

10-MINUTE KEYNOTE (FINAL DELIVERY VERSION) - WHO Ghana – GHIMA AGM

Dr. Chairman,
The President of GHIMA,
Distinguished representatives of the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service,
Development partners, colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

Let me begin with one simple truth: **There is no digital health transformation without the Health Information Officers in Ghana.** Not because you manage data.
But because you determine whether data becomes:

- intelligence...
- decisions...
- and ultimately—**lives saved.**

The Global Context – WHO Vision

We are living in a defining moment in global health. An era shaped by:

- Digital transformation
- Artificial intelligence
- And the global commitment to **Universal Health Coverage**

The WHO Global Strategy on Digital Health is clear: Countries must build **people-centred, digitally enabled, and data-driven health systems**. And globally, we recognise that: **Digital health is a critical accelerator for achieving Universal Health Coverage.** But let me be equally clear: **Technology does not transform health systems. People do.** And at the centre of that transformation—
is the Health Information Officer.

Today, I propose a **clear national transformation pathway for GHIMA to consider**. A transition led not by technology alone—but by **you**. This transformation is anchored in **four strategic shifts**.

1. From Data Systems → to Intelligence Systems and AI

For years, Ghana and the Health sector have invested in data systems:

- DHIMS2, Electronic Medical Records, Surveillance platforms But let us ask ourselves: 🙌
Are we collecting data—or creating intelligence? Because:

Data does not save lives. Intelligence does. The future of health systems is:

- Predictive, real-time and AI-enabled

WHO recognises that AI can transform diagnosis, surveillance, and decision-making—but only **if it is used responsibly and ethically**. And that is where you come in.

Because: **AI can generate outputs—but it cannot guarantee truth, context, or trust.**

Only you can do that. You are: the validator of insight, the interpreter of meaning and the protector of quality. **You are the human intelligence behind artificial intelligence.**

2. From Digital Tools → to Digital Governance

Colleagues, Digital tools are expanding rapidly across our health system. But let us confront a critical truth: **Digital transformation without governance is not progress—it is risk.** WHO's guidance on AI and digital health is very clear:

- Systems must be **ethical**
- Data must be **protected**
- Use must be **accountable**
- Human rights must be **central**

But governance does not happen at global level alone. It happens **in facilities**, It happens **in systems**, It happens **through you**. You are responsible for:

- safeguarding patient data
- ensuring secure access
- managing cybersecurity risks
- enforcing standards
- guiding ethical AI use

You are not managing records—you are governing digital health systems.

3. From Evidence → to Action

We generate data. We produce reports. We conduct research. But let us ask the difficult question: 🖐️ How often does evidence actually change decisions?

Because we know the truth: **Evidence does not act. People do.** (PAUSE)

WHO and global experience increasingly show that **data must be translated into policy and implementation to improve outcomes**. Between evidence and action lies:

- Politics, priorities, competing interests, implementation realities ... (PAUSE)

This is where your role must evolve. From: data producers To:

- **decision enablers**
- **policy influencers**
- **implementation partners**

We must: communicate insights clearly , engage decision-makers , shape discussions , support execution . **If your data does not change action—then the system has not yet succeeded.**

4. From Silos → to Ecosystems

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, nOne of our biggest challenges is fragmentation.

- Systems that don't talk , Data that doesn't align , Investments that are not coordinated

But achieving UHC requires: **integrated, interoperable, and people-centred systems** [\[uhc2030.org\]](http://uhc2030.org) And integration does not happen automatically. It requires people who understand: systems , data flows , standards , partnerships

That person is the Health Information Officer. **You are the bridge between systems, sectors, and decisions.**

The Transformation of the Profession

This transformation demands a new kind of professional. The Health Information Officer must now be:

- Digitally competent
- AI-aware
- Analytically skilled
- Governance-driven
- Policy-engaged
- Leadership-oriented

Because globally, digital transformation efforts show that **strong workforce capacity is essential to making digital health deliver impact** [\[who.int\]](http://who.int)

The Role of GHIMA

GHIMA stands at a historic moment. Your responsibility is to:

- Lead professional transformation
- Build capacity in digital health and AI
- Champion governance and standards
- Elevate the profession nationally

And let me say this clearly: **If you are not at the decision table—you are on the menu.**

Let me conclude with four truths:

- If we want **intelligence systems** → we must invest in you
- If we want **trusted digital health** → we must empower you
- If we want **evidence to drive action** → we must position you
- If we want **integrated ecosystems** → we must lead with you

And let me leave you with this: **You are not the back office of the health system.
You are the brain of the health system.**

You are not managing data.

You are shaping decisions.

You are protecting trust.

You are saving lives.

Thank you.

God bless GHIMA.

God bless Health Information Officers.

And God bless Ghana.