Topic Overview

1. Global Strategy on Digital Health
2. Global Initiative on Digital Health
3. Global Digital Health Certification Network
“The future of health depends on how well we power health through science, research, innovation, data, digital technologies, and partnerships.”

- WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Resilient, future-proof health systems must be digital

Taxonomy of Digital Health Strategies applied during COVID-19

WHO has been supporting MS’s in Digital Health for over two decades

WHA58.28 on eHealth
Consider drawing up a long-term strategic plan for developing and implementing eHealth services to promote equitable, affordable and universal access to their benefits

WHA71.7 Digital health
Develop... in close consultation with Member States and with inputs from relevant stakeholders... a global strategy on digital health, identifying priority areas including where WHO should focus its efforts”.

Repository of eHealth Strategies

Last update of Repository of eHealth Strategies

WHA66.24 on eHealth standardization and interoperability
Consider developing... policies and legislative mechanisms linked to an overall national eHealth strategy

Launch of the Global Initiative on AI4H

Launch of the Global Initiative on Digital Health & Certification Network

2030 SDGs

2005 05  2010 2013  05  2016 2018  05  2021 2023  NOW  2025  2030

IMPLEMENTATION

Global strategy on digital health
Improve health for everyone...affordable, scalable digital health and wellbeing...support equitable access to quality health services...implication for access, cost, quality of digital solutions
WHO continues to provide norms, standards and technical leadership to countries on “cutting-edge” issues

Examples:
Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence for Health

Ethics and Governance of Large Multi-Modal Models

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The **Global Strategy on Digital Health** reflects 194 Member-States call for coordination across WHO, Partners and Countries.

### Global Digital Health Strategy 2020 – 2025, Strategic Objectives

- **Promote global collaboration & advance the transfer of knowledge on digital health**
- **Advance the implementation of national digital health strategies**
- **Strengthen governance for digital health at global, regional and national levels**
- **Advocate people-centered health systems that are enabled by digital health**
The Global Strategy has enabled several flagship activities to support country progress:

- Measuring Country Maturity and Enabling Environment / Progress
- Reduced Fragmentation and Improved Knowledge Sharing
- Roadmaps for Digital Transformation Planning and Costing
- Supporting National Digital Health Strategies
>120 countries have a DH Strategy, but inequitable global progress

Data available for 67 countries (as of Feb 2024)
The WHO Secretariat continues to advance the Global Strategy:

- Initiatives launched to meet the four strategic objectives.
  - SO1: Global mechanisms on international collaboration in digital health and artificial intelligence established.
  - SO2: Regional Action Frameworks developed or in progress for 5 of 6 WHO regions.
  - SO3: A global mechanism for measuring digital health maturity identified and in transition to WHO.
  - SO4: A global digital health trust architecture established.
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- SO4. Advocate people-centered health systems that are enabled by digital health
Key Asks to Member States

1. Data collection for final report
2. Participation at the WSIS Forum
4. Refocused attention on the Global Strategy on Digital Health
Global Initiative on Digital Health
Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020 - 2025 - Summary implementation of the action plan
15 Global Consultations over the course of 2023

SMART FHIR GUIDELINES
TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM
GLOBAL CONVENING

Regional Committee Meetings
EURO / WPRO / SEARO / EMRO

Source: WHO Digital Implementation Investment Guide (DIIG)  
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240010567
Key Barriers in today’s Digital Health Ecosystem

• Many strategies, few costed / action-blueprints
• Lack of governance and policy environment & institutions to shepherd transformation
• Lack of interoperability architecture & standards
• Inadequate human capacity
• Donor discordance and funding misalignment
• Inconsistent quality assurance of digital public goods (DPGs)
• Lack of platforms to engage entrepreneurs and promote LOCAL PRODUCTION

Sources:
• DPGA members: GDHP March 2023 G20 Coordination Work Group Meeting. Presentation by Steve Posnack GDHP Chair and Deputy National Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health 

One key message: **Countries are asking for COORDINATED SUPPORT** to strengthen foundations to facilitate the shift from digital experimentation to digital transformation.
Launch of the Global Initiative on Digital Health
20 February 2024
GIDH Principles:
A partnership for country-centred digital health transformation

STRENGTHEN capacity, governance & leadership
ALIGN implementation through collaboration
LEVERAGE quality-assured building blocks
ADVOCATE for and TRACK investments
ENABLE joint learning and knowledge exchange
MEASURE and MONITOR progress

Country Needs Tracker
Country Resource Portal
Transformation Toolbox
Convening & Knowledge Exchange

Resource optimization and alignment with country priorities
Quality assured digital solutions and strengthened local capacity
## GIDH Theory of Change

### COUNTRIES COMMIT TO:
- **LEADING** national stakeholders
- Creating an **ENABLING** environment
- **PROMOTING** alignment

