



DIABETES
ALLIANCE

2025 DIABETES SUMMIT

Let's **Innovate** for **Impact!**

Transforming the Future of Diabetes in South Africa

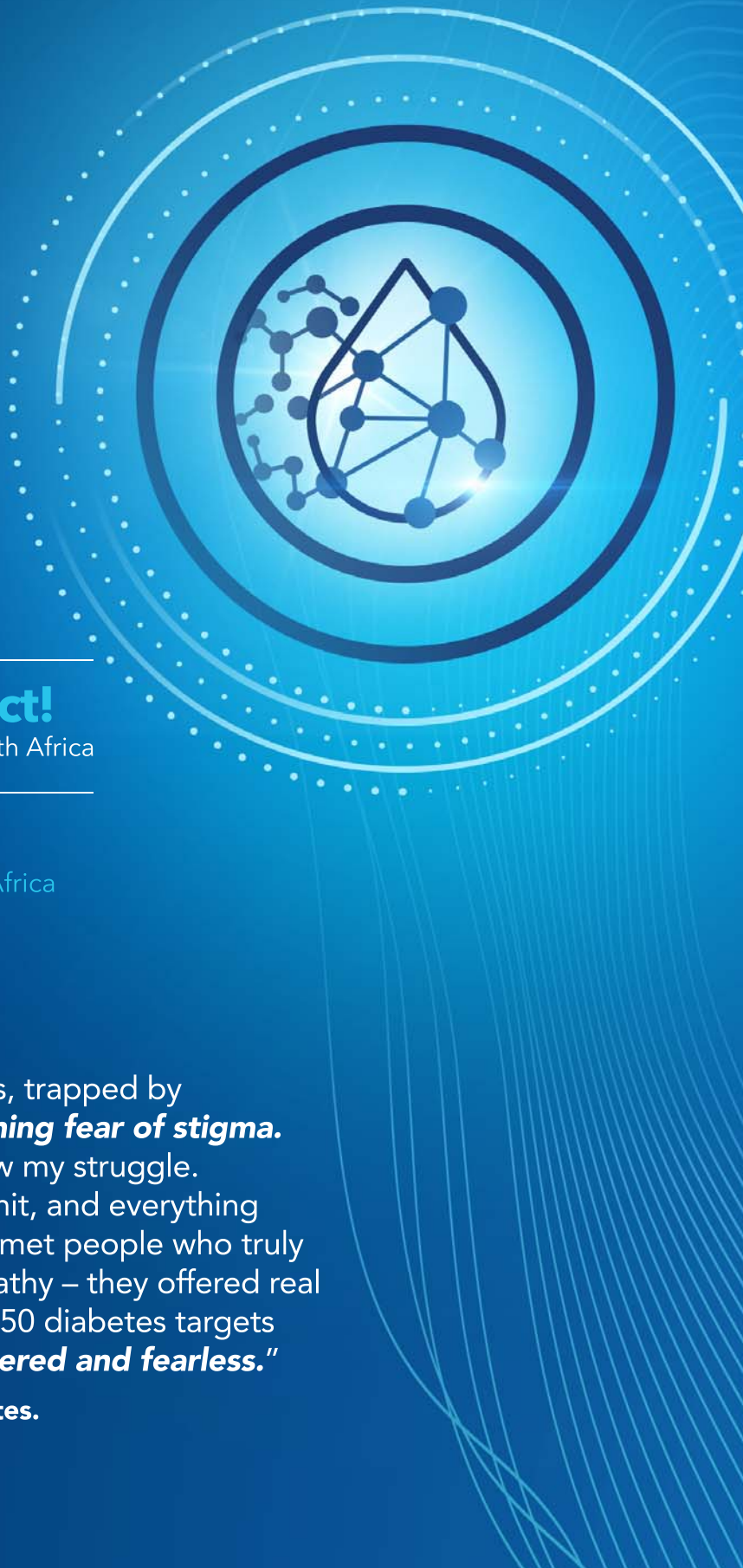
11-13 November 2025

The Radisson OR Tambo, Gauteng, South Africa

"I lived with diabetes in the shadows, trapped by **helplessness, shame, and the crushing fear of stigma.** For years, my community never knew my struggle. Then came the 2023 Diabetes Summit, and everything changed. I saw that I wasn't alone. I met people who truly cared, who offered more than sympathy – they offered real solutions. Learning about the 90-60-50 diabetes targets gave me hope. **Today, I am empowered and fearless.**"

– South African living with type 2 diabetes.

