

STRATEGIC PLAN



Tanzania Health Informatics Association

TAHIA

Strategic Plan (2023 - 2027)

   @TahiaTanzania



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Health (MOH), the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Development Partner and Implementing Partners for their unparalleled commitment and unwavering support for the TAHIA initiative. Your dedication has been instrumental in driving our mission forward, ensuring that we can effectively address health challenges and improve the well-being of our communities.

The collaborative efforts and guidance provided by these esteemed organizations have not only strengthened our programs but have also fostered a spirit of teamwork and shared vision. We recognize that your contributions are vital to our success, and we look forward to continuing this fruitful partnership in the pursuit of better health outcomes for all.

TAHIA acknowledges the unparalleled commitment and diligence of its founding members, with special recognition to the TAHIA founder members and Leaders. Their visionary leadership and tireless efforts have been instrumental in shaping TAHIA's strategic direction.

The founders' dedication has laid a solid foundation for TAHIA, fostering an environment of collaboration and innovation. Their contributions have not only guided the organization's initial goals but have also propelled TAHIA toward its future aspirations in advancing health initiatives.

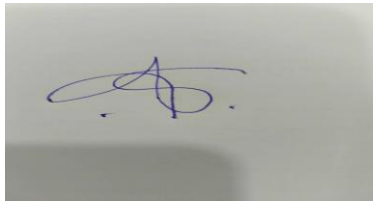
As we move forward, it is essential to honor their legacy and continue building on the strategic vision they established. Their influence remains a guiding force in our ongoing mission to enhance health outcomes and promote excellence in our field. To achieve TAHIA Vision and Mission, special attention will be given to the following strategic objectives: -

- Ensure effective skill and knowledge sharing.
- Elevate the visibility and credibility of the health informatics profession.
- Promote and support technology-driven innovations.
- Foster a collaborative spirit within local and international health informatics communities.
- Promote Digital health skills & Technological Know-how through consultancies to the needy Clients.
- Elevate Health Informatics Skills through mentorship and coaching to graduates to equip them with industry base skills and competencies.
- Ensure incubation of innovators to enhance competitive Digital Innovation sector and private sectors

Achievement of these Strategic objectives is of paramount importance for TAHIA to meet and where possible exceed expectations of its Members, Health Sector and the public at large. In this regard, the TAHIA Management is committed to seek and mobilize the necessary resources for

successful implementation of this Strategic Plan. Monitoring and evaluation of the plan will be done to ensure that anticipated performance results are achieved.

I feel indebted to members of TAHIA and Leaders who contributed ideas, suggestions, experiences, expertise and time in the development of this Plan. In a special way, I thank the Management of the MoH, PORALG, Development Partners and Implementing Partners and all stakeholders for their continued support and cooperation towards achieving the TAHIA's Mission and Vision. Thank you for your steadfast support and belief in our work.



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Sosthenes Elias Bagumhe
TAHIA President

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tanzanian government has set ambitious goals to elevate the country to middle-income status and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. While Tanzania has successfully met several health-related Millennium Development Goals—such as reducing under-five mortality, increasing measles immunization coverage, and lowering HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis mortality rates—some targets remain unmet, including maternal mortality reduction, antenatal care coverage, skilled birth attendance, family planning access, antiretroviral therapy coverage, and malaria incidence. To address these gaps, the government is committed to expanding the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public health services.

In support of these efforts, the Tanzanian government and its development partners are calling for increased investment in digital health systems to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and improve the efficiency of health service delivery. As a key player in this initiative, the Tanzania Health Informatics Association (TAHIA) engages a wide range of stakeholders—implementation partners, academia, and government institutions—to provide a platform for knowledge sharing in health informatics and to promote professional excellence.

Registered at the end of 2021 by the Registrar of Societies under the Ministry of Home Affairs, with the Ministry of Health's endorsement, TAHIA brings together health informatics experts in Tanzania. The organization is dedicated to sharing effective skills and knowledge, driving intervention and advocacy, and fostering research and innovation to improve healthcare efficiency.

TAHIA is currently developing a platform centered around eight thematic areas. These themes encourage the exchange of knowledge on digital technologies and innovations for societal development. Given the rapid evolution of digital health and the increasing reliance on technology in healthcare, TAHIA aims to champion the use of digital health tools through advocacy, knowledge sharing, innovation, and research.

