

BRIAN A. GALLAGHER

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Good morning. My name is Brian Gallagher. I am the CEO of United Way Worldwide. We will be doing this session in English, not because our panelists cannot speak French. Each one of them can. Sadly, your moderator cannot, so I apologize for that. We will be doing this session in English. We will keep our comments brief and then have a discussion amongst the panelists and then also hopefully take questions from you. I will not do the formal introductions. As each speaker has their opportunity to speak, I will say a bit about their background contextually, but you can read their bios.

The title of this session, the status of health care in Africa, challenges and opportunities, seems pretty apropos given the fact that there are clearly significant challenges and significant opportunities. There has been real progress made in health care across the continent. In the last 15, 20 years, life expectancy has increased. Childhood health outcomes are better. Deaths from communicable diseases are down, but clearly that progress has been uneven and we still have many challenges across the continent. Africans endure 17% of all the disease in the world and yet are 11% of the population. 50% of all expenditure for health care across Africa is out of pocket. Only 1% of health care expenditures worldwide is in sub-Saharan Africa, and a fact I learned just getting ready for this session: there is a USD 1.7 trillion fraudulent drug issue across the continent of Africa. Couple that with infrastructure, poverty, violence in some places, the shortage of trained professionals, clearly we have challenges as well as opportunities.

As we think about asking the panelists their thoughts on opportunities and challenges in the future, whether it is inpatient care, outpatient, preventative care, diagnostics services, it is maybe to think about the way that President Kagame last night described. He was asked the question, 'Did you look at the Singapore experience when you designed the governance model for Rwanda'? And his answer, paraphrasing, was, 'We looked at everything'. He wanted to create a Rwandan system and what I would suggest is that there is an opportunity given the evolution of health care across Africa to create an African system, not a US system, not a French system, not an Asian system, but an African system, and that is what I have asked our panelists to think about, so, to think about challenges, opportunities and then the path forward.