

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL/IDB
▪ TC Name:	Improve Regional Interoperability in Health
▪ TC Number:	RG-T4125
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Nelson, Jennifer A (SCL/SPH) Team Leader; Tejerina, Luis R. (SCL/SPH) Alternate Team Leader; Bagolle, Alexandre (SCL/SPH); Orefice Sobrera, Pablo Jose (SCL/SPH); Casco, Mario A. (ITE/IPS); Natalia Almeida (LEG/SGO); Delfs Ilieva, Isabel (SCL/SPH)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	07 Apr 2022
▪ Beneficiary:	LAC Countries
▪ Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$200,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/SPH - Social Protection & Health
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	SCL/SPH - Social Protection & Health
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Productivity and innovation

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of this technical cooperation (TC) is to support the design and pilot creation of a sustainable regional health interoperability laboratory for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), external to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), involving the public, private and entrepreneur sectors, and improve the governance structure of American Network of Cooperation on Electronic Health (RACSEL, by its acronym in Spanish).
- 2.2 Many countries in LAC have begun or accelerated their work towards digital transformation of the health sector, especially due to the COVID19 pandemic. To harness digital tools to improve the efficiency, quality, and equity of the sector, Social Protection and Health Division (SPH) works in four main areas: (i) support quality design, execution and evaluation of digital health transformation agendas & operations; (ii) increase human capital in LAC for digital transformation; (iii) build strategic partnerships within and outside of IDB for digital transformation; and (iv) generate & disseminate knowledge for digital transformation of health services in LAC. This work is aligned to the broader Social Sector (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 Document (SFD). One of the critical success factors of the implementation of these digital interventions is tacit understanding of interoperability standards in healthcare. Interoperability is important because it can optimize how the many actors within a country share data with the health system. This can help governments make better decisions about health of their

population by reducing health care costs associated with redundant diagnostic testing, unnecessary hospitalizations, and preventable readmissions; make better use of resources; effectively monitor public health and improve research capabilities (Bagolle et al, 2022).

- 2.3 This work is aligned to the Update of IDB's institutional strategy, specifically through Social Inclusion and Equity through its support of the health sector and Promoting Technology and Innovation and Fostering the spread of digital technologies in the public and private sectors. It is aligned to IDB's 2025 Vision by supporting countries to successfully adopt and use digital technology to drive long-term dividends for economies in terms of growth, innovation, and social inclusion. It also helps to address key knowledge gaps identified in the health SFD related to digital health, specifically generating evidence for effective implementation strategies. The main results of this TC include: (i) Governance and Sustainability Plan for RACSEL; (ii) Governance and Sustainability Plan for the Regional Laboratory in Digital Health; and (iii) deployment of one cross-border digital service with participation of public and private sector actors. These results contribute to improved human capital for digital health and interoperability, resulting in a digital health ecosystem with a higher adoption of standards and cooperation between public, private and entrepreneurial sectors.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component 1: Design and documentation of the LAC Health Interoperability Laboratory based on best practices.** This component will fund a consultancy for the design of the laboratory, including mapping of stakeholders, governance structure, and sustainability model based on best practices, including how best to involve the private sector. Main results of this component include: (i) Governance and Sustainability Plan for RACSEL; and (ii) Governance and Sustainability Plan for the Regional Laboratory in Digital Health.
- 3.2 **Component 2: Component 2: Deployment of priority health interoperability services.** This component will fund a consultancy to deploy and maintain a regional laboratory to execute the priority services defined in component 1. Main results of this component include deployment of one cross-border digital service with participation of public and private sector actors.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget (US\$)

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding
Component 1: Design and documentation of the LAC Health Interoperability Laboratory based on best practices	30,000.00
Component 2: Deployment of priority health interoperability services.	170,000.00
Total	200,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The Technical Cooperation will be executed by the Bank due to its regional character and because the products of the technical cooperation require detailed knowledge of IDB projects and associated technical assistance needs, no external institution has the technical knowledge to make this effective.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 Risks identified include the difficulty to identify an organization that could coordinate the ecosystem and administer the lab with expert knowledge in health IT within LAC. Other risks include laboratory sustainability and ensuring services align with client demand. These risks would be mitigated through a competitive process with clearly defined

objectives of the laboratory, and documentation of best practices from existing labs, defined through Component 1.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".