

Progress update on the Global Initiative on Digital Health

Member State Briefing

11 October 2024

Department of Digital Health and Innovation
Science Division, Geneva, Switzerland



New York, 2024

Summit of the Future

20-21 September — Action Days
22-23 September — Summit



World Health
Organization



SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE
OUTCOME DOCUMENTS

September 2024

Pact for the Future,
Global Digital Compact,
and Declaration on Future
Generations

Summit of the Future Outcome Document

World leaders adopt a Pact for the Future that includes a **Global Digital Compact** and a **Declaration on Future Generations**. The Pact covers a broad range of themes including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, **digital cooperation**, **human rights**, **gender**, **youth and future generations**, and the transformation of global governance.



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SIDE EVENTS

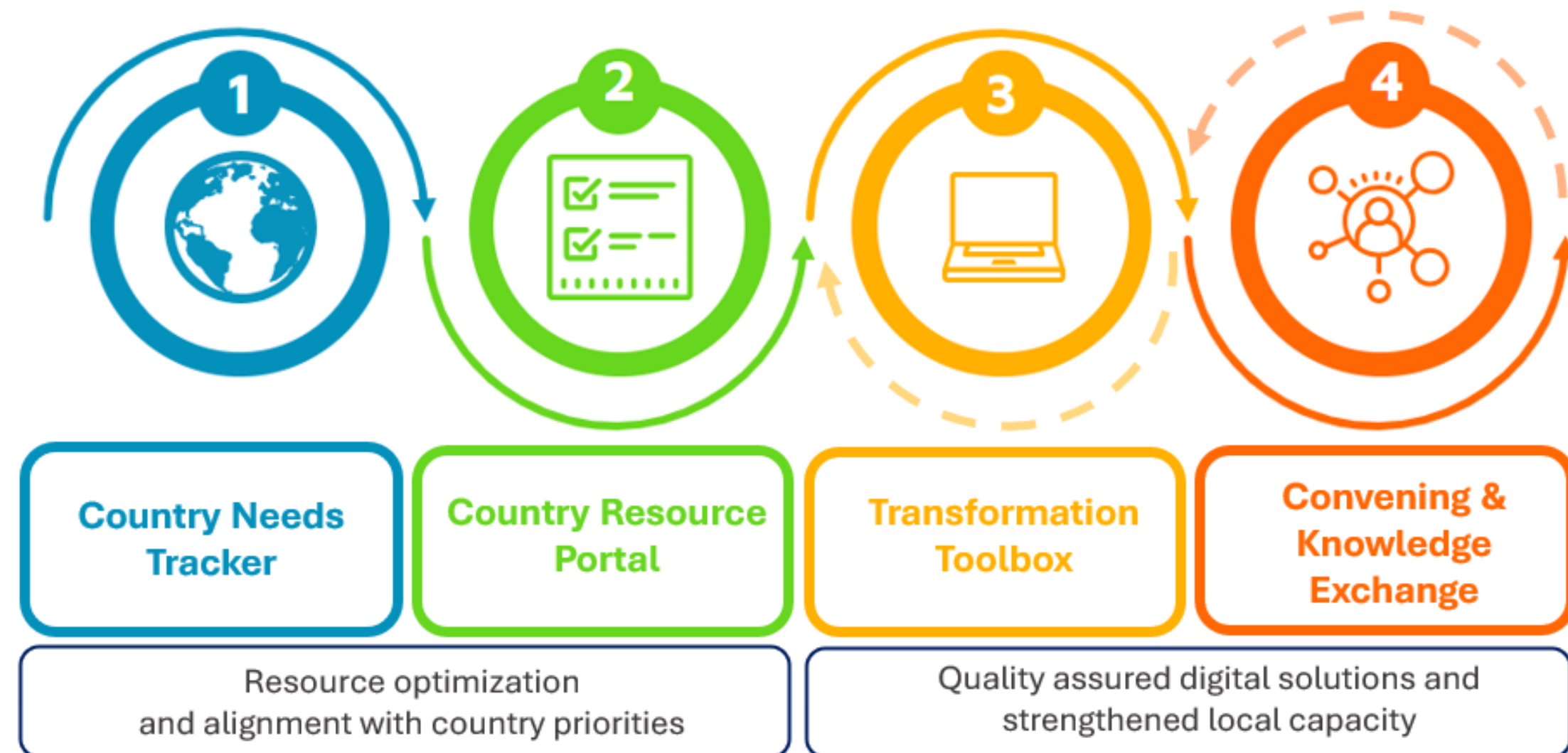
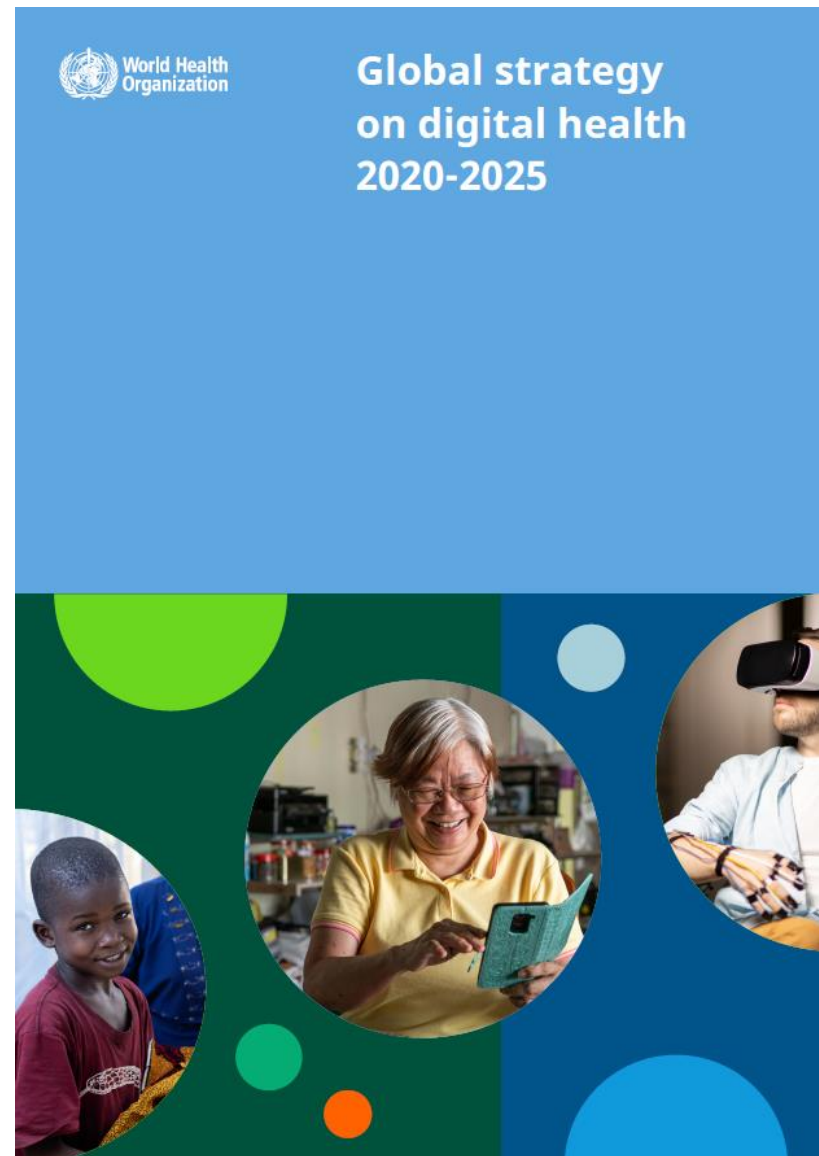
▶ Multistakeholder Dialogue on National Digital...

