

BROADBAND COMMISSION

FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



The promise of Digital Health



Expand health coverage, empower people and increase people's access to health, especially for underserved populations



Reduce costs and increase efficiencies of healthcare systems



Globally 44% of mobile users have seen a medical professional using a mobile device during treatment or diagnosis⁵

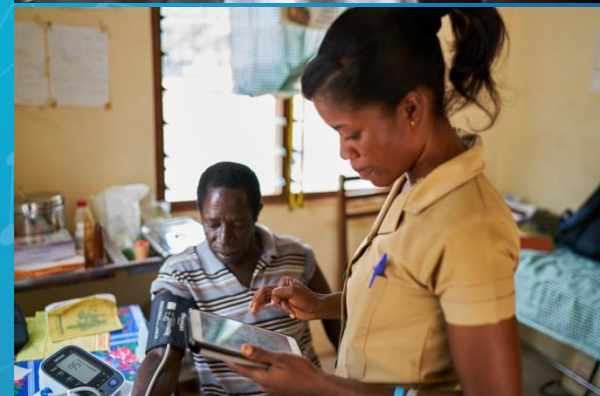


The numbers of digital health projects in LMICs increased by more than 30% from 2005 to 2011. But two thirds were still in pilot or informal stages⁸

Source: 5 <http://mobileecosystemforum.com/initiatives/analytics/mef-global-mhealth-and-wearables-report-2015/> 8 Wilson, K., Gertz, B., Arenth, B., & Salisbury, N. (2014, December). Journey to Scale: Moving together past digital health pilots. Retrieved February 25, 2016, from http://www.path.org/publications/files/TS_dhs_journey_to_scale.pdf

Challenges to fully realize the promise of digital health

- Fragmentation of initiatives with few reaching scale
- Lack of common standards and appropriate legislation for digital health
- Insufficient human and technical capacity to collect and analyze health data
- Low or no interoperability and challenges of migration from legacy to new health system architectures
- Lack of coordination between national ICT plans and national digital health strategies
- Connectivity gaps and network quality and performance issues



Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development

The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development was launched in September 2010, engaging in high-level advocacy to promote broadband in underserved communities to accelerate achievement of the SDGs by 2030



Digital Health WG Members Broadband Commission

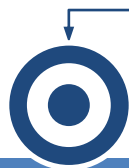
Chaired by the Novartis Foundation and Nokia supported by Vital Wave Inc. and Digital Health Partnerships

Broadband Commissioners: GSMA, ITU, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UN Foundation, Government of Rwanda, Intel, Microsoft, Bharti, KT Telecom, Cisco, IDA Singapore, UNESCO, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Sam Pitroda, Huawei

External Digital Health Experts: WHO, PAHO, World Bank, mPowering, NORAD, DIAL, Rwanda eHealth unit, Asia eHealth Information Network (AEHIN), Dimagi, PATH



Digital Health Working Group



Objectives

To identify countries and governments that have managed to scale digital health and showcase best practices and lessons learned



Output

Digital Health, a call for Government Leadership and Cooperation between ICT and Health



Audience

Governments, key digital health decision makers in the country, regulators and other policy makers

Report overview

Effective leadership and cooperation are needed to coordinate the often **fragmented ecosystem** of digital health solutions and programs

Insights on the **importance of government leadership, governance, and intragovernmental cooperation** in digital health for leaders and policy makers in **health and ICT sectors**

One of the first steps governments can take is the development of an eHealth or digital health strategy. A number of countries have already done so