#DiabetesSummitSA



WHY THIS SUMMIT MATTERS

Diabetes is now the **leading cause of death in South Africa**.

It silently disables, impoverishes, and devastates millions. Outdated treatment models, medicine procurement challenges, limited technologies, and a lack of mental health support continue to hold us back.

But there is hope.

Innovation is happening — in communities, universities, health start-ups, and research labs. What's needed now is scale, collaboration, and lasting system change.

The **2025 Diabetes Summit** will bring together lived experiences, bold thinkers, decision-makers, advocates, and innovators to co-create real solutions and transform the future of diabetes in South Africa.

ORGANISERS

Led by the Diabetes Alliance South Africa, in collaboration with:

- University of Pretoria
- World Health Organization South Africa
- South African Medical Research Council
- Supported by the National Department of Health, provincial health departments, civil society, and private sector partners.

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

Follow up on the recommendations and commitments from the 2023 Diabetes Summit.

Showcase promising innovations across FIVE FOCUS AREAS:

**Awareness
and
Prevention**

Education

**Management
and Access
to Care**

Surveillance

**Innovation
and
Research**

Promote adoption of effective innovations within the South African healthcare system.

- Build strong **cross-sector collaboration and accountability**.
- Produce a **policy brief and innovation roadmap** to guide action and investment.



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Tuesday 11 November 2025

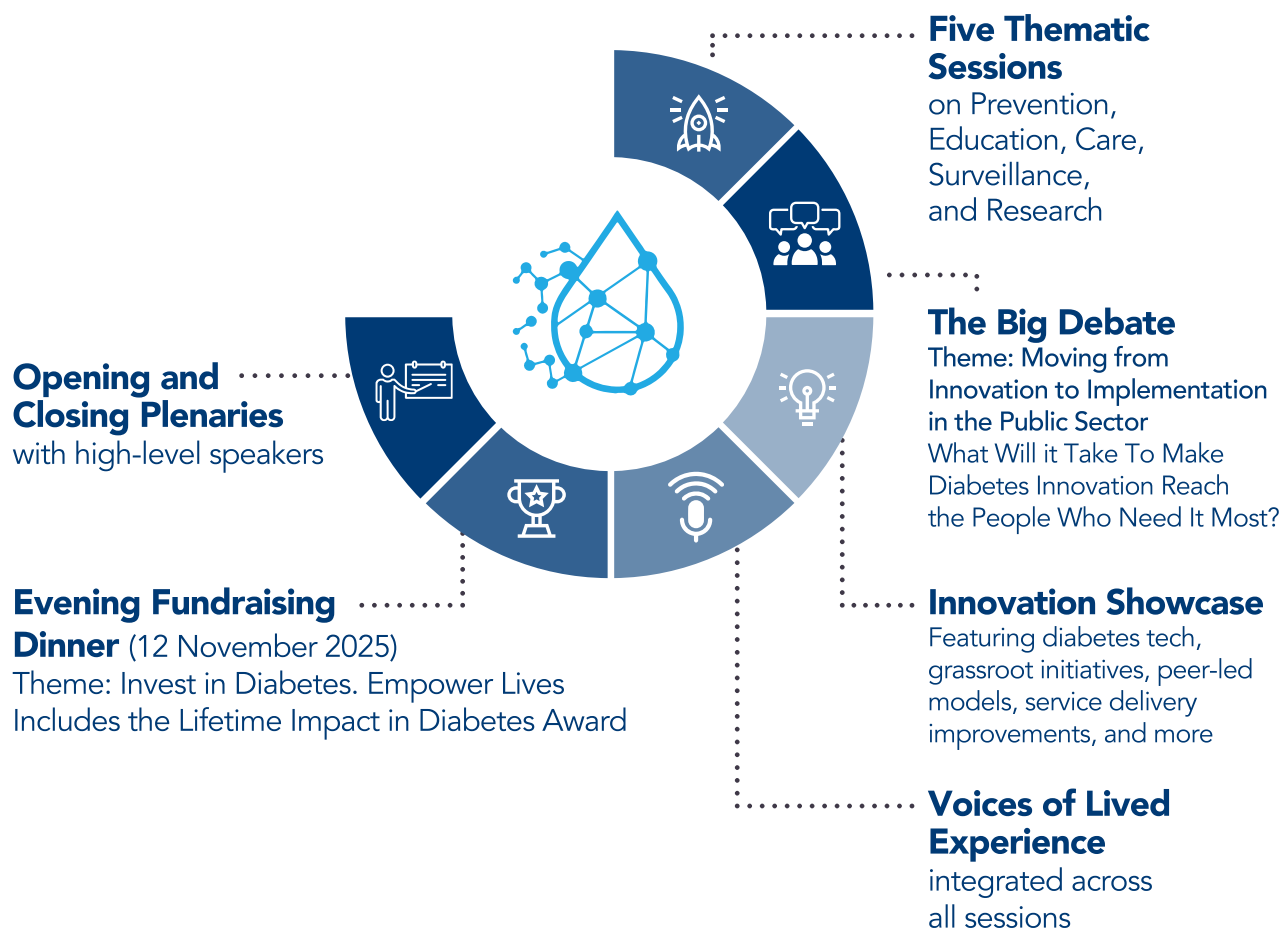
- **Pre-Summit Workshops** hosted by partner organisations

