

Radical Innovations Challenge 2025 *e-Booklet*



8th INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN
PALLIATIVE CARE & ALLIED SERVICES
CONFERENCE 2025
23-26 SEPT | GABORONE, BOTSWANA



**CAMBRIDGE
AFRICA**

**Global
Treehouse**



Introduction



The first **African Palliative Care Association (APCA) Radical Innovation Challenge** shines a spotlight on bold new ideas transforming palliative care across Africa and beyond.

This year, innovators from diverse backgrounds — clinicians, researchers, technologists, business leaders, and community champions — shared solutions that confront real challenges of access, equity, and dignity for patients and families. From AI-powered platforms and community-led care models to mobile-first tools designed for low-resource settings, these ideas reflect a growing movement to reimagine palliative care for the future.

In this e-booklet, we celebrate every submission alongside eight outstanding finalists whose innovations push the boundaries of what's possible.

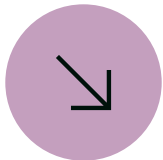
To showcase the breadth and diversity of contributions, the ideas are presented in alphabetical order by country.

At the end of the booklet, you will also find a **directory with contact details for each innovator**, offering opportunities for further networking, collaboration, and shared learning. Together, these submissions invite us to support, adapt, and scale innovations that ensure compassionate care is accessible to all.

Global Reach of
2025 Innovations



Finalists



NUHAMIN TEKLE GEBRE, ETHIOPIA

Innovative Idea

This digitally-enabled home-based model turns basic mobile phones into powerful palliative care tools—empowering community health workers with adaptive decision support, symptom tracking, and specialist mentorship. It's a smart, scalable leap toward equitable chronic care in low-resource communities.



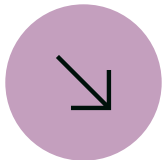
Innovators Biography

Family physician and palliative care researcher, and advisor for palliative care for Ministry of Health, Ethiopia. She advocates for the integration of palliative care in primary care to improve access to and quality of services.

Her PhD research focuses on empowering community health workers through digital health interventions to support early identification of palliative care needs, provision of standardised care at home and referrals to appropriate levels of care.

She is involved in developing strategic plans for palliative care including designing models of care and curriculums and training diverse healthcare teams and communities.

Finalists



PRISCILLA BAABA HALM, GHANA

Innovative Idea

ValleyUP formalizes home-based palliative care in Ghana with a mobile-first platform that connects trained caregivers, tracks care delivery, and ensures quality through licensing and AI support. It's the Uber of community health—safe, trusted and ready to scale nationwide.

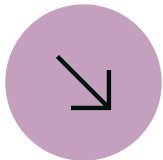


Innovators Biography

Seasoned business executive with over 15 years of expertise in administration, strategic marketing, and stakeholder engagement. Currently serving as one of the Project Managers with White Valley Care Limited - a Chronic & Palliative Care Model based in Ghana, she brings her strong leadership, negotiation, and operational management skills into advancing innovative models in palliative and home-based care in Ghana.

With a proven track record of transforming complex projects into sustainable successes, Mrs. Halm drives White Valley Care's vision on the ValleyUp Mobile APP project with the mentality of accessible, high-quality palliative care for all in a state where palliative and chronic care accessibility is less than 10%. Her passion lies in building impactful partnerships that strengthen healthcare systems and deliver meaningful support to patients and families.

Finalists



**MARGARET KAMAU,
KENYA**

Innovative Idea

This teen-focused Telegram-based social space connects adolescents facing terminal illness for expression, comfort, and community—supported by palliative care specialists in a safe, secure environment.



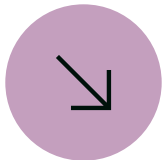
Innovators Biography

Clinical Officer from Kenya with 12 years of clinical experience. She graduated in 2010 with a Diploma in Clinical Medicine and Surgery from KMTC Thika.

She is currently pursuing a Diploma in Higher Education in Palliative Care at Oxford Brookes University. She serves as a trainer and volunteer Clinical Officer at Nairobi Hospice, where she focuses on patient care, family support, and mentorship.

She is passionate about teen palliative care; her commitment lies in enhancing quality of life and advancing compassionate, dignified care for patients and families globally.

