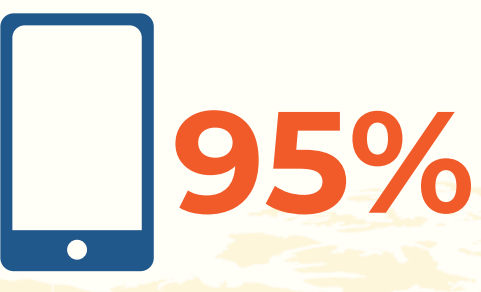


Closing the digital divide: More and better funding for the digital transformation of health

WHERE WE ARE TODAY



of the world's population is covered by a mobile network (3G or higher).



Yet 2.9 billion people are still offline

Less than 30% of individuals in least developed countries were connected in 2021.



in Africa remain unconnected.



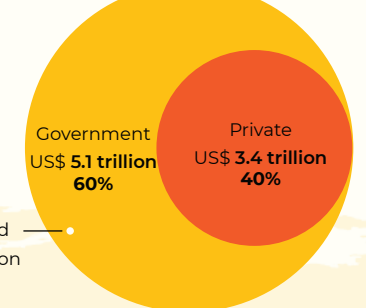
Global health spending doubled

It more than doubled in the last two decades, reaching US\$ 8.5 trillion in 2019, or 9.8% of global GDP. But it was unequally distributed, with high income countries accounting for approximately 80%.



Out-of-pocket spending

Health spending in low income countries is financed primarily by out-of-pocket spending (OOPS; 44%) and external aid (29%), while government spending dominate in high income countries (70%).



Private sector's major role

In 2019, about 60% of health spending came from government sources, whereas 40% came from domestic private sources and only 0.21% came from external aid.



\$2.5 billion* needed per year

Approx. US\$ 2.5 billion a year, over the next 5 years, is needed to support digital transformation of health systems across L/LMICs.

*This is for nine identified priority investment areas

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Fragmentation of investments

Short-term investments, focused on stand-alone solutions for specific health challenges, that fail to deliver the long-term sustainable changes needed.

Unclear funding landscape

Lack of information and transparency about the overall need and demand for digitally enabled health services: what to invest in and where to channel investments most effectively and equitably?

Misalignment of stakeholders

When this information is not easily available, investors may not be aware of who else is investing in this sector, thus losing out on fruitful collaborations to achieve economies of scale.

No dedicated funding mechanism

None of the existing global health financing instruments have the mandate and capacity to channel large-scale investments in support of digital health.

THE ROAD TO TRANSFORMATION

Recommendation 1 – More investment from domestic and international sources.

Governments and international donors should prioritise funding to support low- and lower-middle- income countries in digitally transforming their health system to one that is equitable, inclusive, sustainable and protective of people's interests, their right to health, their privacy and their capacity to participate in its governance.

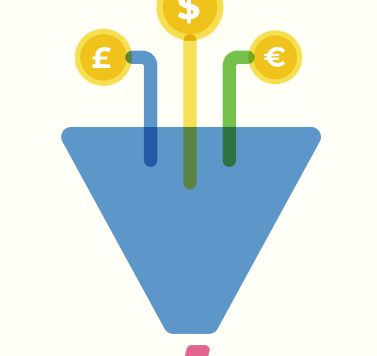


Recommendation 4 – A robust regulatory framework and policy environment.

National governments must prioritise establishing a regulatory framework that lay the legal foundations for health data use, privacy, digital literacy and the policies for what kind of digitalised health system a country needs to ensure universal health coverage.

Recommendation 2 – Better coordinated and aligned investments.

International donors and the private sector should ensure that their investments are coordinated and aligned with national priorities. We need to strengthen systems and processes to improve the coordination of funding.

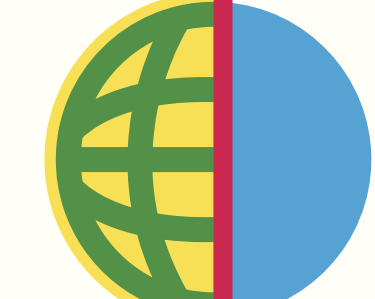
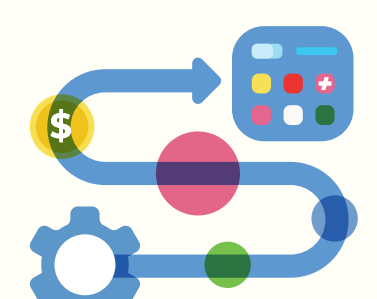


Recommendation 5 – Mechanisms for meaningful multistakeholder engagement.

Civil society – including young people, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and marginalised communities – needs to be involved at all levels of planning, strategy, execution and monitoring of the transformation.

Recommendation 3 – A costed digital health strategy and investment road map.

Countries must each develop an inclusive digital health strategy that need to be costed and accompanied by a prioritised and sequenced investment road map that lays out the different sources of funding as well as the gaps.



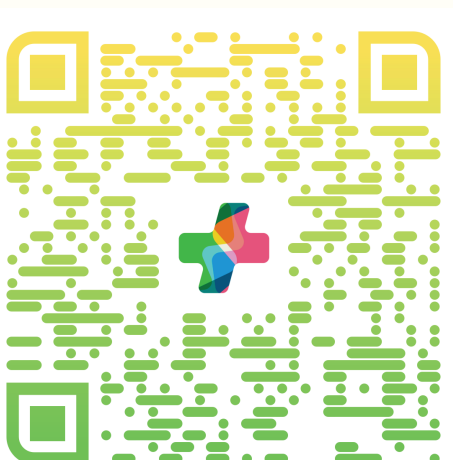
Recommendation 6 – Improved digital connectivity.

Closing the divide in digital access is a prerequisite for equitable access to technology-enabled health services. This means confronting coverage gaps, affordability and digital literacy.

The digital transformation of health offers the potential to improve the quality, coverage, affordability and accessibility of health services, to help accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage. **Increased and coordinated investments that are aligned to national priorities** are a critical component on the path towards an equitable, inclusive and sustainable digital transformation.



Read the full report:



bit.ly/digital-health-funding