CONFERENCE INFORMATION PROSPECTUS

AFRICA AT THE CENTRE OF GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2027

"African Solutions for Africa's Mental Health problems"

About the Conference

The **Africa at the Centre of Global Mental Health Conference 2027 (ACGMHC 2027)** is an inaugural international conference hosted by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), Makerere University, through the Department of Mental Health & Community Psychology in the School of Psychology.

From **7 to 9 April 2027**, with pre-conference workshops on **5 and 6 April**, more than 500 researchers, practitioners, policymakers, community organizations, service users, students, development partners and innovators from across Africa and beyond will meet at Makerere University in Kampala to advance African-led, community-driven mental health solutions.

Why this conference matters

Fewer than one in ten people in Africa living with a mental health condition receive adequate care. Closing that gap needs public health systems that bring mental wellness into primary care, policy agendas that put mental health equity on continental and global frameworks, and investment that takes proven approaches to scale.

The conference seeks to move global mental health conversations away from extractive models and towards:

- → African-led knowledge production
- → Community-driven implementation
- → Equitable partnerships
- → Sustainable systems transformation

At a Glance

Detail	Information
Theme	African Solutions for Africa's Mental Health problems
Main conference	7–9 April 2027
Pre-conference workshops	5–6 April 2027
Venue	Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
Expected attendance	500+ delegates from across Africa and the world
Host	College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), Makerere University
Abstract deadline	16 November 2026

Theme and Tracks

The conference theme, **"African Solutions for Africa's Mental Health problems"**, is explored through three major tracks covering thirty areas of focus. Cross-thematic work is strongly encouraged.

Theme	The question it asks	Areas of focus
01 · Equity **Strengthening Equitable and Community-Based Mental Health Systems in Africa**	What if mental health care started in the community, not the hospital?	Integration into primary health care and community systems; workforce development, supervision and task-sharing; financing and sustainability; youth and school mental health; humanitarian mental health and psychosocial support; substance use and community rehabilitation; suicide prevention and crisis response; workplace mental health; monitoring, evaluation and implementation science; UHC and mental health policy
02 · Innovation **Innovation, Technology and African-Led Solutions for Mental Health**	What if the next breakthrough in mental health came from Africa?	Digital mental health and AI-driven approaches; tele-mental health and remote supervision; data systems and real-time analytics; implementation science and systems research; community-based and scalable interventions; digital storytelling; peer-led and youth-driven interventions; innovations in training and supervision; culturally grounded measurement; ethical, human-centred technology
03 · Resilience **Culture, Resilience and Social Healing in African Mental Health**	What can we learn from how communities heal together?	Arts, storytelling and mental health promotion; faith, spirituality and traditional healing; social connection and belonging; trauma, violence and human rights; gender, culture and social determinants; community resilience and collective healing; conflict, displacement and recovery; mindfulness, wellbeing and prevention; masculinity, identity and emotional wellbeing; stigma reduction and culturally responsive care

The Programme

Pre-conference workshops · 5–6 April 2027

Two days of intensive, hands-on learning. Areas include Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Groups (IPT-G), Foundational Helping Skills (FHS), implementation science, supervision systems, grant writing, monitoring and evaluation, digital mental health tools and trauma-informed care. Certification may be available for selected workshops.

Main conference · 7–9 April 2027

Research and practice presentations, cross-sector dialogue, community voices and partnership-building, in seven formats:

Format	Length	Abstract
Oral presentation	15-minute talk + 5 minutes discussion	250–300 words
Poster	Interactive poster session	250–300 words
IGNITE session	5 minutes: 20 slides, each shown for 15 seconds	250–300 words
Symposium	60–90 minutes, 3–5 presenters and a chair	400–500 words
Workshop	Skills-building, participatory learning	400–500 words
Panel or dialogue	Cross-sector discussion	400–500 words
Community voices and storytelling	Testimony, arts, film, photography, poetry and spoken word	400–500 words

You do not need to be an academic to take part. Service users, youth groups, community organisations, lay counsellors, advocates and frontline implementers are warmly welcome. Posters and IGNITE sessions are especially encouraged for students and early-career researchers.

Awards

Best Oral Presentation, Best Student Poster, Best Community Innovation, Best Youth Presentation, Excellence in Implementation Science, Community Leadership Recognition and the Lived Experience Leadership Award.

Beyond the conference

Selected submissions may be considered for conference proceedings, policy briefs, implementation briefs, special journal issues and the inaugural African Community Mental Health Journal.

Who should attend

Bring your work: researchers and academics, students and trainees, mental health practitioners, psychologists and psychiatrists, counsellors and social workers, peer supporters and lay counsellors, service users and advocates, youth leaders, community organisations and digital innovators.

Bring your support: government ministries and policymakers, NGOs and implementation partners, funders and development partners, humanitarian and refugee responders, faith and cultural leaders, and the private sector.

Key dates

Date	Milestone
1 October 2026	Call for abstracts opens
16 November 2026	Abstract submission deadline
30 December 2026	Decisions from the Scientific Committee
February 2027	Accepted presenters confirm
5–6 April 2027	Pre-conference workshops
7–9 April 2027	Main conference

How to take part

→ **Submit an abstract.** Email it as an attachment to **africa.gmhconference@gmail.com** with the subject **[ACGMHC2027 ABSTRACT] CATEGORY - Surname**, where CATEGORY is ORAL, POSTER, SYMPOSIUM, WORKSHOP, IGNITE, PANEL or COMMUNITY VOICES. Every submission is peer-reviewed by the Scientific Committee.

→ **Attend or volunteer.** Delegate registration opens soon, with categories and fees on the website. Volunteers apply through the volunteer portal.

→ **Partner or sponsor.** Four sponsorship tiers, Platinum (USD 10,000+), Gold (USD 5,000+), Silver (USD 2,500+) and Bronze (USD 1,000+), plus in-kind partnerships and Friends of the Conference for contributions below USD 1,000. Full benefits are on the Sponsor page.

Travel and venue

The conference takes place at Makerere University, Kampala. Most international delegates arrive at Entebbe International Airport, about 1–1.5 hours by road from the university. Venue, visa, transport and accommodation details will be published on the website as they are confirmed. Limited travel support and bursaries may become available for students, early-career researchers, community representatives, service users and advocates.

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Email: acgmhconference2027.psych@mak.ac.ug
Abstracts only: africa.gmhconference@gmail.com
Website: chuss.mak.ac.ug/acgmhconference2027
Post: P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda