

Establishing a regional network for digital health

Context

Faced with the challenge of combatting COVID-19, maintaining access to essential health services and continuing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the World Health Organization has called on its various Member States to promote digital health and particularly the governance and sharing of health data related to the pandemic.

Challenges to be met

The ambition is to create favourable conditions for the development of digital health in Francophone West Africa. Despite the imperative of having consolidated and shared health data by and for all the countries of the sub-region, this network will make it possible to meet major challenges such as:



Facilitating member country **access to finance** for digital health.



Promoting the principles of managing, **sharing and consolidating health data**.



Understanding and complying with relevant governmental provisions on access, sharing and use of data in confidence.



Integrating ethical data provisions into the decision-making processes of governments, organisations and the public sector.



Promoting a framework for strategic sharing and guidance on key digital health concerns.



Addressing sectoral issues through the establishment of working groups as required.



Identifying opportunities to mobilise resources at regional level and ensure complementary engagement between the coalition and coalition members.



Ensuring compliance with coalition operating policies, including conflict resolution - resolving disputes that may arise between coalition/circle members.



Checking **the new members of the regional coalition** and approving the coalition's governance structure (levels of engagement, etc.).



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. It is working to establish a regional network in West and Central Africa, supported by the Baobab Institute and Speak Up Africa, based on a network governance model that relies on inter-organisational coordination to achieve its goals, mission and vision.

The network's governance structure will be made up of different working groups, known as "circles", which will 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.

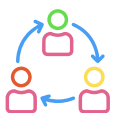
Objectives



Support partnerships between national governments the private sector, academic institutions, civil society, non-government organisations and other types of stakeholders.



Communicate on 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.



Collaborate with other actors 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.



Promote the work of partners at national and regional level.



Take part in and, if necessary, represent Transform Health at relevant national, regional and global events.



Create a space for partners to meet, share experiences and collaborate on projects to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.