



Apotheker Health Access Initiative

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ADVANCING COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE THROUGH
PUBLIC - PRIVATE COLLABORATION AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS



Opening Remarks from the Executive Director

**Dear Partners, Stakeholders,
and Friends,**

I am proud to present the **2025 Annual Report** for the Apotheker Health Access Initiative a record of a transformative year defined by strategic expansion, system integration, and measurable impact.

Driven by our mandate, “Advancing community health care through public-private collaboration and digital solutions,” we demonstrated that bridging public infrastructure with private sector agility is essential to health equity. In 2025, that approach delivered clear results:

- **Digital Scale:** Expanded our mHealth ecosystems to reach **74.4% of the population** in our target districts, onboarding over **289,209 citizens** into a traceable continuum of care.

- **Frontline Impact:** Decentralized mobile platforms and screening tools to community



health networks and Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOs), **nearly doubling appropriate treatment rates** for acute childhood illnesses while optimizing retail medicine inventories.

- **Health Systems & Policy:** Strengthened national supply chains and generated critical field evidence to guide national policy, including Universal Health Insurance (UHI) readiness evaluations in Tanga and Zanzibar. These milestones were made possible through close government alignment, frontline dedication, and strategic alliances with key partners, including the Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) and John Snow, Inc. (JSI).

As we advance, our commitment remains absolute: to accelerate our innovation pipeline, strengthen health systems, and close the equity gap for all.

Sincerely,

Dr Romuald Mbwasi
Executive Director



Foreword from the Director of Programs and Operations

Dear Readers, Partners, and Friends,

As we look back on the incredible milestones detailed throughout our 2025 Annual Report, I am filled with immense gratitude. This year, our theme ; “Advancing community health care through public-private collaboration and digital solutions; was not just a title, but a living operational blueprint that guided how our teams turned high-level strategy into sustainable, on-the-ground health solutions.



On behalf of the entire implementation and technical team at Apotheker, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to you, our readers and stakeholders, for your unwavering interest, trust, and shared commitment. Our focus sits firmly at the intersection of public health systems and pharmaceutical services, where we work daily to advance practical, scalable solutions that strengthen primary healthcare.

Operationalizing Our Shared Impact

While our Executive Director has highlighted the inspiring scale of our growth this year, the day-to-day execution rests on the

strength of our coordinated field operations and localized technical strategies:

● Expanding Our Collaborative Ecosystem:

To support our expanded programmatic reach, we formalized pivotal collaboration contracts with the Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) and John Snow, Inc. (JSI). These strategic alignments reinforce institutional trust and allow us to combine our field execution capabilities with their unique strengths, establishing a robust framework to jointly optimize resource sharing and scale inclusive community care across Tanzania.

● **The Mechanics of Afya-Tek:**

To achieve the expansive regional coverage noted by our executive leadership, our flagship digital program focused intensely on unifying Community Health Workers (CHWs), Community Pharmaceutical premises, and primary facilities into a single seamless referral network. Operating across Kibaha Municipal Council and Kibaha District Councils, this network successfully drove a dramatic turnaround in pediatric care, nearly doubling appropriate treatment rates for diarrhea and pneumonia in children under five compared to our baseline. Furthermore, in collaboration with Sky Connect, we activated 41 adolescent clubs, engaging over 2,345 Adolescents through the interactive, AI-driven ELIVIWA health platform.

● **Digitizing Grassroots Retail Health:**

Beyond referral pathways, we took giant leaps forward in stabilizing the supply networks

that communities rely on daily. In collaboration with HEBET Technologies and local District Health Teams, we equipped 50 Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOs) with the Duka la Dawa App to streamline inventory, reduce financial losses, and optimize local medicine availability. To address long-term wellness, we co-designed community-level digital tools for Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening alongside D-tree, laying down a strategic learning agenda for hypertension and diabetes care.