21 September 2024



World Health Organization

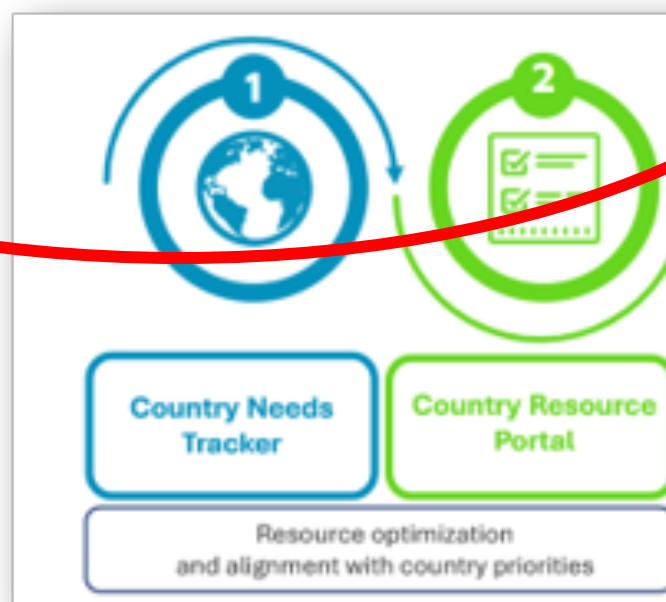
GIDH activities will support countries to plan, resource and develop robust enabling foundations for digital health transformation



The role of GIDH in supporting a sustainable digital ecosystem built on robust foundations

Financing

Objective 1. Ensure digital health investments are informed by country priorities



Sustainable & Inclusive DH Transformation

Architecture

Objective 3. Ensure quality assured tools and resources are available to strengthen country capacity and autonomy to manage their national DH transformation journey



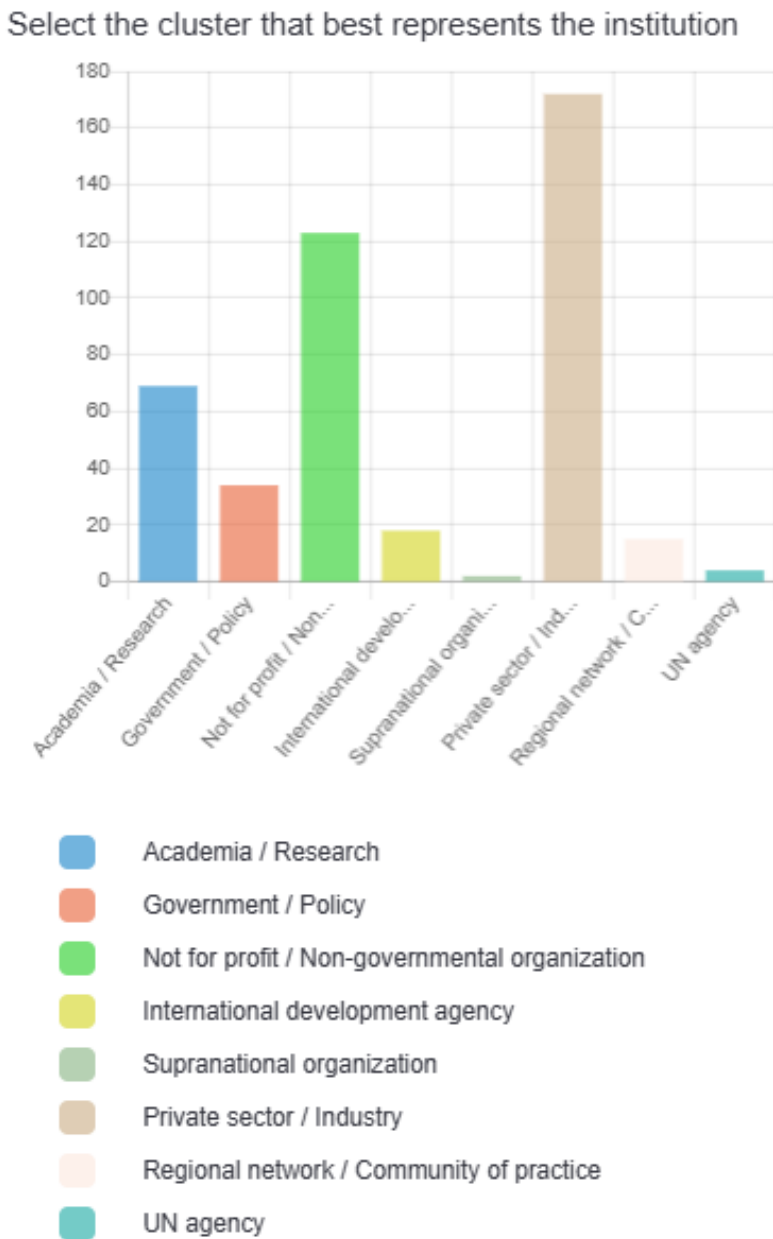
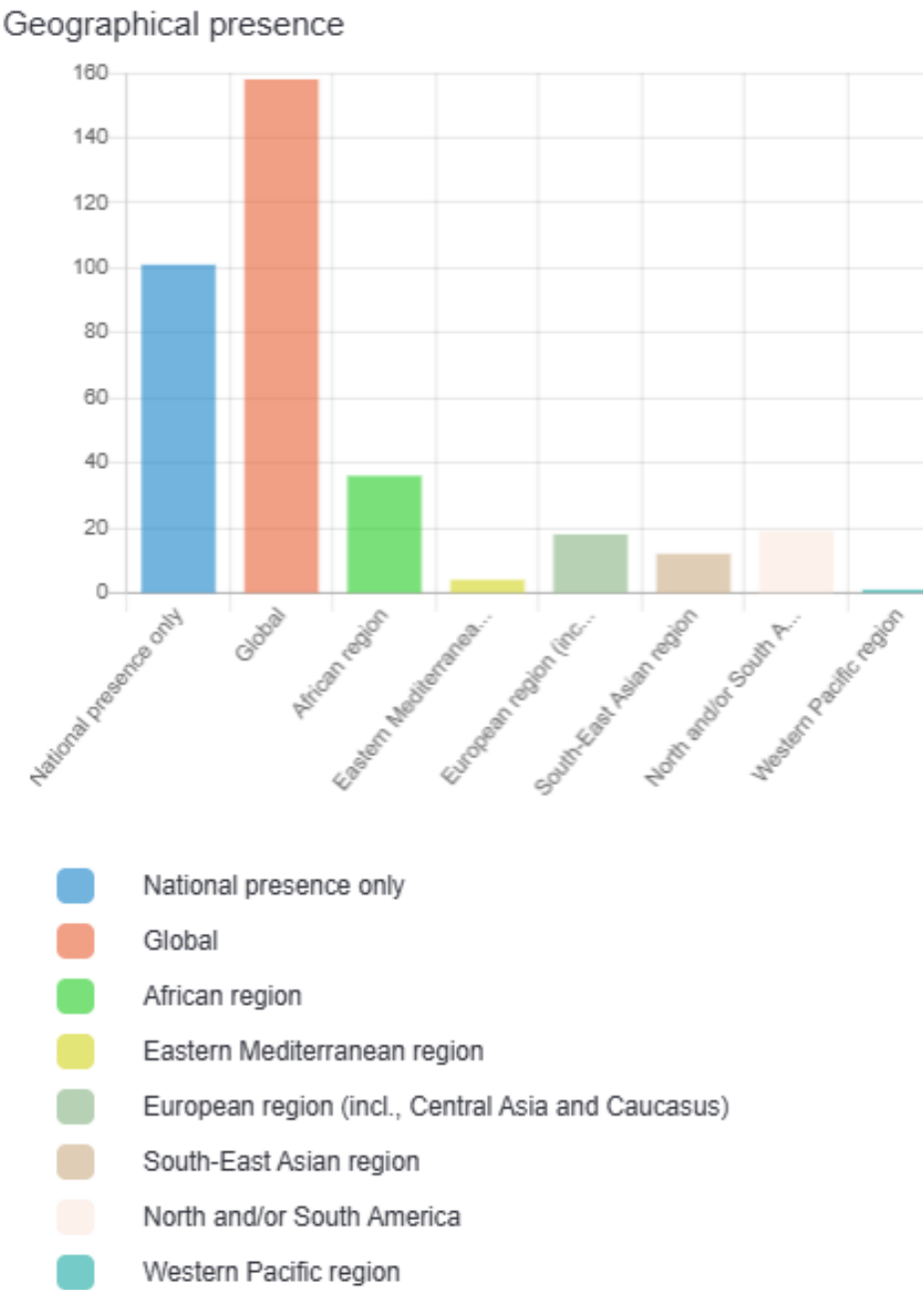
Governance