### THROUGH WHO SUPPORT ON:
- **CONVENING** stakeholders
- **ADVANCING** standards, guidelines, content, and quality assured tools
- **COMPETENCIES** and **TRAINING**
- **REPOSITORIES** of strategies, blueprints
- **BASELINE MATURITY** assessment & mapping

### ACCELERATED BY GIDH NETWORK THROUGH:

#### GLOBAL
- Enhanced **INVESTMENT TRACKING** (e.g. OECD DAK DH)
- **CHAMPIONING** country leadership
- **ADVOCACY** for resource gaps
- **KNOWLEDGE** exchange
- **UN AGENCY** coordination
- **REGIONAL NETWORK** federation

#### COUNTRY
- Jointly **MAPPING & RESOURCING** country needs
- **ROADMAP** development & implementation
- Thematic **WORKING GROUPS**

### TO ACHIEVE COUNTRY RESULTS THAT:
- Increase **PARTNER ALIGNMENT & INVESTMENT**
- **EMPOWER** use of standards and quality assured building blocks
- Strengthen **INTEROPERABILITY**
- Build **LOCAL CAPACITY**
- Ensure **RETURN ON INVESTMENTS**
- Control **FRAGMENTATION**
GIDH Membership

• Opened 20 Feb 2024
• 740+ applications received so far
• Institutions registered in 76 countries from all 6 WHO regions
• Institutional membership only

Source. GIDH. Membership applications as of 29 February 2024
GIDH Operational Highlights in 2024

1. **G20 2nd HWG Meeting and Partner Event:** Improving Metrics for Digital Transformation Resources (with OECD, World Bank, others), April 2024.

2. **Country Engagement Activities,** March-December 2024.


4. **UN Partners (ITU, Unicef, UNDP, WHO, others) Coordination Commitment:** May 2024

5. **Toolbox solutions launched for country use,** April-June 2024.

6. **First Secretariat and Steering Committee** in-person meeting, 23 May 2024.

7. **GIDH 1st Global Digital Health Convening** during WSIS+ 20 High Level event in Geneva. Exact dates to be confirmed.

Key Asks for Member States

1. **Lighthouse country application**: Updates coming on GIDH webpage in mid-2024.

2. **Identify a representative** to join the WSIS 2024 meetings in Geneva.

3. **Support sensitization of GIDH** to Ministries of Health. Materials will be made available on GIDH webpage:
   - Promotional video
   - Recording of 20 February kick-off
DISCUSSION (~20 min)
Global Digital Health Certification Network
Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020 - 2025 - Summary implementation of the action plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Policy &amp; Action</th>
<th>Target impacts</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SO1</td>
<td>Global alignment to address opportunities and challenges</td>
<td>Global multi stakeholder collaboration and partnership for impact established</td>
<td>Programs and projects</td>
<td>Increasingly appropriate and sustainable digital health ecosystem</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• National framework for collaboration and capacity building established</td>
<td>Collaboration &amp; partnerships &amp; networks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• National information centres for disease surveillance established or strengthened</td>
<td>Coordination mechanisms</td>
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<td>SO2</td>
<td>Strategic vision and integrated action at the national level</td>
<td>Innovative integration of digital technologies in national health strategies established</td>
<td>Legislation, policy and compliance</td>
<td>Cost-effective and efficient health systems and services</td>
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<td>• Prioritisation &amp; sustainable financial models identified and shared</td>
<td>Strategy and investment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Dynamic digital health maturity model developed and implemented</td>
<td>Infrastructure, services and applications workforce</td>
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<td>SO3</td>
<td>Actions and investments based on informed decisions</td>
<td>Actions and investments based on informed decisions</td>
<td>Technical and policy documents</td>
<td>Accelerated digitalization of the health and well-being sector</td>
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<td>• Global and national framework for governance of digital health is established</td>
<td>Governance and capacity building</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Global research agenda on digital health and frontier technology established</td>
<td>Scale and implementation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Guidelines and frameworks on key areas of digital transformation established</td>
<td>Knowledge exchange and learning</td>
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<td>SO4</td>
<td>People empowered to make healthy and health-enabling choices</td>
<td>People placed at the centre of digital health transformation</td>
<td>Individual and community health</td>
<td>Healthier populations</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Population health management improved</td>
<td>Health and well-being</td>
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<td>• Digital health literacy skills and gender equality and health equity approaches strengthened</td>
<td>Systems and services</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Health systems capacities building activities</td>
<td>Capacity building activities</td>
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The Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN)

- A global mechanism that supports bilateral **verification of the provenance of health documents** for pandemic preparedness and continuity of care.