With these challenges and goals in mind, TAHIA seeks to support the implementation of Health Sector Strategic Plan V (2021-2025), the Tanzania Digital Health Strategy (2019-2024). TAHIA envisions itself as a leading organization nurturing a collaborative, innovative health informatics community that supports both local and international health improvement efforts. This mission aligns closely with Tanzania's strategic health objectives.

Recognizing the importance of these strategies, TAHIA is working to create a platform for enhancing informatics skills through the annual health informatics symposium and exhibition. This initiative not only promotes knowledge sharing but also strengthens the foundation for transformative healthcare solutions across Tanzania.



Dr. Henry Mwanyika PhD
TAHIA Vice President

TAHIA's Guiding Principles

The TAHIA strategic plan is based on three guiding principles. The principles are:

1. TAHIA will help to ensure a holistic, systems approach to **collaboration and networking** about Health informatics to maximize impact country-wide.
2. TAHIA will uphold an ethical approach to informatics systems as identified by TAHIA's seven **ethical principles**. (Appendix I)
3. TAHIA will promote Health informatics based on **evidence and best practice** to ensure impact on health is high quality, safe, efficient and sustainable and that makes it easy to do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time country-wide.

I INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background

The following strategic plan outlines the goals, initiatives, and actions that the Tanzania Health Informatics Association (TAHIA) will undertake over the next five years to achieve its vision of becoming a leading organization in promoting and supporting health informatics initiatives for improved health outcomes in Tanzania. This plan will focus on effective Skills and Knowledge sharing, Advocacy, Research, and Innovation to strengthen the healthcare system and enhance service delivery.

I.2 Vision

To be a leading organization that nurtures a collaborative, innovative Health Informatics community that promotes and supports local and international initiatives to improve health.

I.3 Mission

By creating a network and platform that will act as a catalyst for health Informatics practitioners, education, and other partners to stimulate learning, exchange of knowledge, and ideas.

2 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

- **Current Landscape:** Evaluating the milestones, opportunities, and challenges that characterize Tanzania's health informatics ecosystem.
- **Alignment with National & Global Frameworks:** An in-depth study on how TAHIA's initiatives align with the Tanzania Digital Health Strategy, the Tanzania Development Vision 2050, the Health Sector Strategic Plan V, and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
- Understanding the nuances of the WHO global strategy on digital health and its implications for Tanzania's health informatics landscape.
- TAHIA's Accomplishments vis-à-vis Global Benchmarks
- Opportunities and Challenges in a Digital Health-driven Future

3 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

This strategic plan signifies TAHIA's dedication to fostering an active health informatics ecosystem in Tanzania. Through targeted advocacy, research, technology innovation, and collaboration, TAHIA aspires to be instrumental in improving healthcare service delivery and enhancing health outcomes. By driving these strategic objectives in the next five years, TAHIA seeks to contribute profoundly to the growth and progression of health informatics in Tanzania.

TAHIA's three-year strategic plan epitomizes our unwavering commitment to catalyze the health informatics sector in Tanzania. Through rigorous advocacy, state-of-the-art research, innovative tech applications, and strategic collaborations, we're determined to elevate the standards of health service delivery. This trifold roadmap lays the foundation for achieving unparalleled progress in health informatics over the next three years.

3.1 Strategic Priorities:

3.1.1 Advocacy and Professional Growth

- **Objective:** Emerge as a voice that champions health informatics, synergizing with global objectives and assisting the government in the holistic evolution of healthcare. Foster technological advancement and encourage widespread participation across membership categories.
- **Expected Benefit:** Augment the stature and global integration of health informatics professionals in Tanzania, paving pathways for international collaborations and recognitions.

3.1.2 Research, Knowledge Circulation, and Global Synchronization

- **Objective:** Intensify Health Informatics research and knowledge dissemination, while syncing with global digital health innovations.
- **Expected Benefit:** Ensure TAHIA members are at the forefront of global digital health evolutions, driving continuous professional and systemic excellence.