Objective 2. Promote strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange across global, regional, and national networks in digital health



Objective 1: Ensure Digital health investments are informed by country priorities (Pillars 1)

- 1. **Secretariat:** WHO HQ and all 6 WHO Region represented. 5th Secretariat meeting on 17 October 2024.
- 2. **Steering Committee:** Nominations for Interim Task Force finalized.
- 3. **Membership:**
 - 20 Feb – 27 Mar: 1st batch – Screening and review completed. 303 in FENSA clearance.
 - 28 Mar – 3 Oct: 1st level review underway (394)
 - Internal review to streamline FENSA clearance.
- 4. **Country Needs Tracker / Country Resource Portal:** Draft concept under development, informed by existing Member State requests



Objective 1: Thematic Priority - Tracking Digital Health Investments

The Problem

- Ineffectiveness of global-level tracking of investments and need for national-level tracking.
- Donor coordination and tracking at the country level are currently inadequate.
- Need for improved development partner coordination and addressing the increasing fragmentation.

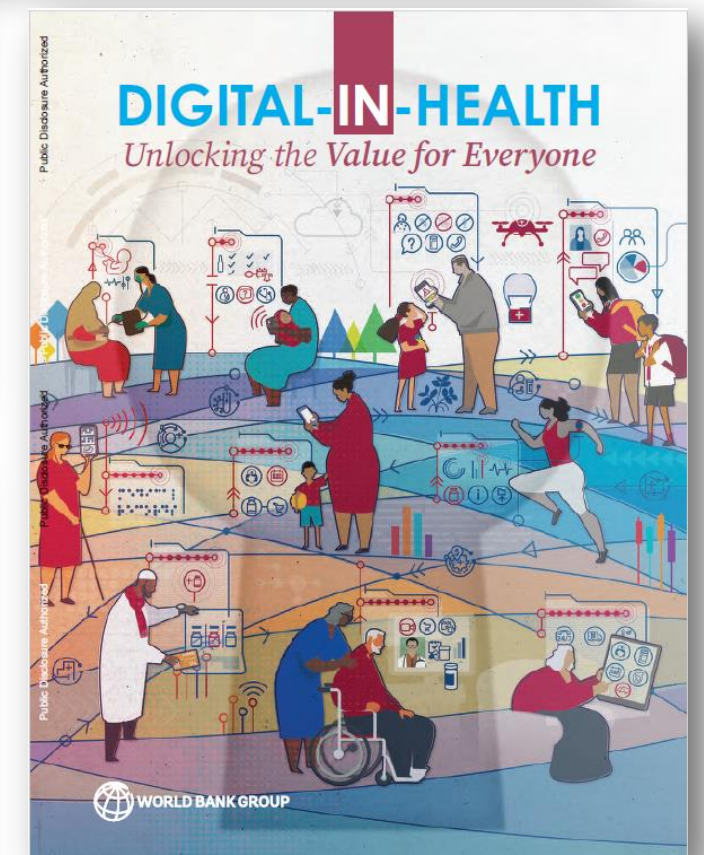
Proposed solution

- Strengthen **transparency** and **tracking** of digital health **investments** through improved funding indicators, reporting, and alignment.



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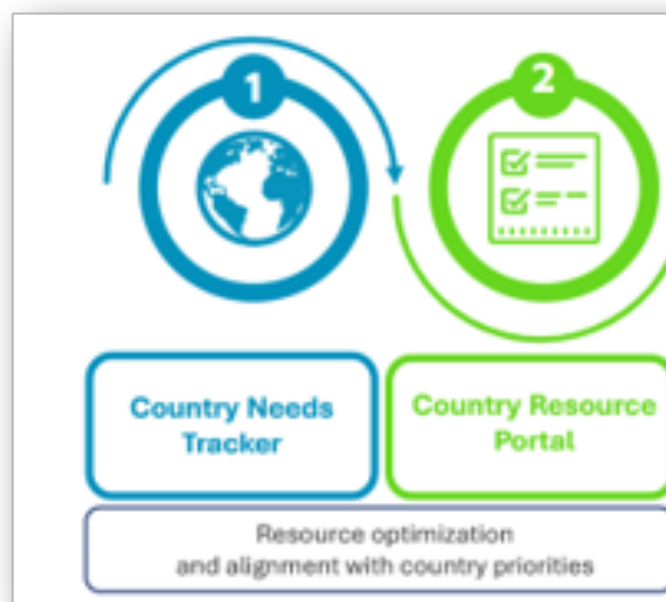
of \$350 billion in official development assistance is allocated to digital initiatives annually³⁹



