
AWS
re:Invent
NOV. 28 – DEC. 2, 2022 | LAS VEGAS, NV

DEI108

Using technology to advance health equity

Danielle D. Morris (she/her)

Global Social Impact, Global Public Health Lead
AWS

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Road to Health Equity

Shared Understanding: Health Equity

Global Health Disparities

Technology Driving Global Health Equity

AWS Health Equity Initiative

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Shared Understanding: Health Equity?

“Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.”

—Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Global Health Disparities

400 Million Lack basic health services

2.2 Billion Live on less than $2 a day

WHO and World Bank, 2015

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Health Equity: An Introduction



M’e Sithati + Baby Tshepo

Lesotho



The Wihongi Family

New Zealand

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Working Backwards: M’e Sithati’s Story



- 7-hour drive from home to nearest clinic
- Only available transportation is a M300 taxi ride
- M100 remaining from monthly paycheck
- Requires emergency postpartum care

aws

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

M-Mama “Taxi Ambulances”

Vodafone Foundation and Touch Foundation

- **Emergency rural transport service that uses mobile technology connecting pregnant women and newborns to lifesaving care in Tanzania and Lesotho**
  - Centralized dispatch and control system similar to 911
  - Mobilizes local taxi drivers to act as “taxi ambulances”
  - No cost to mothers

- **13,500 pregnant women and newborns to emergency care and a 27% reduction in maternal mortality in the Lake Zone regions of Tanzania**

aws

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Working Backwards: The Wihongi Family's Story



- Lives 1 hour away from nearest te reo Maori-speaking healthcare provider
- Experienced poor treatment at local clinic when requesting Maori provider
- Family history of mental health diagnosis

aws

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Digital Wellbeing & Mental Health Services

WelTel

- **Connects patients to culturally and linguistically responsive mental healthcare via mobiles**
  - 2-way SMS to detect early warning signs of mental health crisis and link to intervention
  - Connection through basic cellular phones, no internet connection or expensive data plans to access care
  - Improving underlying code creates more cost-effective, secure, and accessible mental healthcare

- **Scaled in 10 countries**

aws

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

AWS Health Equity Initiative

- $40M, 3-year commitment to improving global health outcomes by advancing health equity among underserved and underrepresented populations
  - Increase access to health services
  - Reduce disparities by addressing Social Determinants of Health
  - Leverage data to promote equitable and inclusive systems of care
  - Advance equity in diagnostics and screening
- Benefits
  - Up to $250,000 in AWS Promotional Credits
  - AWS Professional Services
  - 3 Application Cycles per year

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Apply Today!



© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Thank you!

Danielle D. Morris
ddmaws@amazon.com

AWS Health Equity Initiative
aws-hei@amazon.com



Please complete the session survey in the **mobile app**

© 2022, Amazon Web Services, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.