3.1.3 Technology Innovation, Member Inclusion, and Global Integration

- **Objective:** Propagate technological breakthroughs in healthcare, integrate global digital health innovations, and ensure inclusivity for all member echelons.
- **Expected Benefit:** Design a universally resonating platform that fosters global insights, collaborations, and collective growth.

3.1.4 Collaboration, Global Outreach, and WHO Alignment

- **Objective:** Curate and participate in global health informatics dialogues, ensuring Tanzania's voice is influential and its challenges and successes are shared. Expand the horizons of health informatics in Tanzania through international collaborations and engagements.
- **Expected Benefit:** fostering cross-border collaborations and innovations. Develop synergies with international bodies to advance health informatics.

3.2 Strategic Objectives

- Ensure effective skill and knowledge sharing.
- Elevate the visibility and credibility of the health informatics profession.
- Promote and support technology-driven innovations.
- Foster a collaborative spirit within local and international health informatics communities.
- Promote Digital health skills & Technological Know-how through consultancies to the needy Clients.
- Elevate Health Informatics Skills through mentorship and coaching to graduates to equip them with industry base skills and competencies.
- Ensure incubation of innovators to enhance competitive Digital Innovation sector and private sectors

3.3 Strategic Initiatives

- Launch a series of nationwide training sessions and workshops.
- Collaborate with governmental bodies to develop policies enhancing health informatics.
- Develop a digital platform for members, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Organize annual global health informatics conferences in partnership with international organizations.

4 Strategic Priorities and Initiatives

Strategic Priority	Strategic Initiatives
Advocacy and professional growth	Champion the recognition and growth of the health informatics profession in Tanzania.
	Collaborate with governmental bodies to contribute to the effective control of Curative care, Preventive care, and health promotion.
	Establish partnerships with relevant stakeholders to advocate for the value of health informatics professionals in healthcare decision-making.
Research and knowledge sharing	Facilitate and promote health informatics research initiatives to advance the understanding and application of informatics in healthcare.
	Organize seminars, webinars, workshops, and conferences to facilitate knowledge sharing among members, professionals, and the wider healthcare community.
	Develop and maintain a repository of research findings, best practices, and case studies in health informatics.
Technology innovation and participation	Foster innovation in technology for the healthcare sector by supporting and promoting the development of new solutions and applications.
	Create opportunities for all members, across different membership categories, to actively participate and contribute to the association's activities.
	Collaborate with technology partners to explore and implement cutting-edge solutions that enhance healthcare service delivery.

	Promote Digital health skills & Technological Know-how through consultancies to the needy Clients.
	Ensure incubation of innovators to enhance competitive Digital Innovation sector and private sectors
	Elevate Health Informatics Skills through mentorship and coaching to graduates to equip them with industry base skills and competencies.
Collaboration and International engagements	Organize and host in-country and international health informatics conferences to facilitate cross-fertilization of knowledge and skills.
	Promote collaboration among health informatics professionals, researchers, and experts within Tanzania and across borders.
	Establish partnerships with international health informatics associations and organizations to leverage global expertise and resources.

5 Expected Outcomes and Impact

I. Professional Recognition and Advocacy

- Increased recognition of health informatics professionals' contributions in healthcare decision-making.
- Enhanced collaboration with the government leading to favorable policies and regulations.
- Greater career growth opportunities for health informatics practitioners in Tanzania.

II. Health Informatics Research and Knowledge Sharing

- Improved healthcare practices through the application of evidence-based informatics solutions.
- Continuous professional development through research participation and ongoing knowledge exchange.
- Elevated expertise of TAHIA members in the latest advancements and best practices in health informatics.

III. Opportunities for Participation:

- Diverse and inclusive platform for all members to engage, collaborate, and contribute to the association's initiatives.
- Personal and professional growth through networking, mentorship, and collaborative projects.

IV. Collaboration and Networking

- Strengthened relationships among health informatics professionals, fostering a community of shared expertise.
- Meaningful collaborations resulting in impactful healthcare initiatives and technology-driven improvements.

6 Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Framework

This MEL matrix format aligns the specific monitoring indicators, evaluation methods, and learning actions with each of the four Strategic Objectives, providing a comprehensive framework to guide the MEL process for TAHIA's Strategic Plan.