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Objective 3. Ensure quality assured tools and resources are available to strengthen country capacity and autonomy to manage their national DH transformation journey



Governance

Objective 2. Promote strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange across global, regional, and national networks in digital health



Objective 2: Promote strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange across global, regional, and national networks in DH (Pillar 4)



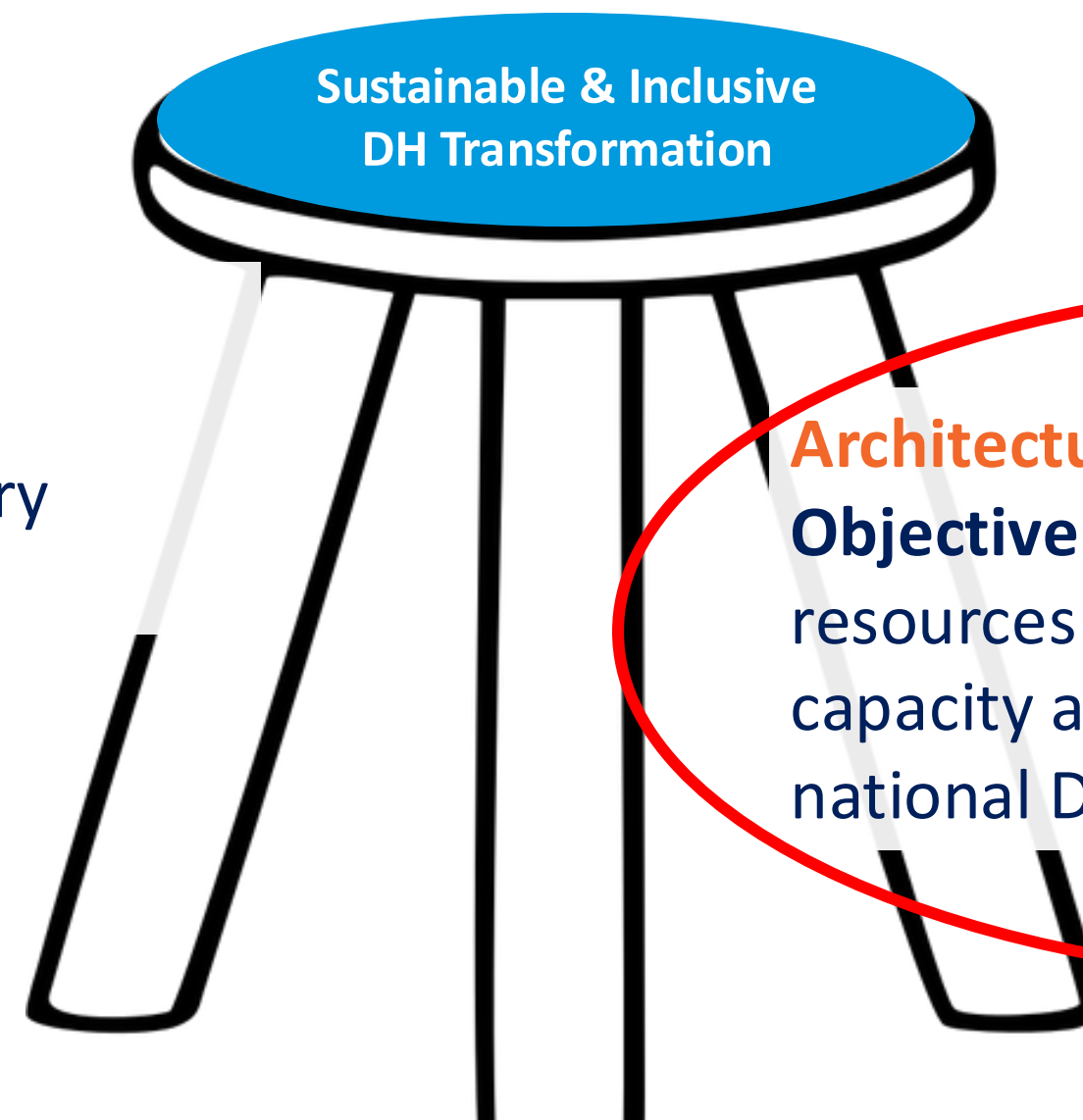
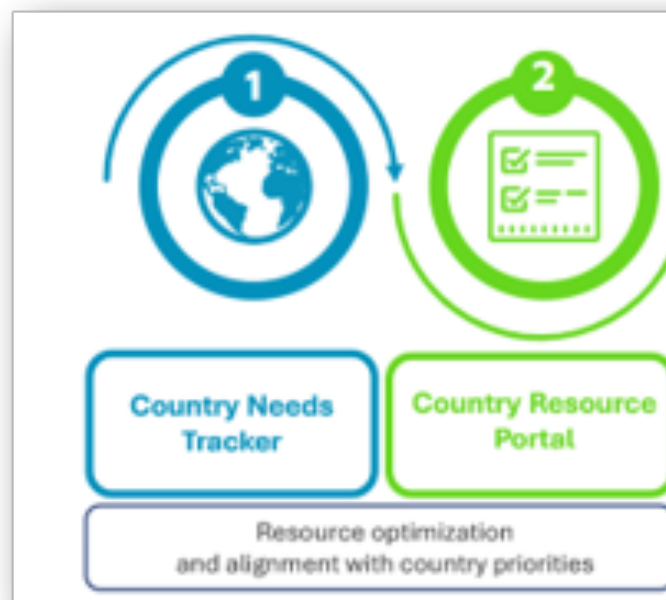
- Promote **country-led** and **standards-based** digital health transformation [Convergence workshops, and national blueprints]
- Strengthen the role of **government-to-government** and **regional networks** in regional and national **capacity building** [CoPs and platforms for G2G conversations and Policy Dialogue]



The role of GIDH in supporting a sustainable digital ecosystem built on robust foundations