● **Embedding in National Frameworks:**

Our technical teams remained deeply embedded in strengthening Tanzania's national health architecture. This included conducting a holistic mainland supply chain assessment under the UBAB project and handing over critical ICT infrastructure to the Ministry

of Health's ICT Unit in Dodoma. We also proudly worked alongside the CSSC under the guidance of the Ministry of Health to deploy the Unified Community System (UCS), integrating critical peer registry, TB, leprosy, and HIV testing modules into a unified digital platform.

● **Translating Field Insights into Policy:**

Bringing together our team's specialized capacity in health systems research and GLZ's extensive expertise under the Improving Health Care Programme II (IHCP II), we teamed up to conduct a comprehensive field assessment regarding public acceptance of Universal Health Insurance (UHI) across select districts in Tanga and Unguja, ensuring grassroots realities inform national policy

conversations.

Looking Ahead

Whether you are a policymaker, a field implementation partner, a donor, or an advocate for public health, your engagement means you are an active part of our programmatic ecosystem. Complex health system challenges cannot be solved in isolation. It is your belief in systems thinking, public-private collaboration, and scalable innovation that fuels our journey forward.

As we look to the horizon, our teams remain deeply committed to localizing Tanzania's Digital Health Strategy 2025-2030 and bringing sector priorities to life. Thank you for walking alongside us as we bridge the gaps to build a healthier, more equitable tomorrow.

In partnership and shared commitment.

Dr. Angel Dillip
Director of Programs and Operations

1

Apotheker's Focus Areas

During this year We are driven by a vision of a future where everyone, regardless of his/her social status and where they live, can access quality healthcare. Our work sits at the intersection of public health systems and pharmaceutical services, advancing practical, scalable solutions that harness public/private collaboration to strengthen primary healthcare. We recognise that complex health system challenges cannot be solved by one actor alone, and therefore place partnership, innovation, and systems thinking at the centre of our approach.

1.1 Our strategy is anchored in three interconnected priorities that guide our work and partnerships



● Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships for improved health

We work to bridge the gap between public and private sectors, aligning stakeholders to improve access to essential health commodities and services. Through initiatives such as Accreditation of private drug outlets models and the prime vendor supply systems, we have demonstrated how coordinated public-private approaches can contribute to improve availability, quality, and efficiency within health systems. These efforts continue to inform our work in Tanzania and across other countries, where we support the review and development of regulatory frameworks, standards, and partnership models that promotes improved access to essential health commodities and services.



2

2025 Highlights

Strengthening health supply chain and promoting rational medicine use

We support the development of resilient and responsive health supply chain systems that ensure life saving commodities reach the communities that need them most. By strengthening coordination between public systems and private providers, and contributing to national efforts on antimicrobial stewardship through contribution in development of strategies, guidelines and data systems that promote responsible use of medicines, we contribute to more reliable, efficient, and equitable access to medicines at the primary healthcare level.

Leveraging digital innovation for integrated care

We harness technology to connect fragmented parts of the health system and improve the delivery of people-centred care. Our flagship Afya-Tek program exemplifies this approach by linking private drug outlets, community health workers, and primary health facilities through digital platforms, now integrated into the national Unified Community System.

2.1 New Partnership and visibility

Apotheker significantly elevated its visibility and influence through high-impact strategic partnerships. The signing of partnership agreements in 2025 with the Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) and John Snow, Inc. (JSI) marks a major milestone for Apotheker, reflecting a shared commitment to collaboration and innovation while broadening its impact and reach within the health sector.



2.2 Program Highlights

2.2.1

Afya-Tek

The Afya-Tek program continues to strengthen Tanzania's primary healthcare system through an integrated, digitally enabled service delivery model that connects Community Health Workers (CHWs), Community Pharmaceutical Premises (CPPs), and primary health facilities into a unified referral network. Through strong

government collaboration and integration with national digital health platforms such as UCS and GOTHOMIS, the program is advancing coordinated, data-driven, and sustainable healthcare solutions that support universal health coverage and equitable access to quality care.