Finalists



**ZAMA NDLAZI,
SOUTH AFRICA**

Innovative Idea

This innovation advocates for integrating palliative care into mental health services within South Africa's psychiatric hospitals—uniting fragmented systems and restoring dignity in life and death for society's most marginalized.



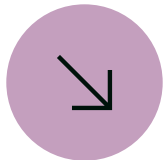
Innovators Biography

Medical Officer at a long-term psychiatric hospital in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

She holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa and is completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Medicine at the University of Cape Town. With a growing interest in both mental health and palliative care, she is working toward becoming a palliative psychiatrist.

She advocates for the integration of compassionate end-of-life care into psychiatric practice, especially for patients with chronic mental illness and life-limiting conditions—highlighting the importance of truly holistic, person-centered care in mental health settings.

Finalists



**NAHLA GAFER,
SUDAN**

Innovative Idea

This hospital-based model embeds palliative care within every department—training specialists, establishing link nurses, and fostering early referral. With a vision to become a training and research hub, it aims to institutionalize palliative care as every clinician's responsibility, not a specialty silo.



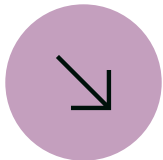
Innovators Biography

Clinical Oncologist, who after training at Hospice Africa Uganda was able to start the first palliative care service in Sudan.

She is currently pursuing a degree from King's College London in palliative care.

She is also a trainer in palliative care, where is trained health professionals in Iraq, Oman, Sudan and Mauritania in person, and elsewhere online.

Finalists



NABUNJE DIANA LUBEGA, UGANDA

Innovative Idea

mPallCare bridges communication gaps in palliative care with an intuitive app and web dashboard that empowers patients, clinicians, and policymakers. Already piloted in a refugee settlement, this platform offers scalable, data-driven care for some of Africa's most vulnerable populations.



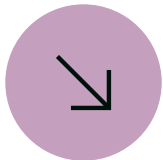
Innovators Biography

Software engineer and Project Manager at MRT IT Peaks Ltd with a passion in utilizing technology to drive social impact, particularly in healthcare.

She leads the development of mPallCare, a digital health platform designed to improve care delivery for individuals with life-limiting illnesses.

Through innovative solutions that integrate mobile and web technologies, she strives to enhance accessibility and quality of life for patients and their families. As a finalist in the APCA Innovation Competition, she is excited to share the vision of transforming healthcare delivery across Africa.

Finalists



**ELISHA NAMPWERA,
UGANDA**

Innovative Idea

A game-changing GSM-based bracelet and app system revolutionises palliative care in low-resource settings—offering real-time fall alerts, medication reminders, and caregiver support even without internet access. Designed with deep local insight, this innovation brings dignity, safety and timely care to the most underserved.



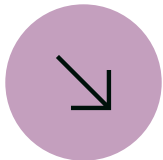
Innovators Biography

Dedicated Software Research and Development Engineer who uses technology to solve real-world problems.

With a focus on innovation, his work leverages software and embedded systems to enhance palliative care for people with long-term illnesses. As a key contributor at MRT IT Peaks Ltd, he has been instrumental in developing bespoke systems that significantly improve care delivery for APCA.

His mission is to inspire continued investment in creating tailored technological solutions for Africa's unique challenges, demonstrating how strategic innovation can drive meaningful and compassionate change.

Finalists



SHUPIKAI CHISERO, ZIMBABWE

Innovative Idea

Zimbabwe's Kunda-Nqob'I TB project demonstrates the positive impact of integrating palliative care into community-based TB services through trained volunteers and community health workers, providing a model for scaling PC across various diseases in Africa.



Innovators Biography

Registered Social Worker with over 15 years of experience working in public health particularly with children and palliative care programs from Zimbabwe.

He is a holder of a Master of Social Science in child and Family Studies from the Africa University has a keen interest in palliative care integration in public health care through empowering communities as frontline support systems.

This interest is supported by a track record of leading innovations in the HIV response for children and families. He is the current Executive Director for the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Zimbabwe (HOSPAZ).

Commendable Innovations

OTENG PAKO OGOTSENG, BOTSWANA

“Care Circles” are small, community-led groups that provide emotional support, storytelling, memory sharing, and culturally rooted grief rituals. By training local volunteers, including youth and elders, the model builds on Africa’s strength of collective care. It is low-cost, scalable, and deeply connected to cultural values, reducing stigma while restoring dignity in end-of-life and bereavement care.