Wednesday - Thursday 12-13 November 2025

Diabetes Summit Sessions (all-plenary format)

- CPD Accredited
- Hybrid format: in-person + livestream
- Venue: The Radisson OR Tambo, Gauteng, South Africa

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



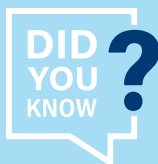


OUR AUDIENCE

- People living with diabetes and community leaders
- NGOs and advocacy groups working to advance diabetes care
- National and Provincial Departments of Health
- Other government departments: National Treasury; Social Development; Basic Education; Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities; Employment and Labour; Public Service and Administration; Science, Technology and Innovation; Higher Education and Training
- Members of Parliament and parliamentary portfolio committees
- Healthcare providers, nurses, and allied health professionals
- Universities and research institutions
- Private sector actors (pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, digital health, insurers)
- Donors, development partners, and multilateral agencies

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- A bold **Call to Action** to adopt and scale proven innovations
- A curated **Innovation Showcase** of practical, scalable solutions
- **Strengthened partnerships** across sectors and levels of government
- A published **Summit Report and Policy Brief** for national follow-up
- **Commitments** to action, accountability, and equity



South Africa's National Diabetes and Hypertension Targets

- **90%** of people with diabetes/hypertension diagnosed
- **60%** of those diagnosed receive an intervention
- **50%** of those on treatment with controlled disease

THEMATIC AREAS & LEADING QUESTIONS

1. AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

- How can awareness campaigns be more culturally relevant, youth-driven, and community-led?
- What prevention models are working — and how can they scale?
- Strategies to confront stigma and misinformation?

2. EDUCATION

- How can diabetes education be more interactive and empowering?
- What role can peer educators and digital tools play in low-resource settings?
- How do we reach rural, underserved, or low-literacy populations?

3. MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS TO CARE

- How do we move toward person-centred care in the health sector?
- What low-cost innovations can improve medication access, follow-up, and monitoring?
- How do we integrate mental health, CVD prevention, and social support?

4. SURVEILLANCE

- What data innovations can improve diabetes monitoring without full EMR systems?
- What role can CHWs, clinics, and mobile tools play?
- How do we ensure data informs national accountability?

5. INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

- How do we identify and scale local innovations?
- What blocks research-backed innovations from nationwide adoption?
- How do we build a diabetes innovation ecosystem that values lived experience?



www.diabetesalliance.org.za
#DiabetesSummitSA

To discuss sponsorship opportunities or confirm your participation, please contact the event organiser:

Nicky McGrath at We-Evolve

nicky@we-evolve.co.za

+27 11 326 3612