



November 2025

Global Digital Health AI Use Cases Lab



1. Executive Summary

The **Global Digital Health AI Use Cases Lab** is a hands-on convening designed to move beyond aspirational AI discussions to practical, implementable digital health solutions for the Global South.

Hosted ahead of the Global Digital Health Forum and in preparation for a workshop at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, this Lab brings together 30-40 carefully selected practitioners: NGOs, funders, innovators, policymakers, and universities—to co-create a blueprint for AI-driven health solutions that work.

Unlike traditional conferences focused on showcasing finished products or abstract policy debates, this Lab is a working session: participants will dissect real use cases, pressure-test assumptions, identify blockers, and generate actionable insights that will directly inform the agenda for the India AI Impact Summit in February 2026.

Outcome: A set of validated, ground-tested digital health AI use cases and a practical framework for replication across Global South contexts; authored by those who will implement them.

2. The Problem We're Solving

The digital health AI landscape in the Global South is characterized by:

Fragmentation:

1. Hundreds of pilots, few scaled solutions
2. Limited cross-country learning or replication
3. Innovations trapped in silos (geography, sector, funding)

Misalignment:

1. Solutions designed for Global North contexts fail when deployed in low-resource settings
2. Funders, innovators, and policymakers operate with different timelines and incentives
3. Universities produce research disconnected from implementation realities

Evidence Gaps:

1. Little documentation of what actually works (and why)
2. Failure stories rarely shared, limiting collective learning
3. No shared standards for evaluating "success" in diverse contexts

The Result: AI investment in health continues to flow, but impact remains elusive. Sub-Saharan Africa has 1 doctor per 5,000 people, yet most AI diagnostic tools require reliable internet, trained radiologists, and high-end devices—resources that don't exist at scale.

3. Why This Lab Is Unique

1. Use Case Pressure Testing

Innovators don't present, they submit their solutions to cross-functional "stress tests" where funders ask about sustainability, policymakers flag regulatory gaps, NGOs question user adoption, and universities probe data validity. Solutions emerge stronger, or get killed early.

2. The Product Development Lens

Every use case is evaluated through three questions:

- Usefulness: Does it solve a life-or-death problem?
- Viability: Does it have the right datasets?
- Usability: Can it work on feature phones, offline, in low-bandwidth?
- Plus governance.

3. Direct Pipeline to India AI Impact Summit

Insights from this Lab feed directly into the India AI Impact summit pre-events in February 2026.

4. Objectives

Primary Objective:

Generate 4-5 validated, replicable digital health AI use cases with clear pathways to scale across Global South contexts.

Secondary Objectives:

For Innovators:

1. Pressure-test solutions with funders, policymakers, and implementers in real-time
2. Identify blockers before costly deployment failures
3. Build partnerships for regional replication

For Funders:

1. Understand what actually works (and what doesn't) from implementers, not consultants
2. Co-design funding mechanisms that align with global south priorities
3. Identify investable use cases with evidence of viability

For Policymakers:

1. Learn from peer countries' regulatory experiments (what enabled scale, what stifled it)
2. Co-create governance frameworks that build trust without stifling innovation
3. Shape the India Summit agenda with grounded, evidence-based priorities

For NGOs:

1. Surface implementation challenges often invisible to funders and policymakers
2. Advocate for user-centered design and community consent mechanisms
3. Build coalitions for regional advocacy

For Universities:

1. Connect research to implementation (close the evidence-to-practice gap)
2. Identify research questions that matter to practitioners
3. Co-author publications with implementers and policymakers

5. Target Participants (30-40 People)

Participant Mix:

a. Innovators/Startups

Role: Submit use cases for pressure testing; learn from peer solutions

b. Funders - Foundations, DFIs, Impact Investors

Role: Assess viability, co-design financing mechanisms

c. Policymakers.

Role: Flag regulatory gaps, share governance experiments

d. NGOs/Civil Society - Health, Digital Rights

Role: Represent user voices, advocate for equity and consent

e. Universities/Research Institutions.

Role: Provide evidence, identify research gaps, document outcomes

Immediate Outputs (Day of Event):

1. Use Case Repository
2. Blocker Inventory
3. Policy Recommendations
4. Research Agenda
5. Priority questions for universities to investigate

Medium-Term Outcomes (3-6 Months)

1. India Summit Agenda

- Lab insights directly shaping content for the India AI Impact Summit
- Validated use cases that can be showcased at Summit (Feb 2026)

2. Joint Publications

- Co-authored papers on digital health AI for Global South contexts

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- Evidence library for Standards Exchange