



AUTOMATE PROJECT LAUNCH AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP REPORT

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Event Details.....	1
2.1 Arrival and Registration	1
2.2 Opening Session	2
2.2.1. National Anthem	2
2.2.2. Prayer.....	2
2.2.3. Welcome Statement	2
2.2.4. Introduction of Participants and Overview	2
2.2.5. Remarks by Key Leaders	2
2.2.6. Keynote Address and Official Launch	3
2.3 Tea Break and Entertainment	3
3. Stakeholder Engagement Program.....	3
3.1 Presentations on Work Streams.....	3
3.1.1. Introduction: AUTOMATE Project Overview	3
3.1.2. Work Stream One (WS1): County Capacity Assessment	4
3.1.3. Work Stream Two (WS2): Digital Health and Data Science Tools	4
3.1.4. Work Stream Three (WS3): Feasibility of Data Digitalization	4
3.1.5. Q&A Sessions.....	4
3.2. Photo Session and Lunch	4
3.3. Afternoon Sessions.....	5
3.3.1. Roles and Responsibilities, Summary, and Way Forward	5
3.3.2. Evaluation and Feedback.....	5
3.4. Adjournment and Departure.....	6
4. Key Takeaways	6
4.1. Comprehensive Stakeholder Buy-in.....	6
4.2. Enhanced Visibility	6
4.3. The Role of Collaboration in Project Progression	6
5. Community and Media Engagement.....	6
6. List of Sponsors and Partners	6
7. Next Steps and Timelines	7

8. Participant Statistics 7

8.1. Organizational Representation 7

9. Annexes..... 7

9.1. Event Program..... 7

9.2. Participants List..... 8

9.3. List of Abbreviations..... 10

HARNESSING ROUTINELY COLLECTED DATA FOR TIMELY HEALTHCARE DECISIONS IN LMICS AMIDST PANDEMICS (AUTOMATE): PROJECT LAUNCH AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

1. Introduction

The “**Harnessing Routinely Collected Data for Timely Healthcare Decisions in LMICs**” official project launch on 9th December 2024 at the TICH Campus, Milimani, Kisumu, Kenya, highlighted the critical role of leveraging routinely collected data to inform and improve maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH) outcomes in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The launch event brought together different stakeholders, including government officials, healthcare practitioners, researchers, and representatives from partner organizations such as TICH Trust, Keele University, The University of Sunderland, The County Government of Kisumu, and The County Government of Siaya, among others. These stakeholders highlighted the importance of collaborative partnerships in addressing healthcare challenges through innovative methodologies.

The program included a mix of engaging activities, including formal speeches and PowerPoint presentations that provided a detailed overview of the project's goals, while lively cultural performances by traditional dancers added a celebratory and community-focused dimension. Ceremonial moments such as the unveiling of the project banner, the cutting of a symbolic cake, and the popping of champagne highlighted the significance of the event.

2. Event Details

2.1 Arrival and Registration

As the day began, participants were warmly welcomed upon arrival at the TICH Campus - Milimani, Kisumu, Kenya. They registered at the designated reception area, where they received essential event materials, including the project overview and the agenda, which set the tone for the day's significance, highlighting the importance of collaboration in healthcare innovation.

A formal protocol was also observed during registration, which included the signing of a welcome book by the host Governor and other key dignitaries, symbolizing their commitment and participation in the initiative.

2.2 Opening Session

2.2.1. National Anthem

The event began with the singing of the national anthem, creating an atmosphere of unity and pride.

2.2.2. Prayer

Rev. Joshua Orawo delivered an opening prayer, invoking blessings for the project's success.

2.2.3. Welcome Statement

The CEO of TICH Trust, Professor Margaret Kaseje, delivered the welcome statement, in which she warmly greeted the attendees and emphasized TICH's long-standing commitment to advancing healthcare innovation. The CEO further outlined the project's mission, stressing the importance of integrating routinely collected data into decision-making processes to improve healthcare delivery in LMICs. This moment underscored the organization's dedication to the project and its far-reaching potential.

2.2.4. Introduction of Participants and Overview

Following the CEO's remarks, the MC introduced representatives from key organizations such as TICH, Keele University, The University of Sunderland, External Steering Committee (ESC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Kisumu, and Siaya counties.

The MC provided a brief overview of the partnership and the collaborative nature of the project, highlighting how each stakeholder's involvement was critical to the project's success. This introduction allowed attendees to understand the scope of the project and the diverse expertise being brought together.

