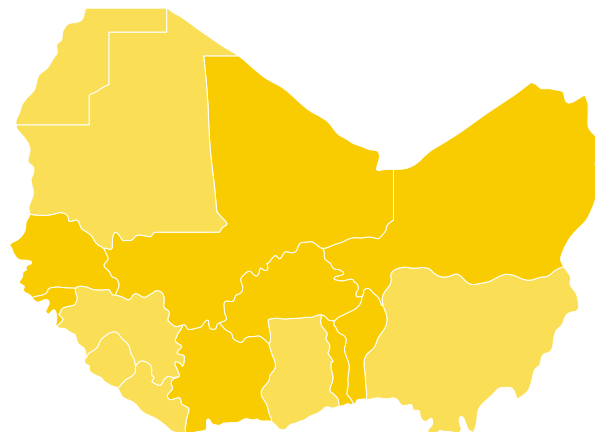




WEBINAR

“ FOR THE CREATION OF A DIGITAL HEALTH NETWORK IN WEST AFRICA “

Recommendations on data management




Ahead of the 75th session of the General Health Assembly in Geneva, on 25 May 2022, Baobab Institute and Speak Up Africa, members of the Transform Health Coalition, organised a webinar on health data management on 23 May and officially launched a network dedicated to digital health in West Africa.

The Transform Health Coalition aims to provide access to quality health services for all through the use of digital tools, including e-health platforms, etc.

With the aim of highlighting existing digital solutions to ensure better access to health services, a panel of experts met to discuss data governance in relation to universal health coverage. The experts include:

- **Ms Yacine Djibo,**
Speak Up Africa Founder and Executive Director
- **Mr Ibrahim Khalil Dia,**
Head of the Digital Health Department, Senegal Ministry of Health and Social Action
- **Mr Omar Mar,**
Digital Transformation Consultant and Expert, Baobab Institute
- **Ms Carina Ndiaye,**
Strategic Operations Director, Speak Up Africa
- **Dr Ousmane Ly,**
Digital health expert, Mali
- **Mr Gaspard Datonji,**
Deputy Secretary General of the Benin Ministry of Digital and Digitalisation


Several challenges impede effective health data management, the experts' key findings include:




The urgent need to strengthen doctors' capacity to better integrate digital health into health systems;




The lack of health data reporting from local level to central level;



The absence of a governance tool to regulate the governance of health data management;

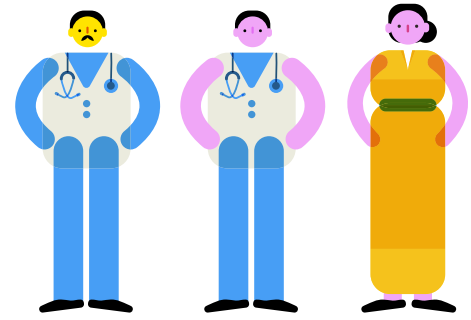


The lack of patient data sharing between districts;



The removal of databases such as the “Two-Cloud” (DHIS2), a health database hosted in the United States.

After setting out these issues, the panellists all agreed on the fact that particular attention must be paid to the implementation of different solutions to avoid data manipulation, either by the beneficiary or by the health professional. Thus, for more efficient data management and better governance, the experts highlighted:



● **The need to establish a regulatory and legal framework** governing the management of personal data;

● **Capacity building** to integrate digital in health systems;

● **The importance of protecting the dignity and integrity of patients** through better management of confidentiality, including making information specific to types of health services anonymous;

● **The creation of a framework to host data** on servers based in Africa for better monitoring and control;

● **Improving knowledge on health data management** by capitalising on existing communities such as the e-Santé Senegal group.

● **Evangelising actors on the principles and objectives to be achieved through:**

- The federation of data by building repositories;
- The creation of a data management network architecture establishing a link between strategies and funding;

● **Building partnerships between governments,** the private sector, academic institutions, civil society and any other type of stakeholder;

● **Strengthening advocacy for the engagement of national and regional institutions,** donors, and multilateral institutions on digital transformation and the use of data to achieve universal health coverage;

● **Communicating the challenges and opportunities** faced by organisations and institutions working on the digital transformation of health, through increased communication with policy makers;

● **The creation of platforms or frameworks for exchange** enabling key partners to share experiences, pool efforts and resources through projects and initiatives that contribute to the achievement of common objectives in the field of digital health.