Since implementation began, the program has cumulatively registered **79,896 households** and **289,209 household members**, representing **74.4% coverage** of the 2022 population census across Kibaha Municipal Council and Kibaha District Councils. Community health workers have conducted approximately **686,000 household visits** for screening, counselling, and health education, with a strong focus on adolescents and children, while also supporting antenatal and postnatal care services.



Cumulatively, Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOs) have served **32,361 clients**, strengthening community level access to essential medicines and reproductive health commodities. The program has also achieved nearly a **two-fold improvement in appropriate treatment of diarrhoea and pneumonia among children under five** compared to baseline levels. In addition, over **85,000 referrals** and **53,000 linkages** have been made between communities, ADDOs, and health facilities, reinforcing continuity of care and improving access to integrated health services.

Advancing Community-Based Digital Solutions for NCD Prevention and Care



In collaboration with MoH, D-tree and other partners, Apotheker actively participated in the co-design of a digital screening tool for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the community level. Developed together with communities, health

providers, and government stakeholders, the tool is intended for use by Community Health Workers (CHWs) and ADDO dispensers to improve awareness and behavior change around hypertension and diabetes, strengthen early screening, facilitate referrals, and generate data to support NCD prevention and treatment at the primary healthcare level in Tanzania. Apotheker played a strategic and technical role in the project by conducting a literature review and developing a learning agenda focused on the role of CHWs and ADDOs in NCD screening, referral, and service delivery. The learning agenda will guide future research and inform subsequent phases of the intervention.

Support to Ugavi Bora Afya Bora (UBAB) Project under JSI



In June 2025, Apotheker joined the USG funded NextGen Ugavi Bora, Afya Bora (UBAB) project led by JSI as a consortium partner supporting efforts to strengthen Tanzania's public health supply chain and pharmaceutical systems. As part of the consortium, Apotheker contributes technical expertise in pharmaceutical and regulatory systems strengthening.



During the first year of implementation, Apotheker collaborated with other consortium members to support MOH Pharmaceutical Services Unit to conduct the holistic assessment of Tanzania mainland's supply chain and pharmaceutical management systems, identifying key strengths, gaps, and priority areas for improvement across the health system. The assessment findings are informing strategic interventions and policy

recommendations to improve supply chain resilience, efficiency and responsiveness.

Apotheker and consortium partners are also supporting the MOH in development of the National Supply Chain and Pharmaceutical Management System Master Plan (2026–2031), aimed at strengthening coordination and sustainability within Tanzania's pharmaceutical and health supply chain systems.

2.2.4

Supporting MOH to Strengthen Community Systems through Global Fund Support

Apotheker, in collaboration with the Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) and under the guidance of the Ministry of Health (MoH), implemented Global Fund supported activities aimed at strengthening community health systems through digital innovation. The initiative focuses on improving data availability, service coordination, and

decision-making by integrating community-level actors into a unified community digital platform. The program emphasized strong partnerships with government, community structures, and implementing stakeholders to ensure sustainability, ownership, and effective service delivery at all levels.



Key achievements under this Project

1

Development of the Peer Registry System within the Unified Community System (UCS)

2

Deployment and strengthening of Afya Jamii App and Kituoni App.

3

Procurement of biometric devices and server infrastructure to support system functionality

4

Development and integration of additional UCS modules, including:

- TB and Leprosy module
- Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) module
- Community HIV Testing Services (HTS) module