2.2.5. Remarks by Key Leaders

County Executive Committee (CEC) Health Members from Kisumu and Siaya counties highlighted the project's alignment with county-level health priorities.

Hon. Dr. James Nyikal, Chair of TAC, a Member of Parliament (MP) who sits in the Health Committee of the National Assembly, emphasized the strategic role of data in improving MNCH outcomes, being a Paediatrician and a former Director of Medical Services.

2.2.6. Keynote Address and Official Launch

The Governor of Kisumu and also the Host Governor, Professor Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, delivered a keynote address and officially launched the project and highlighted the project's potential to revolutionize healthcare delivery in the region and expressed strong support for the initiative.

The official project launch was marked by several symbolic actions, all of which were led by the Governor as the guest of honor, alongside the Principal Investigators (PIs) of the project, which included: unveiling of the project banner, cutting of a ceremonial cake, and popping of champagne.

The Governor was then given a ceremonial send-off, with the playing of the national anthem as he departed. This marked the end of the formal portion of the event, and the participants were left with a sense of shared purpose and excitement for the project's next steps.

2.3 Tea Break and Entertainment

Following the opening session, attendees were invited to enjoy refreshments during a tea break. This informal session provided an opportunity for networking, allowing participants to engage in discussions about the project and its potential impact while building meaningful connections.

3. Stakeholder Engagement Program

3.1 Presentations on Work Streams

The stakeholder engagement session was a key part of the event, where PowerPoint presentations were delivered for each of the project's work streams. These presentations were followed by interactive Q&A sessions that encouraged dialogue between the presenters and stakeholders. Each session provided a deeper understanding of the project's components and the importance of collaboration to achieve the desired outcomes.

Presenters/Facilitators (project team members): Professor Monica Magadi (MM), Professor Margaret Kaseje (MK), Professor Dan Kaseje (DK), Professor Yongqiang Chen (YC), Professor Charles Wafula (CW), Dr Careena Otieno (CO), Dr Tanya Wright (TW), Ms Jerusha Otieno (JO), Ms Beldine Omondi (BO)

3.1.1. Introduction: AUTOMATE Project Overview

Presenters: MM

The first session provided an overview of the AUTOMATE project. The presentation started with an introduction of project background/significance, highlighting the WHO stance on the need for healthcare decisions to be informed by accurate and timely data. It then outlined the project aims/objectives and respective work streams to address the objectives.

3.1.2. Work Stream One (WS1): County Capacity Assessment

Presenters: DK, CO, BO, TW

This session focused on the capacity gaps identified in Kisumu and Siaya counties, emphasizing the need for targeted staff training and infrastructure development to support the project's implementation. The presenters discussed how addressing these gaps would enable the counties to effectively engage in data-driven healthcare decision-making and improve maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH) outcomes.

3.1.3. Work Stream Two (WS2): Digital Health and Data Science Tools

Presenter: YC, JO

The second presentation focused on the development and implementation of user-friendly digital tools that would support improved MNCH outcomes. These tools, designed using data science and digital health technologies, aim to integrate seamlessly into the existing healthcare systems of the counties.

3.1.4. Work Stream Three (WS3): Feasibility of Data Digitalization

Presenters: MM, CW

The final presentation focused on planned pilot and feasibility evaluation to assess readiness of the Kenyan healthcare system to digitalize health data to improve data access/use for timely decisions. An overview of WS3 objectives and proposed comparative case-study approach included a discussion of approaches to assess cost-effectiveness of digital health intervention at the study setting.

3.1.5. Q&A Sessions

Each presentation was followed by a Q&A session, allowing stakeholders to seek clarification on specific points, share insights, and raise concerns. This open exchange of ideas ensured that the project's approach aligned with the needs and priorities of the local communities and stakeholders.

3.2. Photo Session and Lunch

Before breaking for lunch, participants gathered for an official photo session to commemorate the successful launch of the project. The photo session was an opportunity to capture key moments with the dignitaries, stakeholders, and participants, symbolizing their collective commitment to the project.

Following the photo session, participants were invited to enjoy lunch, which also provided an opportunity for informal networking and further discussions about the project and its next steps.

3.3. Afternoon Sessions

3.3.1. Roles and Responsibilities, Summary, and Way Forward

Facilitators: MK, MM

The facilitators emphasized the importance of collaboration and collective action. They also defined actionable next steps, ensuring that all stakeholders got a picture of what would be required in the coming months to ensure the project's success.