WINIFRED NANA YAA OTOO, GHANA

GHPAL-Bridge is a decentralized, AI-powered, blockchain-based platform designed to unify palliative care licensing, patient records, and bereavement support. It transforms fragmented informal caregiving into a verifiable national system that builds trust and expands equitable access. Backed by the Ministry of Health and national partnerships, it represents a bold technological leap toward compassionate and accountable care in Ghana.

Commendable Innovations

LILIAN KAMITA, KENYA

This project adapts UNICEF's RapidPro messaging platform to provide daily check-ins for palliative care patients. Through simple SMS prompts about pain and medication use, clinicians receive alerts when intervention is needed. Free and low-tech, it fosters timely responses, strengthens patient-provider relationships, and brings compassion into remote care.

MURIEL KINYANGA, KENYA

The "Community Care Exchange" reimagines market spaces as hubs of care, where food donations, volunteer cleaning, and health services come together. Patients gain nutrition and medical support, while volunteers and vendors stay engaged through reciprocity. This self-sustaining, low-cost model strengthens community ownership, builds trust, and integrates palliative and bereavement care into everyday life.

Commendable Innovations

PRINCE STEVEN MAKUPE, MALAWI

Phukira Initiative (“to bloom”) is a dual-setting model that combines hospital-based play therapy with community-led rehabilitation and palliative care for children with cancer and chronic illness. By training local volunteers to provide therapeutic play, nutrition support, and symptom management, the program ensures children continue to thrive after hospital discharge. Rooted in village leadership and national health priorities, it offers a low-cost, culturally grounded, and scalable solution for rural Malawi.

SHORA KAULUKA, MALAWI

FOHOP improves the quality of life for HIV-infected children by integrating palliative care with standard treatment. Through mobile testing, parent trios, psychosocial counseling, radio outreach, and family feedback sessions, they provide holistic, family-centered support. Their community-based approach strengthens adherence, reduces stigma, and ensures continuity of care for vulnerable children.

Commendable Innovations

CHIDINMA AHUBARAEZEAMA, NIGERIA

CareFLAG is a nurse-led referral system that ensures timely specialist intervention for hospitalized patients in severe pain. Ward nurses identify and document cases, prompting early palliative care review without waiting for physician referrals. This low-cost, scalable model empowers nurses, improves equity, and has already led to faster pain relief and better patient outcomes.

ANNIA ROUSSEAU, SEYCHELLES

A new home-based palliative care program in Seychelles empowers families and communities to support patients with life-limiting illness. With training from regional experts and a strong focus on education, the initiative builds capacity among professionals, caregivers, and communities. By reducing hospitalizations and promoting compassionate care, it lays the foundation for integrating palliative care into the national health system.

Commendable Innovations

MARY BUNN, SIERRA LEONE

To overcome transport barriers for home-based palliative care, Connaught Palliative Care Unit proposes using a motorized rickshaw (keke). The vehicle would support weekly nurse home visits, be available for emergencies, and generate income when not in use. Affordable and sustainable, this solution reduces care costs, supports livelihoods, and expands access to compassionate home care.

ALEX DANIELS, SOUTH AFRICA

Inspired by a pilot project in Ghana, this nationwide Children's Palliative Care (CPC) training model blends in-person education, webinars, mentorship, and integration into national health curricula. The program has already trained over 120 professionals, supported clinical placements, reached thousands through webinars, and expanded CPC to 57 sites. With strong partnerships and local ownership, it offers a proven and adaptable approach to embedding CPC across Africa.

Commendable Innovations

ANDREA MENDELSON, SOUTH AFRICA

This innovation equips EMS call centre staff and paramedics with basic palliative care training to better support families after hours. By addressing common symptom questions over the phone and developing a standardized care manual, the project helps prevent unnecessary emergency visits. Integrated into government systems, it ensures 24/7 access to informed frontline providers and empowers EMS teams to deliver appropriate care at home.

PENELOPE MATHE, SOUTH AFRICA

This practice model equips community health workers with tools and training to involve children directly in paediatric palliative care decisions. By providing cultural guidance and sensitive engagement strategies, it shifts children from passive recipients to active participants in their own care. Rooted in children's rights and global health goals, the model is practical, scalable, and transformative for community-based care.

