Tech Corporate philanthropy: The case of Axis Solutions Africa and a Health ATM

By Alistar Mangwany

Axis Solutions Africa is a Pan-African ICT company that has been in operation for about 22 years. It is popularly known for its innovative software development, fiscalization and GIS solutions across 14 African countries. In 2018, Axis Solution’s formed a health sector division for the purpose of developing healthcare management software. The division remained a relatively small section of the company until the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 when it grew significantly by providing tech products that provided medical self-care to tackle the high demand for medical facilities. Now, it is more like the “philanthropic department” of the tech company as it has expanded to also participating in various public events such as community wellness days, church, school and religious events and even internally by offering health services to all employees. This article is to highlight philanthropic work that has been done by the organization for the health of the people of Zimbabwe.

As aforementioned, although the health division was formed 5 years ago, it really took off at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Axis Solutions introduced the Health ATM in Zimbabwe, which was donated and handed over to the Health Ambassador of Zimbabwe, First Lady Auxillia Mnangagwa. The Health ATM in Zimbabwe during the COVID-19 pandemic as a mitigation strategy against the accessibility of doctors. More and more information was trickling in about the virus but people couldn’t go to hospital or get physical appointments with a doctor unless it was an emergency. The ATM is a machine whereby you can do all your regular checkups and get results without human intervention. You can check your blood pressure, height, weight, eyesight and BMI. It provides precise up-to-date information about patients at the point of care, all you have to do is follow instructions as given by the Health ATM.

The Health ATM after the height of the Covid-19 era is now used for many other philanthropic activities. In 2022 the ATM was taken to a rural area in Hwedza district where the ordinary folk cannot afford paid health services. Additionally, there was free distribution of HbA1c testing kits for diabetes screening for the community. In another philanthropic act Axis Solutions took their health ATM to the countryside in Chiredzi in 2022 where there was an official opening of a clinic sponsored by the Air force of Zimbabwe. In that event the company provided free HIV testing with CHEM-BIO stat-Pak, which gives results in minutes. According to UNICEF 1 in 10 people in Zimbabwe are affected by HIV hence the innovative test kits are a huge need for communities in the country.

Medical diagnosis boost for rural areas

The health ATM has also been taken to churches on Sundays, local charity runs and even a men’s fair at a hotel. The Health ATM goes to all kinds of events and is freely used by the visited community. Axis Solutions itself hosts regular Health Expo and Wellness days at its headquarters in Harare.

African philanthropist and youth mentor Ntambiye David said at the 2022 APN Assembly: “Philanthropy begins when you realize you have something to give..to one who has less or doesn’t have. Philanthropy does not begin when we have bag loads of money from donors. Philanthropy begins at home”. Other corporations could learn from Axis Solutions in providing health tech accessibility to communities in need as a way to fill in the gaps where governments cannot reach. African corporate tech philanthropy is critical in meeting the continent’s needs. Corporates trying to gain more goodwill against competitors is a great incentive to engage in more philanthropic practices. And as more philanthropy is done, more is contributed towards a better standard of life for our communities.