Strategic Priority	Monitoring Indicators	Evaluation Methods	Learning Actions
Advocacy and Professional Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of engaged health informatics professionals. - Percentage increase in profession recognition and growth. - Number of collaborations with governmental bodies. - Number of partnerships with stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact assessment of advocacy efforts. - Feedback from health informatics professionals and stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify successful advocacy strategies and refine approaches. - Incorporate lessons learned into future advocacy campaigns.
Research and Knowledge Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of research initiatives conducted. - Participation rates in knowledge sharing events. - Utilization rates of the research repository. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of research initiative quality and impact. - Participant feedback and satisfaction surveys. - Evaluation of research repository usability and relevance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tailor future knowledge sharing events based on participant feedback. - Adjust research focus and dissemination strategies based on evaluation outcomes.

<p>Technology Innovation and Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of technology solutions developed. - Participation rates across membership categories. - Number of collaborations with technology partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of technology solution functionality and impact. - Assessment of membership engagement effectiveness. - Review of collaboration outcomes with technology partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate user feedback to enhance technology solutions. - Adjust engagement strategies based on participation rates and feedback.
<p>Collaboration and International Engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of conferences organized. - Degree of collaboration among professionals. - Number of international partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of conference outcomes and impacts. - Assessment of collaboration effectiveness. - Review of international partnership outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather insights from conference evaluations for future improvements. - Adjust collaboration strategies based on cross-fertilization evaluation. - Incorporate lessons learned from international partnerships.

7 Conclusion

This strategic plan outlines TAHIA's commitment to fostering a vibrant health informatics community in Tanzania. Through focused advocacy, research, technology innovation, and collaboration, TAHIA aims to play a pivotal role in enhancing healthcare service delivery and improving health outcomes. As TAHIA pursues its strategic objectives over the next five years, it will contribute significantly to the growth and advancement of health informatics in the country.

Appendix I

TAHIA Code of Ethics for Health Informatics Professionals

A Code of Ethics for Health Informatics Professionals (HIPs) should therefore be clear, unambiguous, and easily applied in practice. Moreover, since the field of informatics is in a state of constant flux, it should be flexible so as to accommodate ongoing changes without sacrificing the applicability of its basic principles. It is therefore inappropriate for a Code of Ethics for HIPs to deal with the specifics of every possible situation that might arise. That would make the Code too unwieldy, too rigid, and too dependent on the current state of informatics. Instead, such a Code should focus on the ethical position of the Health Informatics specialist as a professional, and on the relationships between HIPs and the various parties with whom they interact in a professional capacity. These various parties include (but are not limited to) patients, health care professionals, administrative personnel, health care institutions as well as insurance companies and governmental agencies, etc.

General Principles of Informatics Ethics

These fundamental ethical principles, when applied to the types of situations that characterize the informatics setting, give rise to general ethical principles of informatics ethics.

1. **Principle of Information-Privacy and Disposition:** All persons have a fundamental right to privacy, and hence to control over the collection, storage, access, use
2. **Principle of Openness:** The collection, storage, access, use, communication, manipulation and disposition of personal data must be disclosed in an appropriate and timely fashion to the subject of those data.
3. **Principle of Security:** Data that have been legitimately collected about a person should be protected by all reasonable and appropriate measures against loss, degradation, unauthorized destruction, access, use, manipulation, modification or communication.
4. **Principle of Access:** The subject of an electronic record has the right of access to that record and the right to correct the record with respect to its accurateness, completeness and relevance.
5. **Principle of Legitimate Infringement:** The fundamental right of control over the collection, storage, access, use, manipulation, communication and disposition of personal data is conditioned only by the legitimate, appropriate and relevant data-needs of a free, responsible and democratic society, and by the equal and competing rights of other persons.
6. **Principle of the Least Intrusive Alternative:** Any infringement of the privacy rights of the individual person, and of the individual's right to control over person-relative data as mandated under Principle 1, may only occur in the least intrusive fashion and with a minimum of interference with the rights of the affected person.

7. **Principle of Accountability:** Any infringement of the privacy rights of the individual person, and of the right to control over person-relative data, must be justified to the affected person in good time and in an appropriate fashion.