

# Health Innovation Exchange 2020

1-2 July 2020, online

## **Background**

The Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx) platform was launched during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2019. Visited by over 50 Ministers of Health and more than 2000 visitors, this unique exchange platform was enthusiastically embraced by participating innovators, investors and visitors alike.

Since its launch, the HIEx has matured into a multi-layered platform that acts as a neutral facilitator and broker of innovative solutions for health, particularly in the global South. HIEx has been working with countries on analysis of health priorities and needs, curating tailored health innovations solutions to match the needs, and brokering investments to ensure scale and sustainability of their implementation.

The COVID19 pandemic has demonstrated the potential of innovation – from use of AI for diagnosis to rapid repurposing of telemedicine platforms to train health care workers to new diagnostics. However, it also threatens to undermine the gains that have been made, particularly with innovation ecosystems that have been established over several years. Reduced fiscal space in traditional donor countries may threaten to impact funding of health and innovations negatively in these areas. To address this, a strong and functioning innovation ecosystem is key. To this end, the HIEx provides a platform to identify high-potential innovations and facilitate the channelling of investments to ensure effective implementation in countries.

Due to the restrictions arising from the COVID-19 epidemic, the 2020 HIEx annual event will be a virtual one. It will take place 1-2 July, preceding the International AIDS Conference. This event will be an opportunity to showcase progress through the HIEx since the launch, explore the needs for further investments in innovations for health, as well as facilitate further engagement of countries, innovators and investors for implementation of innovations in countries to accelerate progress towards SDG3.

## Event details

30 June	All day	<b>Pre-event:</b> Online Health Innovation Marketplace opens
1 July	All day	Health Innovation Marketplace – Interactive
	15:00-16:00 CET	<b>Live event:</b> High-level event on Young People’s Access to Digital Health (with UNICEF)
	16:00-17:00 CET	<b>Live event:</b> High-level panel on innovations for COVID-19
2 July	All day	Health Innovation Marketplace - Interactive
	15:00-17:00 CET	<b>Live event:</b> Building the future of health through innovations: HIE Awards 2020
3-10 July	All day	<b>Post-event:</b> Health Innovation Marketplace available for viewing

### Online Health Innovation Marketplace (30 June-10 July)

The heart of the event is the Health Innovation Marketplace, which will showcase 30+ cutting-edge innovations that have potential for scaling and creating impact for SDG3, particularly in resource-limited settings. The innovations will be selected through a wide sourcing approach utilizing both an open call for solutions as well as the HIE partnerships networks. All the innovations will go through a rigorous review process to ensure adherence to the HIE criteria, including a solid rights base, potential for impact, readiness for scaling, and sustainability.

A special highlight will be given to innovations that present solutions for the COVID-19 pandemic. A special segment on innovation for youth access to health will be featured.

The Marketplace will consist of virtual booths, where each visitor can explore the innovation in more depth and interact with the innovators behind the solution.

### High-level event on Young People’s Access to Digital Health (1 July)

This high-level panel event will bring youth networks together to engage in a panel with select leaders from global health, tech companies, youth representative and innovators to:

- Demonstrate high-level commitment, and political leadership to scale-up innovative digital solutions for access to information and services to HIV and SRHR.
- Highlight the need to empower youth to define needs and explore innovative solutions for tailored services on HIV and SRHR
- Identify entry points for tech companies’ contribution to ending AIDS and support the sexual health and rights agenda

### **High-level panel on innovations for COVID-19 (1 July)**

This event will bring together key leaders (Ministers of Health, private sector CEOs, investors, community leaders) to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the health innovation ecosystems. The panellists will:

- Explore both what limitations the current situation poses, as well as the opportunities that arise from an accelerated pace of development of new solutions and the focused attention of funders on the ongoing crisis.
- Present key innovative solutions for the COVID-19 response and discuss their importance for building stronger systems for health on the whole
- Look ahead to analyse what we can learn from the COVID-19 pandemic to guide our investments for health innovations, and for ensuring the right partnerships and structures for funding and implementing innovations in countries

### **Building the future of health through innovations: HIE Awards 2020 (2 July)**

The HIE Awards serve to recognize top innovations, submitted by innovators all over the world and selected from the pool of entries by global health innovation experts and leaders from around the world.

This event will showcase and celebrate these solutions that have been chosen for the potential to accelerate progress towards SDG3 in countries, particularly in Africa and Asia.

To set the scene, we will hear from Ministers of Health and other key leaders about the need for innovations for health, key areas that have the highest potential for gains through innovations, as well as what is needed from the global health and innovation communities to support development and implementation of such innovations.

Leading innovations will be awarded in areas such as, digital health & digital solutions for young people, financial innovations, Innovations for the last mile, community innovations and innovations for COVID-19

Awarded innovations will be integrated to the Health Innovation Exchange platform and will benefit from facilitation of partnerships and investments for scaling their solutions in key countries.

### **Expected outcomes**

The HIE global event in 2020 will:

- Strengthen political and industry leadership on innovation and investments for SDG3
- Showcase 30+ cutting edge innovations, sourced based on country needs in health, with potential to create impact for SDG3 and UHC
- Recognise and award top innovations that have potential to fast track progress towards SDG3 and ending AIDS
- Facilitate partnerships between countries, innovators and investors through matchmaking of needs, solutions and investments
- Generate and strengthen commitments from countries and key partners for the Health Innovation Exchange as a sustainable platform