Commendable Innovations

PRISCUS AUDIFAS, TANZANIA

Traditional healers and religious leaders are being trained as referral agents to help patients access palliative care earlier. Equipped with basic knowledge of red-flag symptoms, they can guide families toward timely medical support while maintaining cultural trust. This approach bridges traditional and biomedical systems, improving acceptance and reducing suffering in Tanzanian communities.

JANEPHER NYAKAKE, UGANDA

This innovation creates a volunteer network of trained palliative care alumni to expand access in underserved communities. By offering early consultations, mentoring, and local CME support, these professionals bridge gaps in awareness and services. Modeled on successful community health worker approaches, it provides a low-cost yet highly skilled workforce to advance equitable palliative care.

Commendable Innovations

GLORIA AMADU, UNITED KINGDOM

Drawing on UK experience, this vision seeks to integrate palliative care across Ghana's health system through training, referral pathways, and telehealth. By expanding access to rural areas, encouraging private hospice investment, and embedding palliative care into national curricula, it tackles barriers of stigma, cost, and limited workforce. With policy advocacy and global partnerships, it offers a roadmap for equitable and sustainable palliative care in Ghana.

MILLY QUEIROZ DE ARAUJO, UNITED KINGDOM

The Memory Tree is a mobile-first app that helps grieving children and families create a shared digital legacy of a loved one through voice notes, drawings, photos, and text. Guided prompts in local languages make it easy for children to reflect and express grief in culturally sensitive ways. Designed for low-bandwidth use, the app empowers children, families, and communities to honour memories and restore agency in bereavement care across Africa.

Contact Details for Innovators

Please find contact information for all finalists and commendable innovators below, in order as it appears in the booklet

Finalists

- Nuhamin Tekle Gebre – Ethiopia (nuhamin.gebre@kcl.ac.uk)
- Priscilla Baaba Halm – Ghana (info.whitevalleycare@gmail.com)
- Margaret Kamau – Kenya (Kamau.margarett@gmail.com)
- Zama Ndlazi – South Africa (princessndlazi@gmail.com)
- Nahla Gafer – Sudan (nahla.gafer@yahoo.com)
- Nabunje Diana Lubega – Uganda (dianalubegan@gmail.com)
- Elisha Nampwera – Uganda (nampweraelisha34@gmail.com)
- Shupikai Chisero – Zimbabwe (shupikai@hospaz.co.zw)

Commendable Innovators

- Oteng Pako Ogotseng – Botswana (otengpako23@gmail.com)
- Winifred Nana Yaa Otoo – Ghana (info.whitevalleycare@gmail.com)
- Lilian Kamita – Kenya (dkamita@kabarak.ac.ke)
- Muriel Kinyanga – Kenya (murielkinyanga@gmail.com)
- Prince Steven Makupe – Malawi (pmakupe2@gmail.com)
- Shora Kauluka – Malawi (shora.fohop@gmail.com)
- Chidinma Ahubaraezeama – Nigeria (hpcanabstractenugu2023@gmail.com)
- Annia Rousseau – Seychelles (annia.rousseau@hotmail.com)
- Mary Bunn – Sierra Leone (maryruthbunn@gmail.com)
- Alex Daniels – South Africa (education@icpcn.org)
- Andrea Mendelsohn – South Africa (andrea.mendelsohn@westerncape.gov.za)
- Penelope Mathe – South Africa (penelope.mathe@yahoo.com)
- Priscus Audifas – Tanzania (priscusaudifas@elct.or.tz)
- Janepher Nyakake – Uganda (jnyakake@hospice-africa.org)
- Gloria Amadu – United Kingdom (amadugloria3@gmail.com)
- Milly Queiroz de Araujo – United Kingdom (araujo.milly@gmail.com)

Radical Innovations Challenge 2025, Sub-Committee

- Dr Dan Knights
- Erin Das
- Dr Eve Nasimango
- Prof Liz Gwyther
- Prof Julia Downing
- Prof Reino Poyhia
- Prof IkeOluwapo Ajayi
- Prof Tonia Onyeka
- Janepher Nyakake
- Harriet Nakiganda

Big Thank You
to our Sponsors



8th International African Palliative Care & Allied Services Conference

September 23-26



8th INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN
PALLIATIVE CARE & ALLIED SERVICES
CONFERENCE 2025
23-26 SEPT | GABORONE, BOTSWANA