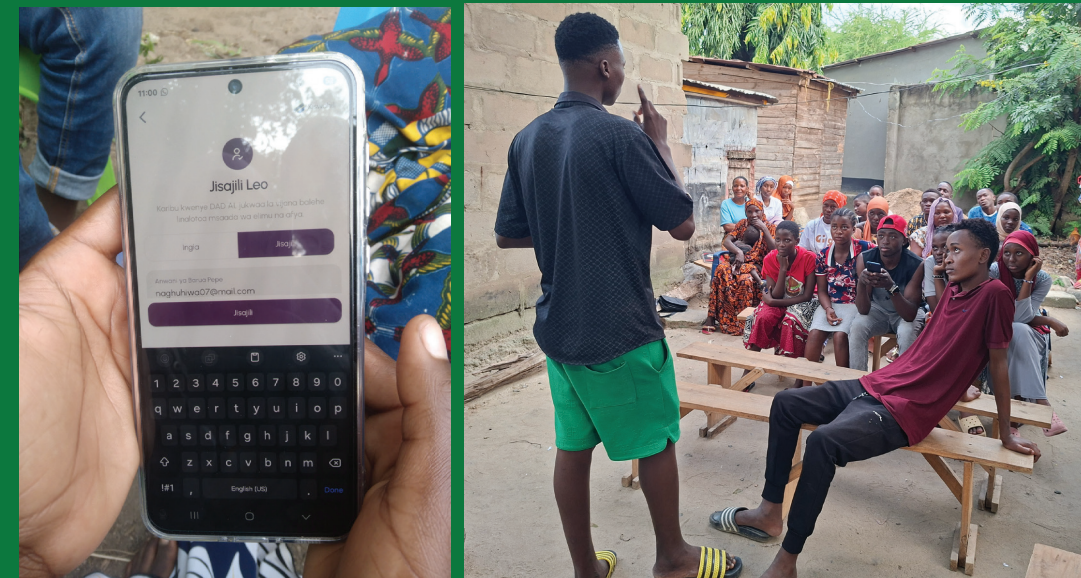
2.2.5

Enhancing Adolescents' Awareness and Engagement with the ELIVIWA System



Awareness and engagement with the ELIVIWA system increased significantly following the activation of adolescent clubs in Kibaha Municipal Council and Kibaha District Council. Developed by Sky Connect in collaboration with Apotheker under the Afya-Tek program, the ELIVIWA-AI Chatbot

provides adolescents with personalized health information and support on HIV prevention, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence (GBV), mental health, and nutrition. The platform also enables secure communication, access to learning resources, activity tracking, and community engagement through organized events.



To strengthen adolescent participation, a total of 41 adolescent clubs were established, including 28 out-of-school clubs and 13 in-school clubs, engaging 2,345 adolescents through both club activities and interactions with the ELIVIWA platform.

Analysis of **1,624 messages** exchanged on the platform demonstrated strong demand for youth centered health information. The majority of messages (**84%**) focused on general health inquiries, while other key topics included HIV related information (**6%**), mental health (**4%**), teenage pregnancy (**2%**), nutrition and health improvement (**1.7%**), substance abuse (**0.9%**), and physical abuse (**0.7%**). These findings highlight the diverse health information needs of adolescents and demonstrate the effectiveness of ELIVIWA as a responsive digital platform for adolescent health education and support.

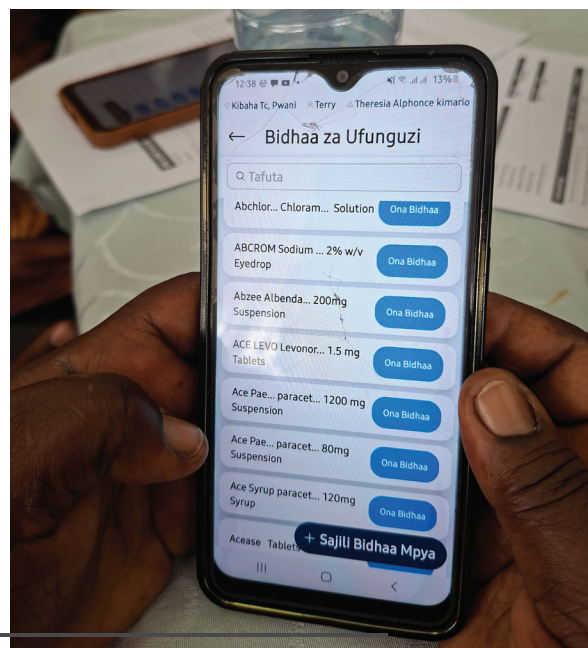
2.2.6

Digitalizing ADDO Operations Through a Business Management Tool (Duka la Dawa App),



The Duka la Dawa application was introduced to strengthen business management and service delivery among Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOs). The digital platform provides integrated tools for inventory management, sales and expense tracking, low stock and expiry alerts, as well as reporting and analytics, enabling ADDOs to improve operational

efficiency, accountability, and business decision-making through real time performance monitoring.