Project Team

- **Implement Project Activities** - Execute planned activities according to the project timeline and objectives.
- **Monitor and Evaluate Progress** - Track key performance indicators (KPIs) and assess the impact of interventions.
- **Provide Technical Support** - Offer expertise, training, and capacity-building to stakeholders as and where needed.
- **Engage Stakeholders** - Maintain collaboration with county governments and any other relevant stakeholders.
- **Report and Communicate Updates** - Provide regular progress reports to relevant stakeholders.

County Governments of Siaya and Kisumu

- **County Government Support and Collaboration** - Facilitate access to facilities, personnel, and logistical support where needed and support collaboration efforts with the project team.

3.3.2. Evaluation and Feedback

Facilitator: BO

Participants were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the presentations and the overall structure of the launch event.

3.4. Adjournment and Departure

The event concluded with closing remarks from the MC, who expressed gratitude to all attendees and reaffirmed the collective commitment to the project's success. The MC acknowledged the contributions of the various stakeholders, the guest of honor, and the PIs, and reminded everyone of the importance of working together to achieve the project's objectives. The official adjournment marked the end of the project launch day.

4. Key Takeaways

4.1. Comprehensive Stakeholder Buy-in

One of the most significant outcomes of the event was the successful gathering of a diverse group of stakeholders, including local government representatives, healthcare professionals, and project partners. This broad representation aimed at fostering a sense of shared ownership of the project, which is crucial for the initiative's long-term success.

4.2. Enhanced Visibility

The event's live streaming on YouTube expanded the project's visibility far beyond the physical event space.

4.3. The Role of Collaboration in Project Progression

The presentations and discussions during the event emphasized the need for collaboration for the next phases of the project in areas such as co-creation of tools.

5. Community and Media Engagement

The event attracted coverage from both local and national media outlets, including Ramogi, Nam Lolwe Radio, Nation and Standard Newspapers, who reported on the significance of the launch.

6. List of Sponsors and Partners

The success of the event was made possible through the support of various partners and sponsors:

- National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)
- Keele University
- University of Sunderland
- Tropical Institute of Community Health and Development (TICH) Trust
- External Steering Committee (ESC)
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- The County Government of Kisumu
- The County Government of Siaya
- Surgical Systems Research Group (SSRG)

7. Next Steps and Timelines

Following the event, stakeholders will receive regular updates on the progress of the project. The project team anticipates convening a follow-up meeting in August 2025 during the TICH Annual Scientific Conference to assess the project's first phase and discuss the next stages.

8. Participant Statistics

The event was attended by a total of 67 participants, including healthcare professionals, government officials, and stakeholders from the private sector.

8.1. Organizational Representation

Participants came from a mix of county health departments, technical advisory bodies, and international organizations, reflecting a broad range of interests and expertise.

9. Annexes

9.1. Event Program

The Event Program provides a detailed schedule of activities for the day of the launch.

THE PROJECT LAUNCH PROGRAM

8.00 - 9.00am	Arrival and registration of participants.
9.30 - 9.35am	Prayer, Rev. Joshua Orawo
9.35 - 9.40 am	Welcome Statement, CEO, TICH Trust

9.40 - 9.50 am	Introduction of participants (TICH, Keele, ESC, TAC, Kisumu, Siaya), MC Introduction of TICH-Keele partnership, and project in brief, MM, MK, MC
9:50 - 10:00 am	Remarks from CECs (Siaya and Kisumu)
10:00 - 10.10 am	Remarks by TAC Chair, Hon. Dr. James Nyikal
10.10 - 10.20 am	Host Governor of Kisumu, Welcome remarks and
10.20 - 10.30 am	The Chief Guest, Governor of Siaya County, Keynote address and the Launch
10.30 - 11.00am	Tea break

THE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

11.00 - 11.15 am	Presentation, AUTOMATE project overview MM
11.15 - 12.00 pm	Presentation, discussion of work stream one DK, CO
12.00 - 12.45 pm	Presentation, discussion of work stream two YC, JO
12.45 - 1.15 pm	Presentation, discussion of work stream three MM, CW
1.15pm - 2.00 pm	Lunch break
2.00 - 2.30 pm	Roles and responsibilities, summary and way forward MK, MM
2.30 - 3.00 pm	Evaluation, BO
3.00 pm	Adjournment