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Governance

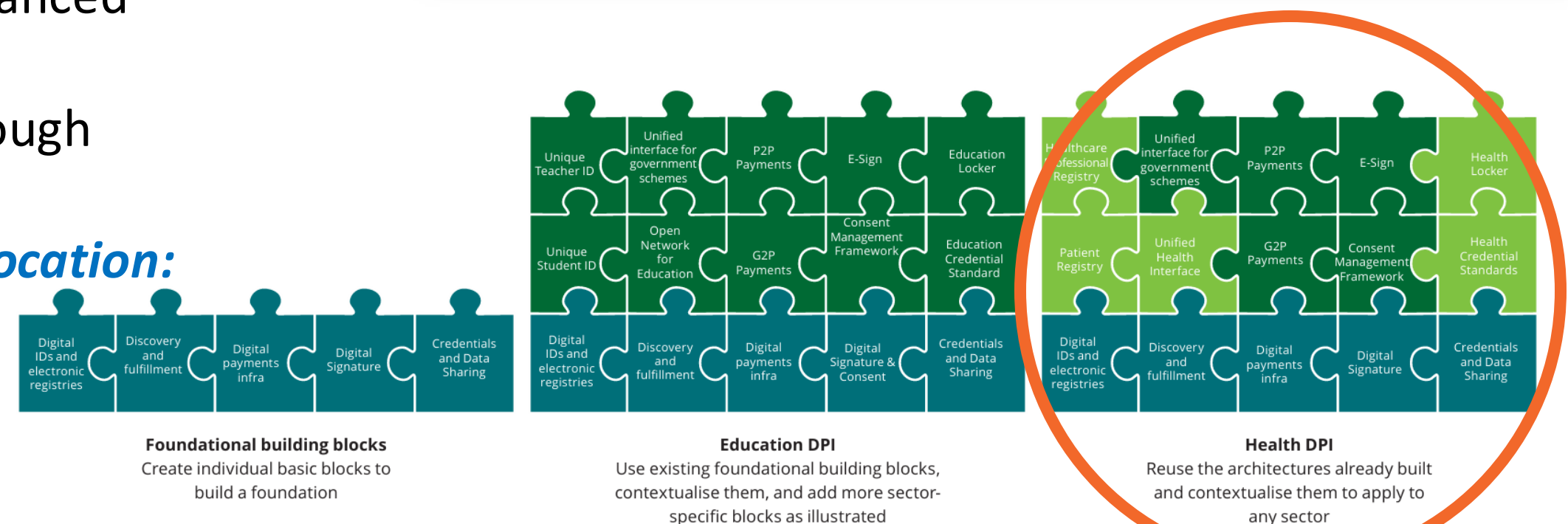
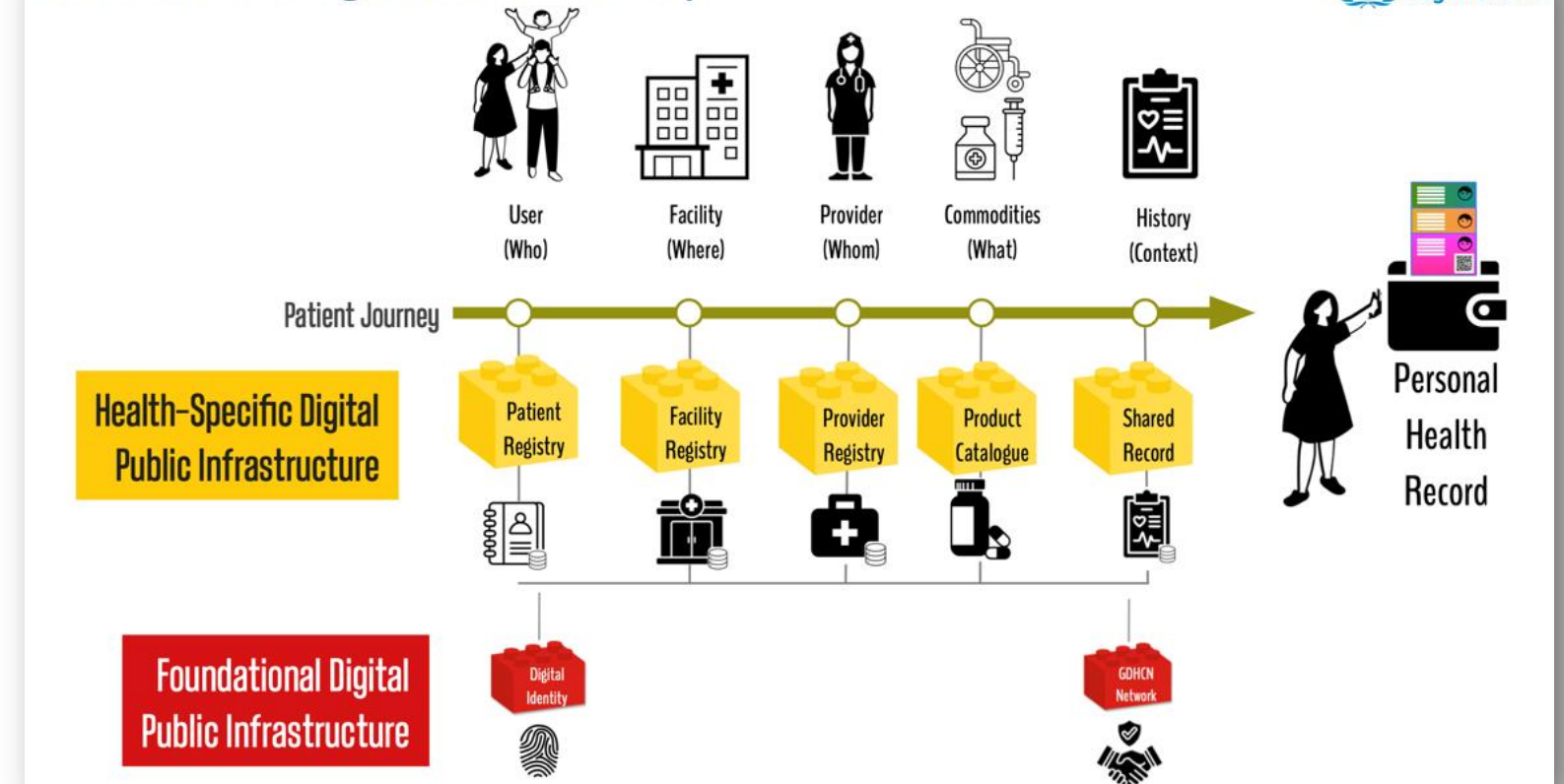
Objective 2. Promote strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange across global, regional, and national networks in digital health



Robust foundations in digital health transformation ENABLE:

- **Continuity of Care:** Facilitating seamless information exchange across health care providers.
- **Quality of care:** Promoting adherence to evidence-based clinical guidelines and best practices through standardized protocols.
- **Reducing burden on health workers:** Reduce inefficiencies in administrative processes to optimize health workers' skills and time.
- **Efficiency and Affordability:** Reducing duplication of effort and ensuring effective resource utilization.
- **Health Financing:** Strengthened through enhanced data availability and standardization.
- **Regulation and Oversight:** Strengthened through performance data.
- **Data-driven Policy-Making and Resource Allocation:** Improved data quality and insights.

DPIs facilitating Patient Journey



Objective 3: Ensure quality assured tools and resources are available to strengthen country capacity and autonomy to manage their national DH transformation journey (Pillar 3)



- Promote the role of **digital public infrastructure for health** in sustainable digital transformation of health systems.
- Develop **WHO ITU DPI Reference Architecture** for digital health transformation, **DPI-Health repository** to facilitate Government-Government exchange.
- Promote the **building of robust foundations** for sustainable digital health transformation.

