

Ubuntu Rising: Youth Transforming Health, Innovation and Work in Africa*Pre-Congress Side Event***Saturday 5 September 2026 • 9:00 AM–4:00 PM • The Westin Cape Town****About**

Africa's rapidly growing youth population coincides with critical shortages in the health workforce, presenting both a challenge and a major opportunity. Empowering young people to participate in and shape health systems can help address workforce gaps while strengthening innovation, leadership, and community engagement in public health. The Africa Health Collaborative (AHC), a partnership of African academic institutions together with the Mastercard Foundation and global health actors, works to advance youth engagement in health through four pillars: Health Employment, Health Entrepreneurship, Health Ecosystems, and Network Development & Collaborative Learning.

This pre-conference side event at the 18th World Congress on Public Health will bring together youth leaders, public health practitioners, policymakers, academic institutions, and development partners to explore pathways for youth leadership, employment, and innovation in public health. The event will highlight youth-led initiatives, examine models that support youth entry into health systems, and explore the role of digital innovation, entrepreneurship, and community-based primary health care in expanding opportunities for young professionals.

Through keynote insights, lightning talks, panel discussions, and interactive dialogue, participants will share experiences and collaboratively identify practical strategies to strengthen youth participation in health systems across Africa. The session aims to foster collaboration, elevate youth voices, and advance evidence-informed action to support youth as leaders and changemakers in the future of public health.

Registration: [Please click on this link](#)

Contributing Institutions

Addis Ababa University
African Institute for Mathematical Sciences
African Leadership University
Amref Health Africa
Ashesi University
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
Mastercard Foundation
Moi University
University of Cape Town
University of Toronto

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