In August 2025, Apotheker, in collaboration with HEBET Technologies and the District Health Teams in Kibaha Municipal and Kibaha District Councils, rolled out the Duka la Dawa application to 50 ADDOsdispensers across the two councils.

The initiative aims to promote sustainable business practices while enhancing pharmaceutical service delivery at community level. By digitizing ADDO operations, the system supports improved medicine availability, reduces financial losses, strengthens operational efficiency, and contributes to increased profitability and sustainability of healthcare service provision



2.3 Research and Consultancy Services

Demonstrating its technical expertise and proven capacity in health systems research, In June 2025 Apotheker was contracted by GIZ under the Improving Health Care Programme II (IHCP II) to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the public acceptance of Universal Health Insurance (UHI) in Tanzania. The assessment focused on generating evidence to support Tanzania's progress towards Universal Health Coverage by examining perceptions of both insured and uninsured populations across selected districts in Tanga and Unguja, with attention to service access, quality of care, cost-benefit, and social solidarity.

In executing this assignment, Apotheker led key activities which included preparation of electronic data collection tools, training and supervision of enumerators, and coordination of large scale field data collection. The team ensured robust data management, and quality assurance and delivered comprehensive reports with actionable insights and recommendations to inform GIZ and government stakeholders in strengthening UHI implementation and community uptake.



3 Engagements, partnership and influence

3.1 Apotheker at the 24th Joint Annual Health Sector Policy Review Meeting



On 10th April, 2025, Apotheker, together with partners including National Institute for Medical Research, Ifakara Health Institute, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science (MUHAS), and Amref Health Africa Tanzania, Participated in the 24th Joint Annual Health Sector Policy Review Meeting in Dodoma as part of the Midterm Review of Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP V).

Experts from the above institutions actively contributed to discussions, highlighting progress in the expansion of health facilities and improvements in maternal health, while also emphasizing ongoing challenges such as neonatal care and non-communicable diseases. The meeting concluded with the endorsement of key sector priorities for 2025/2026.



3.2 Apotheker on the Global Stage: Participation in the 25th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion, Abu Dhabi



From 13–16 May 2025, Apotheker participated in the 25th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion held in Abu Dhabi. Representing Apotheker, Dr. Angel Dillip, joined officials from the Ministry of Health to present Tanzania’s innovative approaches to digital health promotion under the theme: “Harnessing Digital Platforms for Health Promotion, Emergency Preparedness and Response in Tanzania.”



The presentation highlighted how community-driven digital solutions are transforming access to healthcare services, strengthening emergency preparedness, and enabling faster, more effective responses to public health challenges across Tanzania. The session underscored the growing role of technology in building resilient health systems and showcased Tanzania’s emerging leadership in leveraging digital innovation to advance public health outcomes.

3.3 Strengthening Digital Health Systems Through Strategic Partnership with the Ministry of Health



As part of its continued commitment to strengthening collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH), Apotheker prioritized support for government efforts to enhance digital systems within the health sector. Through the Afya-Tek Program, Apotheker provided ICT equipment and materials to the Ministry's ICT Unit and Kibaha District hospital to improve operational efficiency and reinforce the adoption and use of digital health systems.

