

2024

# Global Initiative on Digital Health

Coordinated support for country-led  
digital health transformation

Department of Digital Health  
and Innovation



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# Overview

The Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) is a Network of Networks managed by the World Health Organization (WHO), launched in October 2023. This network of organizations, institutions, development partners, and governmental agencies, is dedicated to supporting digital health transformation in countries worldwide.

More than 70% of countries have a digital health strategy with scaled digital health programmes underway in every region. Despite these advances, many strategies lack financial commitments and robust enabling environments, facing challenges like fragmented resources and inconsistent technical standards, and national governance.

The purpose of GIDH is to assist countries at every stage to effectively plan, build, finance, and govern their digital health ecosystems. This initiative aims to move beyond experimental projects towards full-scale digital transformation by creating the necessary supportive foundations of policy, governance and digital public infrastructure for countries.

## Vision

Countries are sustainably supported to plan, resource and develop robust foundations for digital health transformation that equitably strengthens health systems.

## Mission

Foster improved alignment in the digital health sector, providing governments and partners tools, building blocks, and platforms needed for sustainable health system digitalization.

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“With limited years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the time for action to achieve health for all by 2030 is now. WHO is committed to supporting countries to achieve this goal, and we believe that appropriate, digital strategies will accelerate our pace in getting there.”

Dr. Alain Labrique, Director, Department of Digital Health and Innovation, WHO



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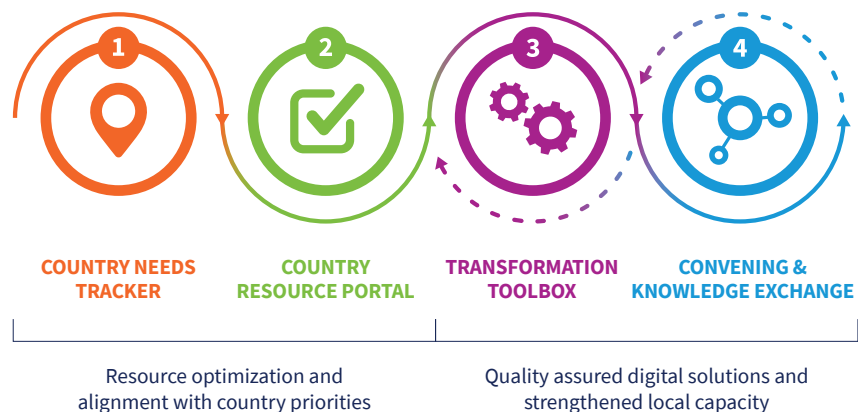
# Our aims

## GIDH aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Identify and prioritize country-specific needs for digital health transformation.
- Strengthen the enabling ecosystem at the country level through collaborative alignment with partners.
- Improve the transparency and visibility of digital health funding available to support countries.
- Monitor progress in achieving robust and equitable digital health transformation.

## GIDH is guided by four foundational pillars

GIDH uses the following workstreams to enhance national, regional and global efforts that improve the enablers of sustainable and inclusive digital health transformation:



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## Priority activities

**Coordination and alignment of UN and implementation partners**

**High-level visibility of digital transformation needs**

(G20, WSIS Forum, WHA, UN General Assembly, etc.)

**Country engagement through Lighthouse Countries**

**Policy and strategy libraries**

**Tools, resources and building blocks of digital public infrastructure for health**

**Convening stakeholders and regional communities of practice**

**Maturity and progress monitoring**

(Digital Health Observatory, Monitor and Annual Report)

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## Our impact

### As of April 2024:

- **900+ applications** have been received
- Institutions represented from **76 countries** from all **6 WHO regions**
- Core part of India and Brazil **G20** presidencies
- Partnership with **ITU, UNICEF, UNDP, OECD, World Bank** and others
- Integration with the **Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)**



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## Join the movement

To join the network, scan the QR code (on the right) to fill in the membership form.

Do you want to nominate a Lighthouse Country?

Go to our website:

[www.who.int/initiatives/gidh/become-involved](http://www.who.int/initiatives/gidh/become-involved)

Engage with our range of resources available on the GIDH webpage.

Do you want to explore supporting GIDH with financial or in-kind resources?

Do you have a tool or platform that could benefit global strengthening or digital transformation efforts?



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Reach out to us at [gidh@who.int](mailto:gidh@who.int)

**GIDH**  
GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON DIGITAL HEALTH