- Digital Public Infrastructure

- Enables sharing (across/within borders) of:
  - Immunization records
  - Electronic “yellow card”
  - Patient Summary

- Other high-value use-cases
  - Cross border telemedicine, e-prescriptions
  - Health worker credentials
As of February 28, over 70 countries are participating in the network

**Region of the Americas**
1. Bahamas
2. Bolivia
3. Belize
4. Brazil
5. Canada
6. Chile
7. Ecuador
8. Honduras
9. Paraguay
10. Suriname
11. Uruguay
12. El Salvador
13. Panama
14. Guatemala
15. Argentina
16. Colombia
17. Costa Rica
18. Peru
19. British Virgin Islands

**Eastern Mediterranean Region**
1. Morocco
2. Iraq
3. Qatar

**South East Asia Region**
1. Indonesia
2. Thailand
3. Sri Lanka

**African Region**
1. Benin
2. Zimbabwe
3. Madagascar
4. Burkina Faso
5. Tanzania
6. Burundi
7. Togo

**Western Pacific Region**
1. New Zealand
2. Singapore
3. Japan
4. Australia
5. Mongolia
6. Malaysia

**European Region**
1. Belgium
2. Croatia
3. Czech Republic
4. Cyprus
5. Estonia
6. Finland
7. France
8. Greece
9. Israel
10. Latvia
11. Lithuania
12. Malta
13. Netherlands
14. San Marino
15. Slovakia
16. Spain
17. Sweden
18. Ukraine
19. United Kingdom
20. Iceland
21. Slovenia
22. Portugal
23. Georgia
24. Poland
25. Kyrgyzstan
26. Faroe Islands
27. Montenegro
28. Ireland
29. Andorra
30. Monaco
31. Türkiye
32. North Macedonia
33. Moldova
34. Armenia
35. Albania

X = In progress. Currently going through technical preparation, testing and/or pending Letter of Application

X = Onboarding completed. Testing completed and Letter of Application received.
The GDHCN was developed out of necessity during the Pandemic.
WHO’s role as the GDHCN Secretariat – a “public key” directory

1. Verifies participant identity, certifies provenance of keys, onboards participant

Country A's Credential Authority

Public “Key”

GDHCN Secretariat
GDHCN supports person-mediated carriage of their own health information between members of the network.

Individual (owner) carries and serves as the custodian of their data.
There are multiple use-cases for the GDHCN beyond pandemic resilience that support person-centered needs.

- Each use case will be defined by:
  - Content specifications
  - Standardized policies and processes
  - Trusted services related to issuance, verification, revocation, and management of health certificates and documents related to that use case
Example use case: The International Patient Summary

- **Continuity of Care for People**
  - Vaccination records
  - Routine Clinical Care

- **Public health security**
  - COVID-19 Certificates
  - IHR - Yellow book / ICVP

- **Travel**
  - Cross-border and domestic movement
  - Pilgrimages and mass gatherings
  - Medical tourism

- **Migration**
  - Forced migration due to climate change
  - Failed states & Conflict
Process to join the Global Digital Health Certification Network

http://smart.who.int/trust

Table of Contents

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Overview

This guide describes the specifications and on-boarding procedures for WHO’s Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN). The GDHCN is a mechanism to support verification of health documents and certifications that are exchanged between participants of the GDHCN. These health certifications may include COVID-19 certificates, routine immunization cards, and home-based records consistent with International Patient Summary standards. This mechanism provides means of harmonizing global health protocol standards and establishing a system for recognition of digital certificates for continuity of care at point of entry. The GDHCN is designed to leverage existing investments by jurisdictions that were made under the COVID-19 response and provide the digital health infrastructure needed for resiliency in future epidemic and pandemic responses.

The GDHCN is a digital reflection of the trust WHO already has with Member States. The GDHCN is a digital trust network based on proven concepts which are used to describe the specifications, standards, and establishing trust. Eligible participants of the trust network may apply to join by following an on-boarding process. The GDHCN is operated under the GDHCN Administrative and Operational Framework.
Overview of the Global Digital Health Certification Network
https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-digital-health-certification-network

Onboarding process
https://smart.who.int/smart-trust/concepts_onboarding.html

Press release announcing the launch of the GDHCN and collaboration with the European Commission

Secretariat email for onboarding
tng-secretariat@who.int

Secretariat email for technical support questions
tng-support@who.int

Technical specifications
https://worldhealthorganization.github.io/smart-trust/index.html
Key Asks for Member States

1. Apply to onboard to the GDHCN
2. Support increased regional engagement GDHCN
3. Propose new domestic and cross-border use-cases
4. Participate in governance of use cases
5. Support with public advocacy and civil engagement to build trust in person-centered digital systems
6. Advocate for adequate resourcing to maintain and manage GDHCN at all levels
DISCUSSION (~20 min)
Supporting countries to amplify use of existing best practices, accelerating ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Strengthening Global Digital Public Infrastructure for PREPAREDNESS and to FACILITATE CROSS-BORDER collaboration
Digital health should be an integral part of health priorities and benefit people in a way that is ethical, safe, secure, reliable, equitable and sustainable. It should be developed with principles of transparency, accessibility, scalability, replicability, interoperability, privacy, security and confidentiality.