3.4 Participation in Tanzania's Digital Health Agenda Towards 2030

Centre for Digital Health, Ministry of Health
in collaboration with MUHAS Digital Health Unit

Webinar Series: May 2025

Tanzania's Digital Health Transformation Journey Towards 2030

Join us for a high-level discussion on Tanzania's Digital Health Transformation Journey Towards 2030, as we explore strategic directions, investment priorities, and innovations shaping the future of health in Tanzania. This session will bring together national leaders and experts to discuss opportunities for impactful digital health transformation and system strengthening in line with the Tanzania Digital Health Strategy 2025-2030.

DATE 5th June 2025 **TIME** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM EAT

MODERATOR
John Matiko Machonchoryo
Digital Health Advisor, UNICEF

PANELLISTS:

- Silvanus Ilomo
Director of ICT, MOH
- Erick Kitall
Director of ICT, PORALG
- Dr. Felix Sukums
Senior Lecturer and Consultant, MUHAS
- Neema Ringo
Deputy Country Director, D-tree
- Dr. Angel Dilip
Program Director, Apotheker

Zoom Registration Link:
Meeting ID: 442 266 0244 Passcode: 716813

On 6 June 2025, Apotheker joined national stakeholders in a high-level dialogue on digital health transformation in Tanzania. Representing Apotheker, Dr. Angel Dilip served as a panellist alongside partners including MOH, PMO-RALG, MUHAS, UNICEF Tanzania, and D-tree International. The

dialogue supported preparations for the launch of Tanzania's Digital Health Strategy 2025-2030, which aims to strengthen the country's health system through innovation, technology, and equitable access to healthcare services for all Tanzanians.

3.5 Showcasing Digital Innovation at the 12th THS Conference

On 1 October 2025, Apotheker participated in the 12th Tanzania Health Summit (THS), officiated by the Minister for Health, Hon. Mohammed Mchengerwa, and attended by health leaders, policymakers, partners, and stakeholders from across the sector. Under the conference theme, “Harnessing Data Utilization and Technology to Accelerate Universal Health Coverage,” Apotheker presented an abstract titled “Strengthening Adolescent and Youth



Health through a Digital-Based Approach” under the Afya-Tek ELIVIWA Project. The presentation highlighted how digital platforms are enhancing adolescents’ engagement and access to health information and services, contributing to improved youth health outcomes in Tanzania.

4 Our 2025 Media Footprint



Apotheker’s support to the Ministry of Health’s Centre for Digital Health (CDH) through the handover of ICT equipment and office furniture received national media coverage, highlighting the organization’s commitment to strengthening digital health infrastructure and advancing the Government’s digital transformation agenda.

<https://habarileo.co.tz/ahai-yaiwezesha-cdh-kuboresha-sek-ta-ya-afya-kupitia-tehama/>

<https://dailynews.co.tz/boost-to-health-sector-as-ahai-donates-27m-equipment-to-cdh/>

https://www.instagram.com/p/DKzQ-zUtxul/?img_index=1

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Financial Summary

During this year reporting period, Apotheker received a total of USD 1,057,381.95 to support its project and operational activities, primarily for the Afya-Tek and UBAB projects. Approximately 94% of these funds were allocated to project 5 implementation, while 6% covered administrative costs. The Fondation Botnar remained the organization's primary funder throughout this period.

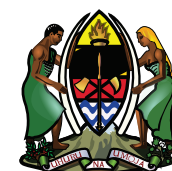
Revenue by source:	
JSI-UBAB	290,493.24
D-Tree ADDO	31,272.41
Botnar Foundation	735,616.30
Total Revenue	1,057,381.95
Expenses 2025:	
Program & Operation expenses	990,292.48
Administrative expenses	53,671.58
Depreciation & amortisation	13,417.89
Total Expenditure	1,057,381.95

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Our Partners, Funders and Co-Funders

Apotheker would like to extend sincere appreciation to all partners who collaborated with us in many ways. Our activities for the year 2025 were implemented in close collaboration with the following partners who either contributed financially or technically toward achieving our goals

Partners



Funder



Co-Funder

