

The **75th World Health Assembly (WHA)** 'Health for peace, peace for health' focused on addressing the key challenges facing the world, specifically global health emergencies. Over 150 Ministers of Health joined the Assembly in Geneva which came to an end last week. The WHA served as the nexus for high-level events organized at its margins as key policymakers, government representatives, investors, innovators and experts in healthcare met.

The **Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx)**, organized sessions on the margins of WHA to bring together policymakers, innovators and investors to leverage health innovations and investments to improve lives around the world. This year HIEx and partners focused on advancing Women's health, scaling up surgical capacities worldwide and building Health Technology Assessment framework for digital health.

STRENGTHENING SURGICAL CARE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

22 MAY 2022, GENEVA.

Hosted by the **Vice President of Ecuador Hon. Dr Alfredo Borrero**, this event brought together several Ministers of Health from Latin America and Caribbean region to discuss the need for collaboration and set an ambitious agenda for scaling access and capacities for surgery. Powerful conversations across the table underlined the need for safe, timely and accessible surgery to become a strong part of national healthcare agendas in the region. The partners of the event included the **Global Surgery Foundation, Global Surgery and Social Change (GSSC) Program of the Harvard University** and **UNITAR**.



Over the last 25 years of working on the frontlines as a surgeon, I have experienced that where there is a functional and effective surgical care system, the healthcare system is stronger.

DR. GEOFFREY IBBOTSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE GLOBAL SURGERY FOUNDATION

INNOVATION SHOWCASE

23 MAY 2022, GENEVA.

India has been a leader in the pharmaceutical sector providing access to quality and affordable medicines for the world. India is committed to bringing its expertise in health technology and innovation to scaling access to medical technologies. The Honorable **Minister of Health and Family Welfare, India, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** hosted Ministers of Health and heads of delegations to the WHA where several technologies were showcased highlighting India's commitment to scaling access to healthcare.

The Innovation Showcase featured innovative solutions in health that have the potential to address several of the pain-points in prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and delivery of healthcare for women, with a special focus on breast and cervical cancer. The showcase promoted vibrant exchanges between innovators, countries and investors committed to enhancing access, particularly for women in low- and middle-income countries and explored new models for expanding investments in women's healthcare delivery.

The constructive exchanges were captured in pictures below:



To learn more about the innovations

[CLICK HERE](#)

STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS THROUGH UPSCALING SURGICAL CARE

23 MAY 2022, GENEVA.

The **Global Surgery Foundation (GSF)** organized an event highlighting the need for strengthening surgical care systems - how they are fundamental pillars of resilient health systems and key to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the SDG targets. The event underscored a call for consistent and sustained funding to address the gaps and inequity in access to surgical care.

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Forget about the inequities between north and south. Let us talk about what is happening at home. These are the conversations we have to be bold enough to have with the leadership in our countries.

DR PRINCESS NOTHEMBA SIMELELA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)

The event convened a strong cadre of global health leaders and surgeons from organizations such as **UNITAR**, **USAID**, **Johnson & Johnson (J&J)**, **Smile Train**, and **WHO** among others, who believe in the potential of surgical care in preventing deaths and saving lives. The key takeaways were the need to build strong partnerships backed by the political will and 'reprioritize' the focus of national health programs. HIEx and HIEx Investor Coalition Pitch and Pair company, Proximie, focusing on digital surgical collaboration were proud co-organizers of the event.

The provision of surgery is a public health need. Surgical care is an essential part of the system that enables people to live long and healthy lives.

- **DR ATUL GAWANDE**, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR GLOBAL HEALTH, USAID

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If governments and ministries have a seat at the table, we will be able to solve the problem through partnerships. These are the conversations that need to happen to continue the progress we are making.

- **STACY MEYER**, VP GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH, JOHNSON & JOHNSON

The event concluded with concrete commitments made by the panellists in investing to strengthen surgical systems and mobilize action. For instance:

UNITAR commits to doubling the countries that they help develop National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anesthesia Plans (NSOAP).

USAID commits to working with 9 countries to develop a comprehensive and safe emergency C-Section capability.

J&J commits to working with the **GSF** to scale the UN Global Surgery Learning Hub globally.

WOMEN'S HEALTH EMPOWERMENT NETWORK (WHEN)

24 MAY 2022, GENEVA.

The Center for Global Health and Development (GHD), the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and HIEx hosted representatives from select countries, innovators and key private sector partners on the need for scaling access to cancer care for women. Members agreed to launch the **Women's Health Empowerment Network (WHEN)** which will focus on how women leaders across sectors can play a role in scaling up access to cancer treatments. The network will comprise experts with experience in transformative health technologies, developing innovative programmes for women's healthcare and investing in global health and technology.

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

24 MAY 2022, GENEVA.

The fast-growing class of data science/AI/ML-based innovations are revolutionizing research and innovation in medicine and healthcare, hold much promise, especially for under-resourced contexts. However, there are currently no mechanisms for validating and adopting those innovations as traditionally exist for drugs and vaccines. The Indian Council for Medical Research and HIEx organized the meeting "**DeepTech and Data-driven Innovation Accelerator**" to facilitate the development, assessment and validation of such health technologies.

The event brought together key leaders from both public and private sectors around the connecting theme of developing new and innovative models for scaling access to healthcare, particularly in the areas of AI, ML and big data analytics.



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[Through the Health Technology Assessment framework] I feel that India, together with the UN system, can lead the transfer of technologies and south to south collaboration for developing health technologies that are frugal and low-cost, yet effective.

- **DR BALRAM BHARGAVA**, DIRECTOR GENERAL INDIAN COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR)

CONNECTING

24 MAY 2022, GENEVA.



"It was wonderful to see our Investor Coalition Member, Ernest Darkoh, passing through Geneva from Davos on his way home to South Africa."

HIEx would like to thank its Board Members, particularly **Dr Shannon Shibata Germanos & Ms Joanne Manrique** for their outstanding leadership in spearheading HIEx engagements at the WHA and **Mr Mauro Pantaleo and Mr Jai Gupta** for their participation and excellent support.