Call for Submissions: Technical Experts for WHO-ITU Technical Working Group (TWG) on Reference Architecture for Digital Public Infrastructure for Health



Open Digital Health Summit

December 1-3, 2024



Open Digital Health Summit '24

Join us in Nairobi, Kenya for the inaugural Open Digital Health Summit, **"Accelerating Full-STAC on FHIR"** to explore how the convergence of Open Standards, Technologies, Architectures and Content (the "full-STAC" approach) is FHIR'ing up the global digital health landscape.

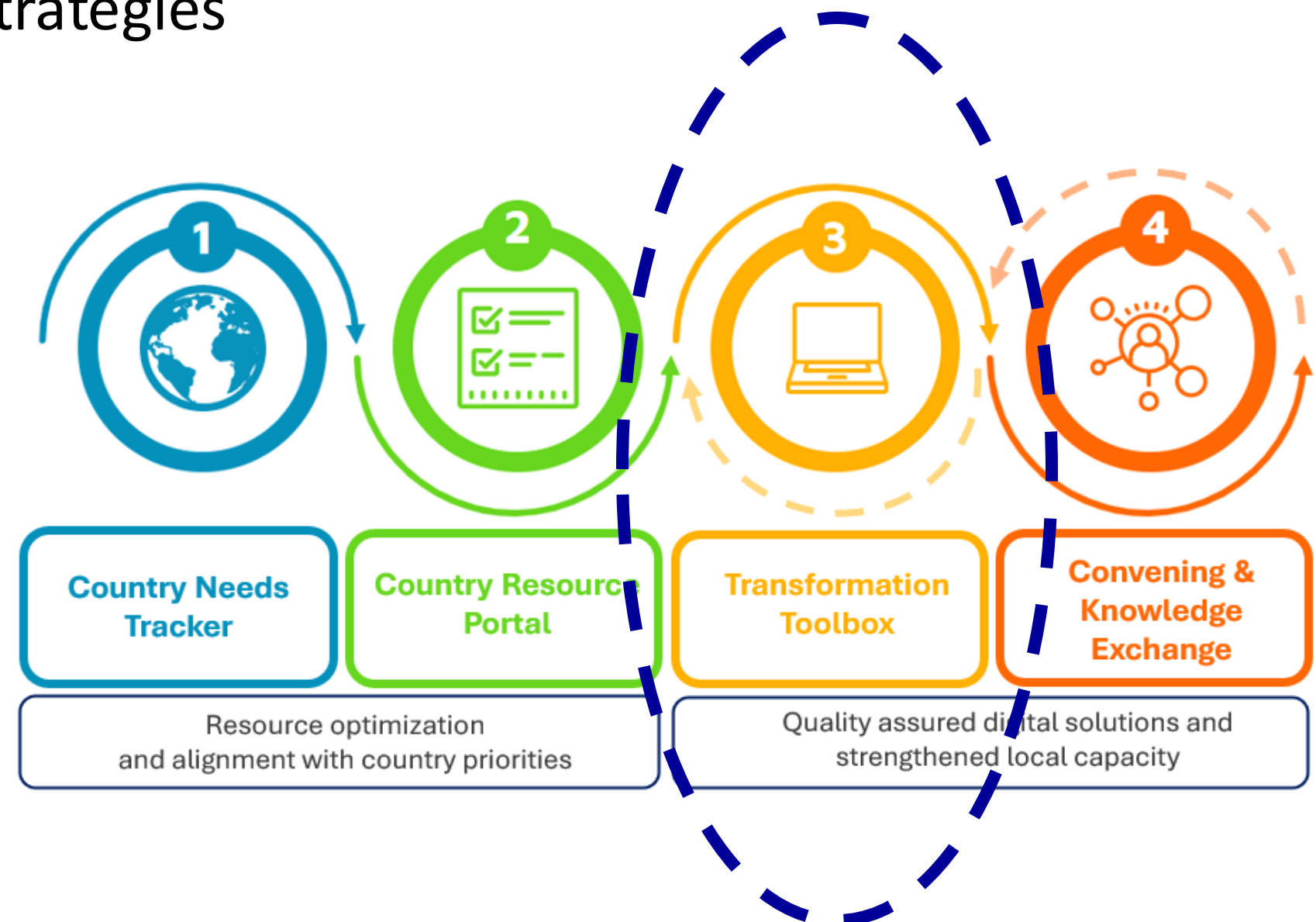
Apply Now ↗

For more
information
and to register
→



Strengthening of other tools in the GIDH Transformation Toolbox

- Digital Health Atlas
- Clearinghouse for Digital Public Infrastructure for Health
- Digital Health Competency Framework
- Global Repository on National Digital Health Strategies
- Global Digital Health Monitor



How can Countries and Partners align with GIDH?

1. Promote **long term, politically resilient strategies** that focus on building, advocating and leveraging non-health DPI
2. Invest in and focus efforts on strengthening **foundations** for digital (health) transformation: DPI-based architecture, Standards, Policy, Governance
3. Participate in **regional infrastructure** and promote **global standards**
4. Prioritize **inclusion and equity**. Does digital transformation leave anyone behind ?



Thank you

WHO's Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN)

Member States Briefing

11 October 2024

Geneva, Switzerland



World Health Organization



The GDHCN is to support the Global Strategy on Digital Health (2020 - 2025)'s strategic objective to “Advocate people-centered health systems that are enabled by digital health”



“A national interoperable digital health ecosystem should be set up in such a way that the information technology health infrastructures **are both interoperable among each other and**, allowing for differences in national legislation and policies, **capable of sharing health data with infrastructures of other countries.**”

WHO launched the Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN) on 5 June 2023

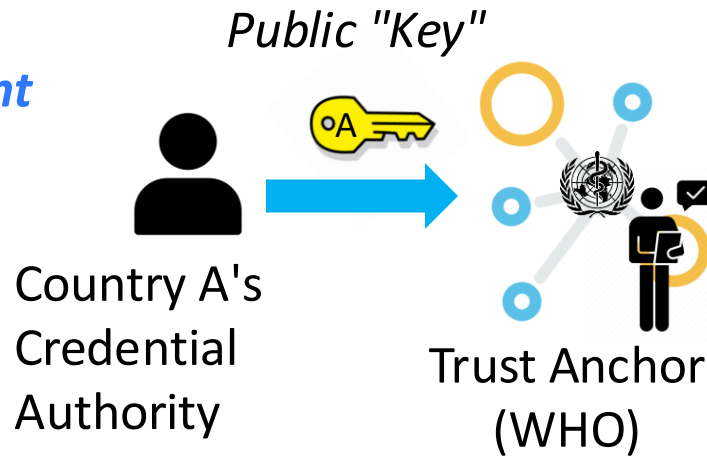
- Established **Digital Public Infrastructure** for **verification of digital health documents**
- Establishes mechanism for standardized **personal health records** for multiple health domains
- Expands upon the legacy of the EU DCC network to **interoperate across other trust networks** globally (i.e., International Patient Summary, immunization cards)
- **Separation of health content** (verifiable digital health certificates) from **trust network infrastructure** (Public Key Infrastructure, PKI)



Refresher: How does the GDHCN work?