69
countries

have developed
eHealth strategies¹⁰



76
countries

have electronic health
information systems¹⁰

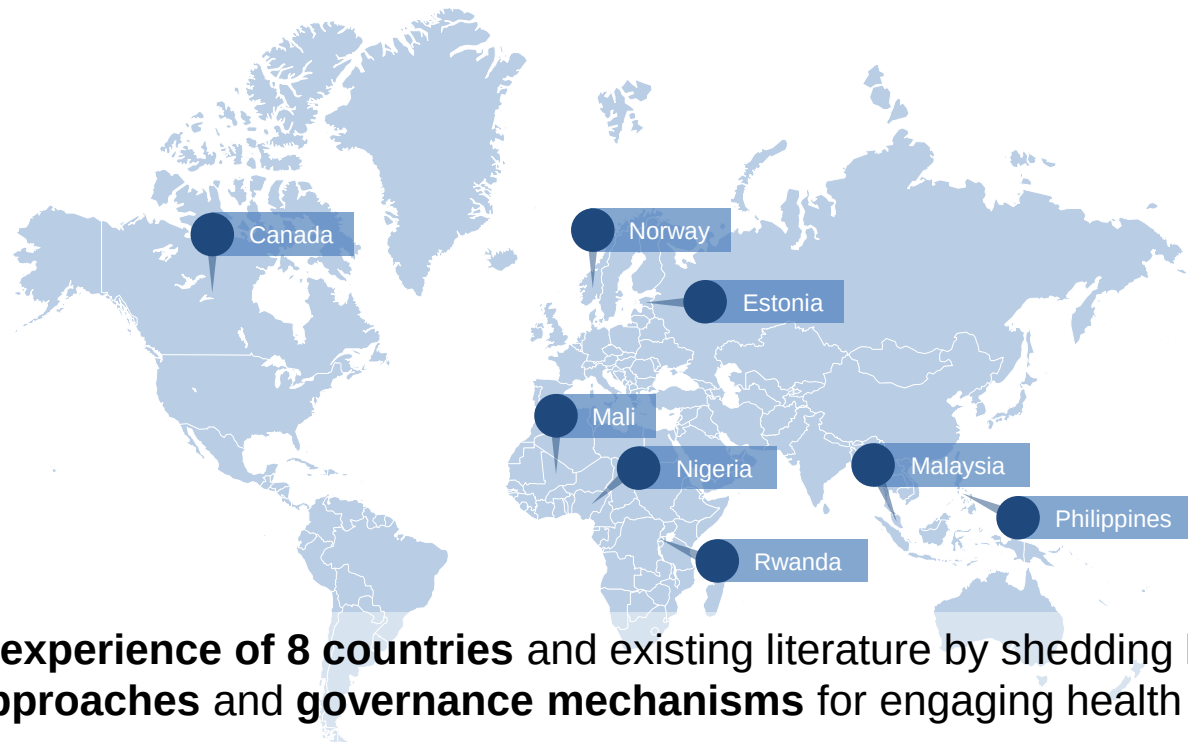


63%
of countries

have national telehealth
information strategy¹⁰

Source: 10 - Global survey on eHealth 2015, WHO Global Observatory for eHealth <http://www.who.int/goe/en/> - Survey responses are the subject of rigorous attempts at standardization, but nevertheless, countries respond according to their own criteria and view of the policy situation. This means that survey responses should be similar, but may not be fully consistent at the international scale.

Country case studies



Draws on the **experience of 8 countries** and existing literature by shedding light on **leadership approaches** and **governance mechanisms** for engaging health and ICT stakeholders

Three governance mechanisms for digital health

Were identified and which elements can be combined:



Health Ministry Mechanism

The MoH drives digital health and mobilizes technical capacity and skills from other ministries, agencies, firms, and organizations to deploy digital health systems



Government-Wide Digital Agency Mechanism

The MoH drives digital health, but is a client to a government-wide technology agency that provides significant ICT infrastructure and capacity



Dedicated Digital Health Agency Mechanism

The MoH leads health strategy, while a designated third-party agency or directorate drives digital health strategy and solution implementation through its own technical capacity and resources

Critical Success Factors



Sustained senior
government leadership
and committed financing



Effective governance
mechanisms



A national ICT framework that
facilitates alignment between
health and ICT sectors



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