

# Support the design, implementation and evaluation of digital health transformation operations (D1452)

**Description:**

Healthcare in Latin America and the Caribbean is overdue for an upgrade, and it is clear that technology is opening up excellent opportunities to tackle critical health challenges in a cost-effective and scalable way. Pushed forward by the challenges of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries in the region are now looking to digitally transform healthcare to improve quality, efficiency, and equity.

To harness digital tools to improve the efficiency, quality and equity of the sector, SPH works in four main areas: 1) support quality design, execution and evaluation of digital health transformation agendas & operations; 2) increase human capital in LAC for digital transformation; 3) build strategic partnerships within and outside of IDB for digital transformation; and 4) generate & disseminate knowledge for digital transformation of health services in LAC. This work is aligned to the broader SCL Digital Agenda to improve the efficiency of the sector, improve the quality of social services, and reduce inequality through digital services and is a critical area in the Health Sector Framework for Development. SPH has supported 10 countries in the creation of digital agendas and/or national roadmaps for digital health transformation, all of which include the implementation of national electronic health records and scaling up telehealth programs and health information exchange. While 76% of countries in the region have national norms that describe health information exchange, only 42% of have norms relating to which interoperability standards are used, and only one country has achieved health data exchange at national scale between public and private sectors (Bagolle et al, 2020).

This objective of this TC is to support the development and implementation of tools and support services for the design, implementation and evaluation of country operations with digital components and provide implementation support to IDB's digital health portfolio. The specific objectives are to: 1) provide expert digital health services across the SPH portfolio related to governance, interoperability, change management, process transformation and clinical informatics and inclusive digital health; 2) design of toolkits, learning materials and other technical resources to improve human capital and position IDB as a credible technical partner for digital health transformation; and 3) conduct two evaluations of digital interventions supported by IDB operations.

**Submitted by:**

Jennifer Nelson

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**Status:**

Under Evaluation

**Category:**

Research and Dissemination

**Tags:**

#digitaltransformation #health digital health digital inclusion efficiency quality

**Team Leader Name**

Jennifer Nelson

**Has the proposal been discussed and authorized by the responsible sector or country department/division, as applicable?**

Yes

**Team Leader Responsible Department**

SCL

**Are there specific countries that will directly benefit from your proposal?**

No

**Mark the specific countries that will be directly benefited from your proposal?****Where applicable, describe how the proposal aligns with the respective country strategy (for each country selected)****Does the proposal align to one or more sector frameworks?**

Yes, the proposal aligns with at least one sector framework

**Identify and describe how the proposal aligns to the sector framework(s)**

This proposal aligns to the 2021 Health Sector Framework (HSF) Digital health transformation is included as a priority area in the HSF because it is critical to improve quality and efficiency of health systems and services and public health, and has the potential to reduce inequality and support the region to reach universal health coverage with quality. Specially, it aligns to Line of Action 3: Improve the organization and quality of healthcare service delivery particularly for diverse, marginal, and disadvantaged groups (See paragraph 5.11)

*5.11 Digital health and information technology can contribute to UHC progress under the right conditions. The IDB Group has identified the contextual factors necessary for successful digital transformation in health, related to governance, regulations, and infrastructure, and the linkages that are necessary with healthcare service processes. In partnership with PAHO, the IDB Group will continue to develop knowledge products related to the use and implementation of digital health technologies. In its operations, it will also support components that contribute to digital health strategies that are aligned with a country's overall health strategy, including the adoption of EHRs and associated policies for interoperability, privacy and confidentiality, electronic prescriptions, telemedicine, digital signatures and others. For countries pursuing a digital health strategy, the IDB Group will support related investments in infrastructure, including internet connectivity and hardware, along with Infostructure (see ¶3.57). The IDB Group will build on existing initiatives to support implementation of national eHealth business and technical architecture. IDB Invest and IDB Lab may finance innovative private sector initiatives in digital health where the national eHealth architecture is appropriate.*

**Select the regional challenges and cross-cutting issues to which the proposal aligns to**

Social Inclusion and Equality

Productivity and Innovation

Institutional Capacity and Rule of Law

Gender Equality

**Justify the alignment to each selection above**

This proposal is consistent with the Second Update to the Institutional Strategy (AB-3190-2) and is aligned with the development challenges of "Social Inclusion and Equality" and "Productivity and Innovation" by supporting: (i) governments to implement quality digital health services such as telehealth and access to health information, including marginalized and remote groups; and (ii) improving skills of the health workforce related to digital health transformation and productivity through the use of digital tools.

This proposal is aligned with the cross-cutting theme of "Gender Equality and Diversity", as this TC creates specific tools and guides for the application of the technology inclusively and impact evaluations will generate evidence on the inclusiveness of investments. This proposal is also aligned with the cross cutting theme of "Institutional Capacity and Rule of Law", as it supports strengthening institutional capacity through evaluations and application of digital tools.

**What is the estimated funding that you need in order to implement this proposal?**

550000

**Select the expected outputs of this proposal**

Project Preparation Deliverables (Implementation and Management Plans, Procurement Plans, M&E Plans, etc.)

Project Execution Deliverables (Talleres de Arranque, Supervision Reports, PIU Strengthening, etc.)

Institutional Strengthening Deliverables (Training products, Management Information Systems, etc.)

Upstream strategies, action plans, etc.)

Knowledge Products

**Please provide a brief description of the output(s) selected above (The number of units planned, and the estimated cost). If you selected others, please specify.**

- 1) Three (3) digital health agendas and roadmaps completed (100K);
- 2) Three (3) toolkits for policy makers and implementers related to digital health governance, intervention evaluation, and inclusion designed and implemented (250K);
- 3) Two (2) technical notes published evaluating the effectiveness and/or cost-effectiveness of digital health interventions (200k).

**Examples of results generated through previous digital health toolkits:**

- *Salud Digital Ecuador (website with digital health agenda, roadmap for 50M of investments, assessments and ToRs for 10.5M of current investment in digital health*  
<https://socialdigital.iadb.org/en/sph/pages/40fd4e4c12358ddfa42eba0177db3b5057a13849> );
- *Peru Digital Health Agenda* (<http://bvs.minsa.gob.pe/local/MINSA/5165.pdf> );
- *Blog describing support provided to El Salvador in Digital Health* (<https://blogs.iadb.org/salud/es/como-el-tour-de-francia-un-gran-recorrido-hacia-la-transformacion-digital-en-salud/> )
- *Support for the first connectathon in digital health in Colombia* (<https://www.minsalud.gov.co/ihc/Paginas/Conectaton-IHC-Colombia-2022.aspx> )
- *Health Information Exchange Toolkit*: <https://socialdigital.iadb.org/en/sph/resources/toolkits/19076> ;
- *Electronic Health Record Scorecard Toolkit*: <https://socialdigital.iadb.org/en/sph/resources/toolkits/19002> ;
- *Cybersecurity in Health Toolkit*: <https://socialdigital.iadb.org/en/sph/resources/toolkits/19126>

**Outcomes: If the outputs are delivered successfully, what is the change expected (in capacity, knowledge, behavior, etc.)**

At least three countries make sustainable and holistic investments in digital health by approving national digital health agendas and roadmaps and policies to improve governance, cybersecurity and health information exchange according international standards.

Increased capacity of public sector to implement large scale digital health transformation initiatives

Increased coverage of quality and efficient digital health services in LAC

**(1) Attachments**

English tapa.png

0 Comments