local solutions

Appropriate regulatory frameworks and standards

The screenshot shows the Financial Times website interface. At the top, there are links for 'Sign In' and 'Subscribe'. The main header features the 'FINANCIAL TIMES' logo and the 'myFT' user account icon. Below the header, there is a promotional banner for an 'INTRODUCTORY PRINT OFFER' with a 'Subscribe now' button. A red navigation bar highlights a 'Special Report Future of AI and Digital Healthcare'. The main content area features an article titled 'Five ways AI can democratise African healthcare' by 'DARLINGTON AKOGO', with a '+ Add to myFT' button. The article text begins with 'Barriers need to be overcome before data and information technology can be harnessed in poorer countries'. At the bottom, there is a blue-tinted image of a brain scan with overlaid data and a 'Feedback' button on the right side.



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