9.2. Participants List

PROJECT LAUNCH AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS LIST

Day 0 - Project Launch and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop - Monday, 9th December 2024

Name	Affiliation	Designation
Professor Dr. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o	Kisumu County	Governor
Dr Mathew Owiti	Kisumu County	Deputy Governor
Dr James Nyikal	Kisumu County	TAC Chair & MP Seme, Kisumu County
Dr Greg Ganda	Kisumu County	County Executive Committee for Health (CEC - Health)
Dr Dickens Onyango	Kisumu County	County Director for Health (CDH)
Dr Kennedy K'Onyango	Siaya County	County Executive Committee for Health (CEC - Health)
Kennedy O. Orwenjo	Siaya County	County Director for Health (CDH)
Reverend Joshua Orawo	Kisumu County	Pastor

Professor Monica Magadi	Keele University	Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)
Professor Margaret Kaseje	TICH	Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) & CEO, TICH Trust
Professor Dan Kaseje	TICH	TAC Member & CI
Professor Yongqiang Cheng	University of Sunderland	Co-Investigator (Co-I)
Professor Charles Wafula	TICH	Co-Investigator (Co-I)
Dr Careena Otieno	TICH	Co-Investigator (Co-I)
Dr Tanya Wright	Keele University	Project Manager
Elizabeth Oyuer	TICH	MC & Researcher
Professor Violet Kimani	TICH	ESC Member
Jerusha Otieno	TICH	Data Scientist
Beldine Omondi	TICH	Research Officer (RO)
Triza Juma	TICH	Research Assistant (RA)
Johannes Simiyu	Kisumu County	SCHRIMO - Muhoroni
Emily Wasungu	Kisumu County	SCPHN - Seme
Fredrick Ochieng	Kisumu County	SCHRIO - Seme
Deborah Ochola	Kisumu County	SCDHL - Nyakach
Collins Omollo	Kisumu County	SCMOH - Kisumu Central
Michael Opiyoh	Kisumu County	Researcher
Lukas Ofwaya	Kisumu County	SCPHO - Nyando
Juliana Muga	Kisumu County	SCPHN - Nyando
Hellen Sadia	Kisumu County	SCPHN - Nyakach
Victoria Ouko	Kisumu County	SCHRIO - Nyakach
Peter Omuenga	Kisumu County	SCMOH - Nyakach
Jane Owuor	Kisumu County	County Reproductive Health Coordinator (CRHC)
Professor Willis Obura	TICH	Researcher
Velma Adhiambo	TICH	Research Assistant (RA)
Margaret Oyasi	TICH	Research Assistant (RA)
Leila Geteri	TICH	Academics Registrar
Benjamin Bala	Siaya County	SCHRIO - Alego Usonga
Hellen Osowo	Siaya County	SCPHN - Gem
Jacqueline Osido	Siaya County	SCPHN - Rarieda
Caroline Awuor	Siaya County	SCHRIO - Bondo
Solomon Onyango	Siaya County	SCPHN - Alego
Kennedy Odhiambo	Siaya County	SCHRIO - Alego
Teresa Onyango	Siaya County	SCPHN - Gem
Edwin Victor Odhiambo	Siaya County	SCMH - Ugenya
Lucy Atandi	Siaya County	SCHRIO - Gem
Hillary Okumu	Siaya County	SCMOH - Ugunja
Winfred Onyango	Siaya County	SCHNIO - Ugenya

Geoffrey Mwai	Siaya County	SCMOH - Rarieda
Julian Otieno	Siaya County	SCPHN - Ugenya
Anne Omollo	Siaya County	SCPHN - Ugunja
Chris Opati Aliona	Siaya County	SCMOH - Bondo
Bonface Ongek	Siaya County	SCHRIO - Rarieda
John Otieno Onyango	Siaya County	SCMOH - Rarieda
Dorothy Nyanja	Siaya County	SCHRIO - Ugunja
Edwin Victor Odhiambo	Siaya County	SCMOH - Ugunja

9.3. List of Abbreviations

CRHC	County Reproductive Health Coordinator
ESC	External Steering Committee
RA	Research Assistant
RO	Research Officer
SCDHL	Sub-county Disease and Health Liaison
SCHRIO	Sub-county Health Records Information Officer
SCMOH	Sub-county Medical Officer of Health
SCPHN	Sub-county Public Health Nurse
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TICH	Tropical Institute of Community Health Development