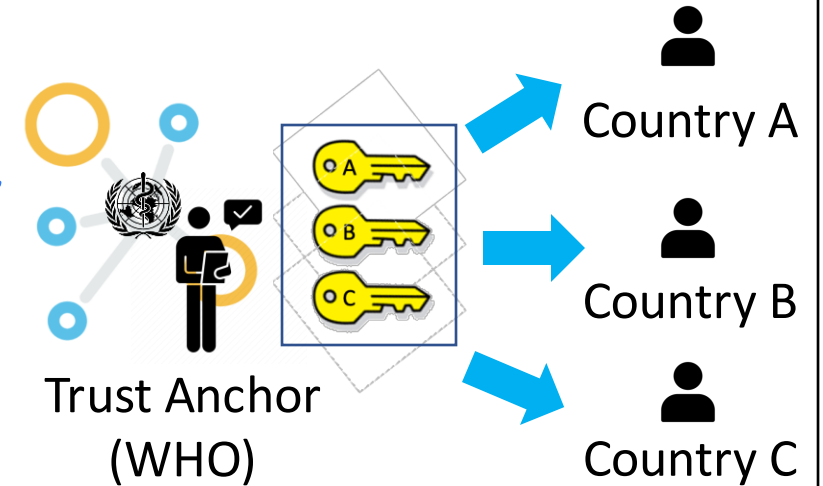
1

Verifies participant identity, certifies provenance of keys, onboards participant



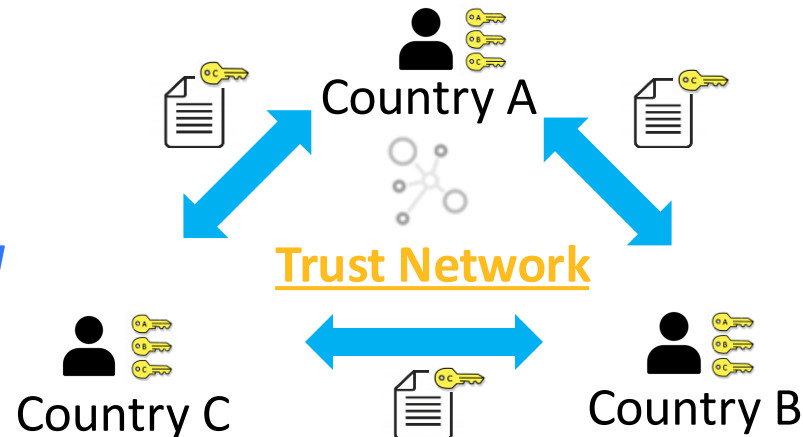
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Distributes verified public keys to members of trust network



3

Credentialed document provenance from any member can be verified by any other member



- WHO provides a “**phone book**” of public keys to all participants
- WHO does not do the verification (i.e., WHO **does not make the “phone calls”**)
- WHO **does not and will not have access to any personal health information or related data**

Progress since the previous Member State briefing provided on the GDHCN in March 2024

2021 – 2022



- ✓ Established Smart Vaccination Certificate (SVC) working group
- ✓ Published DDCC:VS (Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates: Vaccination Status) guidance document
- ✓ Published the DDCC:TR (Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates: Test Results) guidance document
- ✓ WHO supported Indonesia, G20 Presidency, in virtual pilot for establishing a trust architecture for COVID-19 credentials
- ✓ Member State briefings conducted

2023



- ✓ Technical consultation on digitizing trusted personal health records
- ✓ Uptake of the EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate system (EU DCC) and launch of the Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN)
- ✓ Circular sent to all member states from DG to invite participation into the GDHCN
- ✓ Onboarding eligible participants to the GDHCN

2024



- ✓ **Continued onboarding** of eligible participants to the GDHCN for COVID-19 use case
- ✓ **Technical support** to Member States as requested
- ✓ **Successful pilot to support Hajj health records with: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Oman**
- ✓ **Published a call for experts to join a GDHCN strategic and technical advisory group (STAG)**
- ✓ **Amendments to the International Health Regulations to include digital representation of health documents**
- ✓ **Established working groups for:**
 1. Hajj
 2. International Patient Summary
 3. Digital International Certificate of Vaccination and Prophylaxis (ICVP)

2025 onwards



- ✓ Continued onboarding and technical support
- ✓ Expansion of uses of the GDHCN beyond COVID-19 certificates to include:
 1. Pilgrim health records (Hajj, Umrah)
 2. Digital ICVP and the IHR amendments
 3. Personal Immunization Records
 4. International Patient Summary
- Additional trust domains can be proposed by Member States

The GDHCN allows for participants to verify digital health documents across borders, for each use case or “trust domain”

Each use case or “**trust domain**” is separately defined by:

- Defined **business processes and data requirements**
- Defined open, interoperable **technical specifications** that participants must adhere to
- **Policy and regulatory standards** describing expected behavior of participants for the use case

Example trust domains



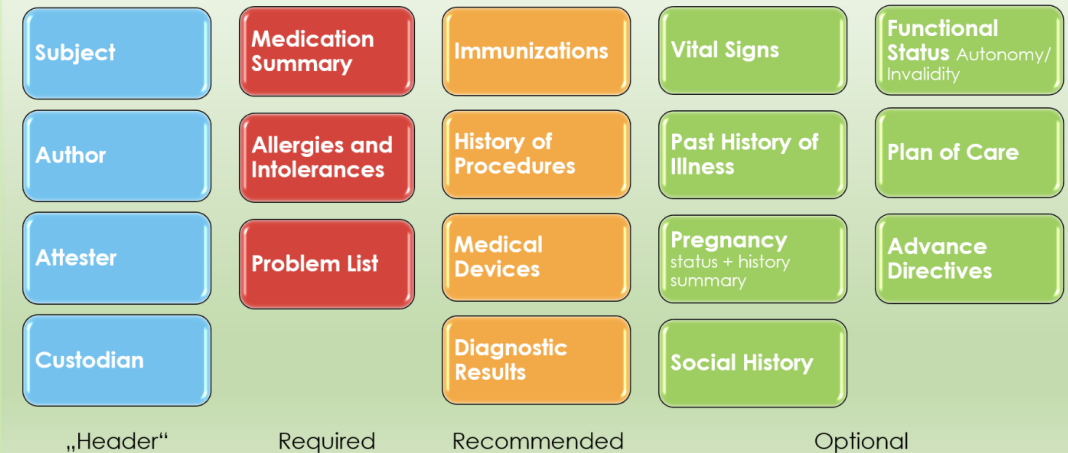
Usage of International Patient Summary (IPS)



The IPS dataset is minimal and non-exhaustive; specialty-agnostic and condition-independent; but still clinically relevant.

