ReSAF
(RESEAU E-SANTE EN AFRIQUE FRANCOPHONE)
GOVERNANCE TOOL

Design Date: 20 July 2022

I. Context and rationale

Faced with the challenge of combatting COVID-19, maintaining access to essential health services and continuing to ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), governments have urgently called for data governance and data sharing.

Transform Health, a coalition of more than 50 organisations, has been working to strengthen health systems to meet the immediate challenges posed by facing up to events such as COVID-19 by harnessing digital technology and the use of data. On 23 May 2022, Transform Health, Speak Up Africa and the Baobab Institute established a regional network in West Africa based on inter-organisational coordination to support health services in achieving universal health coverage.

The network's governance structure is made up of different working groups, which represent specific sectors. Coalition partners will work together to achieve this by leveraging their networks, knowledge, collective influence and engagement with donors, governments and multilateral institutions to ensure an appropriate enabling environment through:

- Improved regulations, legislation, governance and management structures, and funding at national level;
- Effective regulation of health data through the creation of a global health data governance framework, endorsed by governments through a World Health Assembly resolution;
- More and better coordinated and aligned funding to accelerate inclusive, equitable and sustainable digital transformation of health systems in low and middle income countries.

II. Partners & Founding Members of ReSAF

About *Transform Health*:

Transform Health is a coalition dedicated to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 by harnessing digital technology and the use of data. Coalition partners work together to achieve this by leveraging their networks, knowledge, collective influence and engagement with donors, governments and multilateral institutions to ensure an appropriate enabling environment.

About *Baobab Institute*:

The Baobab Institute is an African organisation that is a technical assistance provider of choice in West Africa. It encourages local ownership and strengthens the capacity of local systems to deliver sustainable results at regional, national, sub-national and community levels. It also ensures that local actors have key representation and play a leading role in development.

About *Speak Up Africa:*

Headquartered in Dakar, Senegal, Speak Up Africa is a non-profit advocacy organisation dedicated to catalysing leadership, enabling policy change, and increasing awareness for sustainable development in Africa. Through its platforms, and with the help of its partners, Speak Up Africa ensures that policy makers meet implementers; that solutions are showcased and that every sector from citizens to civil society to technical and financial partners and businesses contributes actively to the dialogue and strives to take concrete action for public health and sustainable development.

III. The aims of the Network for Digital health in West Africa

Actors who have joined the network will need to:

- Participate in regional efforts to systematise the inclusive and efficient digitalisation of health services to achieve universal health coverage.
- Strengthen, amplify and disseminate the efforts of existing stakeholders in the field of digital health in Africa.
- Promote the positive effects and impact of digital health to stakeholders.
- Facilitate relations and negotiations with the players in the ecosystem (private, public and parapublic) to find sustainable business model solutions that will allow the optimal implementation of the digital health strategy
- Participate in regional and global dialogue around the regional, national and institutional imperative of good health data management

IV. Governance structure

The network operates under a network governance model that relies on inter-organisational coordination to achieve its goals, mission and vision (this model is explained in more detail in the coalition strategy paper). The network's governance structure is made up of different working groups, as follows:

- Secretariat (Permanent)
- Steering Committee
- Technical Committee
- Working groups

Secretariat:
Mission and responsibilities:

- Active participation in the organisational architecture and network coordination framework for efficient implementation and monitoring.

Members:

- Baobab Institute x Transform Health Representative: Pape Gaye
- SUA Representative: Fara Ndiaye
- Regional Digital Transformation Expert: Omar Mar

A Steering Committee whose mandate will last 1-2 years TO BE CONFIRMED:
Mission and responsibilities:

- Approve and support the main orientations for the strategy's implementation.
- Promote the smooth functioning of the technical committee and the thematic working groups on digital health, as well as cross-sectoral cooperation between ICTs and health.
- Take part in risk management and challenge resolution.

Member Profiles:

- A Regional Sponsor (One of the host countries that launched the network)
- A Representative CSO
- A Representative CBO
- A Private Sector representative
- A representative of a Regional Organisation
- Two technical experts (2 countries represented per year Benin Senegal Mali BF)

A Technical Committee whose mandate will last 2 years TO BE CONFIRMED:

Mission and responsibilities:

- Capitalisation of experience
- Multi-sectoral approach to advocacy to achieve UHC
- Sustainable resource mobilisation
- Development of the network's annual work plan.

Member Profiles (Experts in):

- Public and/or digital health (epidemiological, good data management, gender, urban planning, decentralisation, governance and advocacy, digital infrastructure etc.)
- Governance in the digital age (data governance, private sector, financing, policy environment)
- Strategy and policy
- Strategic communication
- Development financing
- Entrepreneurship
- Digital health value chain

V. The value of a partnership with RESAF

ReSAF is a multi-stakeholder platform that offers members the opportunity to collaborate on a range of matters that will enable the coalition to increase its influence on key stakeholders. It offers tangible benefits to its members, including:

- The opportunity to influence and shape policy positions and advocacy campaigns on digital health at regional level, including through political and multilateral bodies such as ECOWAS, WAHO and the AU.
- The ability to collaborate with key stakeholders to influence national and regional institutions as well as donors and multilateral institutions on digital transformation and the use of data to achieve universal health coverage.
- The means to communicate the challenges and opportunities faced by organisations and institutions working on the digital transformation of health to a wider audience of donors and policy makers.
- The ability to promote the work of partners at national and regional level.
- A space for partners to meet, share experiences and collaborate on projects to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

VI. Next Steps

- Launch of the ReSAF Virtual Library (August 2022)
- Validation of the steering committee (July 2022)
- First meeting of the steering committee to develop a 2022 roadmap (August 2022):
- Strategic communication and advocacy opportunity on and for the network in 2022
- Set up the work groups
- Methodology to implement an annual work plan for the network (*to launch in 2023*)
- Geographic (2 countries) and thematic focus (per year)
- Working group established as "Lead" in 2023
- Work plan that would build on global, regional and national forums and opportunities for consultation, reflection and coordination (World Health Days, Forum/Webinars/Coalition Members and Partners Conferences, etc.)

Governance Tool | July 2022 | Carina Ndiaye | Speak Up Africa