

Digital technology a game changer to Health in the East Africa Region.

East African states should aggressively embrace technology to strengthen their health systems and governance structures for the benefit of their people, the East Africa Health Research Commission (EAHRC) Executive Secretary Prof. Gibson Kibiki has said.

Prof. Kibiki said that the rapid increase in access to technology in Africa has fostered a conducive environment for the use of ICT in health with East Africa witnessing an expansion of digital health across the entire region.

“Digital technology is influencing our daily lives in different ways with its power to transform individual in social economic prosperity,” during the launch of the Kenyan chapter of a regional mentorship programme at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).

“The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are strengthening public health governance, leadership policy making, performance of health programme a good example they will provide insight of the status of various electronics platforms that have been employed by ministries and allied organizations and institutions that are responsible for health.”

Prof. Kibiki noted there is an opportunity to exploit digital technology further in the East Africa to strengthen healthy system governance, analyses of health science data and to access accessibility, effectiveness of the quality of health care services.

“The digital technology is recognized as a powerful tool that strengthen all aspects of the health and it will be key to the quality and effective delivery of the health services in the East Africa community,” he said at the launch of the Kenyan chapter of the regional mentorship programme known as Young East Africa Research Scientists (YEARS).

This view is shared by KEMRI’s Director General, Prof. Yeri Kombe who noted that digital technology will play a critical role in the realization of the Universal Healthcare Coverage in the country and hence must be embraced especially by young researchers.

Prof. Kombe added, that “the role of digital technology will provide an accurate comprehensive and efficient health data including the point-of-care diagnostics, treatment and adherence to treatment”.

The East Africa Health Research Commission (EAHRC) developed a 10-year Digital Region East African community Health Initiative (Digital REACH initiative) which will have its strategic plan implemented from 2019-2028 to bring together stakeholders from the region and beyond to share experiences and best practice related to digital health.

ENDs