- Tourism
 - Routine and medical tourism
 - Pilgrimage and Mass Gatherings (e.g. Hajj Health Card)
- Continuity of Care for mobile populations
 - PAHO's Pan-American Highway for Health (PH4H)
- Migration
 - Forced migration due to climate change
 - Failed states
- Vaccination records (subset IPS as content standard)
 - Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates
 - Routine immunization cards
 - Digital ICVP per the amendments to the IHR
- Standardized health content is the first priority
- Patient Mediated Exchange most realizable globally

IPS Composition



Successful pilot of using GDHCN beyond COVID-19 certificates for Hajj Pilgrimage

Participants:

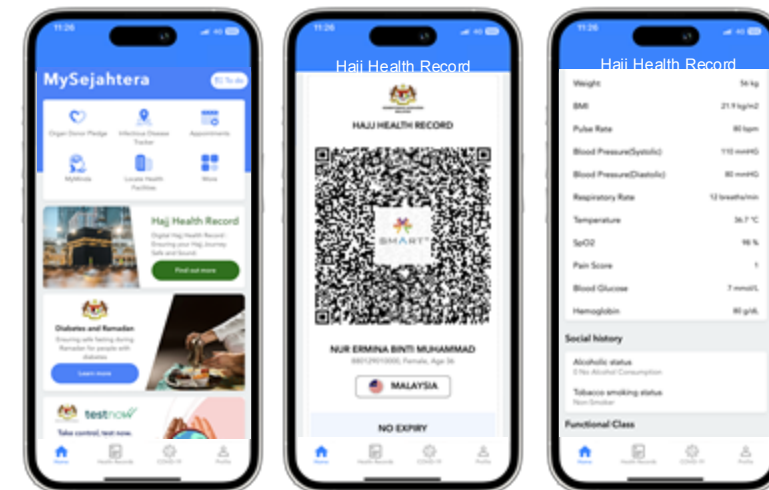
- **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:** 8 hospitals & 126 primary care centers
- **Malaysia**
- **Indonesia**
- **Oman**

Pilot:

- **Phase 1 scope: Unplanned care with pilgrim consent**
- **Technology:** Generated verifiable International Patient Summary (IPS) with QR Code to enable real-time access to health records.

Key Achievements:

- **First cross-border implementation** of patient-mediated of health documents with GDHCN
- **Certificates Issued:** 260,000+
- **Health Records Accessed:** 10,000+
- **Participating Hospitals and Care Centers:** 65+



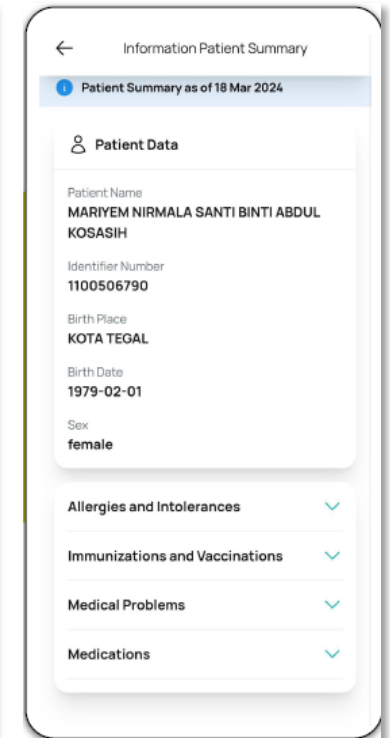
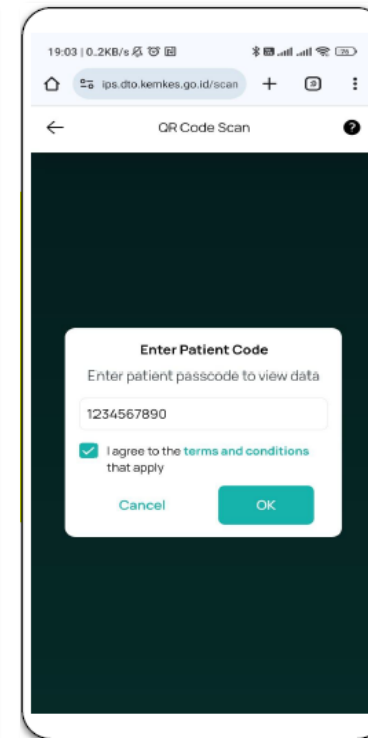
Example from Malaysia's MySejahtera application

Looking ahead for the pilgrimage use case

Expansion of pilot:

- **Phase 2:** Unplanned care in an emergency “break the glass” directives, enable pilgrims to bring health records back home
- **Broader Participation:** Expansion to include additional Hajj countries.
- **Extended Coverage:** Applying the GDHCN IPS for Umrah and year-round tourism.
- **Enhanced Interoperability:** Focus on improved user experience and streamlined data exchange for a seamless healthcare experience.

Example from Indonesia



List of participants currently onboarding or onboarded to GDHCN

Region of the Americas	European Region		African Region	Western Pacific Region
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	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 36. Luxembourg 37. Hungary	1. Benin 2. Zimbabwe 3. Madagascar 4. Burkina Faso 5. Tanzania 6. Burundi 7. Togo 8. Seychelles	1. New Zealand 2. Singapore 3. Japan 4. Australia 5. Mongolia 6. Malaysia 7. Philippines
			Eastern Mediterranean Region	South-East Asia Region
			1. Morocco 2. Iraq 3. Qatar 4. Oman 5. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	1. Indonesia 2. Thailand 3. Sri Lanka

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.

**79 participants
in total
as of
8 October 2024**

How can Member States participate in the GDHCN?

Process for participation

- Review details available in the GDHCN Administrative and Operational Framework
- Submit letter of application to WHO for *each trust domain*
- Letter of application templates available in 6 UN languages at: <http://smart.who.int/trust>
- Send letter via diplomatic channel or other secure channel (e.g., in person submission during WHA)



Benefits

- ✓ Allows participating countries to **verify health documents issued abroad**
- ✓ Infrastructure can be applied for **international (global & regional) AND domestic verification** of health documents
- ✓ **Pandemic/epidemic preparedness** with critical digital public infrastructure
- ✓ Enables individuals to have access to their own health data in a secure manner, facilitating:
 - **Continuity of care**
 - **Quality of care**

Join the working groups to learn more! on Pilgrim health records and/or Digital ICVP by contacting the secretariat at gdhcn-secretariat@who.int

Key links and resources

Overview

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-digital-health-certification-network>

Onboarding process

https://smart.who.int/trust/concepts_onboarding.html

Administrative and operational framework

https://smart.who.int/trust/GDHCN_Administrative_and_Operational_Framework.pdf

Secretariat email

gdhcn-secretariat@who.int

Secretariat email for technical support

gdhcn-support@who.int

Technical specifications

<https://smart.who.int/trust>



Thank you

For more information, please contact:

gdhcn-secretariat@who.int

