COMMITTEE A4, WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
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GLOBAL MODEL WHO 2025

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

DIGITAL HEALTH AND AI

Simulation:
World Health Assembly

Welcome to Global Model WHO 2025,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the World Health Organisation in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Digital health refers to the use of digital technologies—such as mobile applications, telemedicine, electronic health records, wearable devices, and health information platforms—to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and the management of health systems. In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has become an important complement, offering tools to analyze complex data, support clinical decision-making, and accelerate biomedical innovation. Together, digital health and AI have the potential to transform global health by improving equity, efficiency, and innovation.

Concrete benefits are already visible. AI can help doctors detect diseases more accurately, such as identifying cancers in scans or predicting outbreaks through data analysis. Telemedicine expands access to care for people in remote or underserved areas, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing barriers of distance and cost. Wearables and other digital monitoring tools help patients manage chronic conditions like diabetes or heart disease. These innovations keep patients engaged in their care, reduce missed follow-up visits, support adherence to treatments, and expand access to life-saving services.

However, these opportunities come with serious challenges. Unequal access to internet, electricity, and digital skills—the digital divide—risks widening health inequalities between and within countries. False or misleading information on digital platforms, as seen during COVID-19, can undermine public trust and damage health responses. AI systems may reflect gaps or biases in their training data, making them less accurate for some populations and leading to unfair outcomes. Risks to data privacy and cybersecurity further complicate efforts to build trust. Finally, accountability remains uncertain: if an AI tool makes a wrong diagnosis that harms a patient, it is not always clear whether responsibility lies with the doctor, the hospital, the developer, or the regulator.

These concerns raise key questions for negotiation. How can stronger global rules for AI in health be developed—rules that ensure transparency (so patients and providers understand how decisions are made), accountability (so responsibility is clear if harm occurs), and fairness (so systems work equally well for all populations)? What can developed countries do to support technology transfer, training, and investment in digital infrastructure so that low- and middle-income countries are not left behind? Negotiations on this agenda item must further address how governments can encourage innovation while safeguarding privacy, and what steps are needed to guarantee equitable access to digital health tools. The role of private actors—who currently dominate much of the digital health space—must be discussed as well, especially in terms of ensuring compliance with global health principles. This agenda item highlights the need for a global digital health framework that is innovative, rights-based, and ensures health services remain accessible to all.

Key Points and Main Issues

Here is an outline of the key points and main issues students should understand when simulating the World Health Assembly on "Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence (AI)":

1. Definition and Scope

- Digital health includes e-health, telemedicine, mobile health (mHealth), electronic health records, wearable devices, and health information systems.
- AI in health refers to algorithms and systems that can analyze data, assist in diagnosis, predict health outcomes, support treatment decisions, and optimize healthcare systems.
- The WHA has already discussed digital health in the context of WHA Resolution 71.7 (2018) on digital health.

2. Opportunities and Benefits

- Access & equity: Telemedicine and mobile health can improve access in remote or underserved areas.
- Efficiency: AI can help reduce diagnostic errors, speed up drug discovery, and improve health system management.
- Public health surveillance: AI can detect disease outbreaks earlier by analyzing large datasets.
- Patient empowerment: Digital platforms allow patients to monitor their own health.

3. Challenges and Risks

- Equity and digital divide: Not all countries or communities have access to internet, devices, or digital literacy. This risks widening global health inequalities.
- Data privacy and security: Sensitive health data can be misused or inadequately protected.
- Bias and reliability: AI systems may replicate or amplify biases if used on unrepresentative datasets.
- Regulation and governance: There is no global standard yet for AI use in healthcare. Oversight varies widely between countries.
- Dependence on private sector: Many AI tools come from large tech companies, raising concerns about sovereignty, cost, and control.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

4. Global Governance and WHO's Role

- WHO guidance: WHO has published principles on ethics and governance of AI in health (2021).
- Standard-setting: WHO helps develop global norms and standards for safe, ethical, and effective use of digital health technologies.
- Capacity building: WHO supports countries in strengthening digital health systems and bridging the digital divide.
- Collaboration: Countries must cooperate to share best practices and ensure interoperability of health systems.

5. Key Issues for Debate

- Equity: How to ensure all member states benefit equally, not just high-income countries.
- Ethics: Establishing safeguards to protect privacy, prevent misuse of data, and ensure fairness.
- Funding and support: How should WHO and Member States fund digital health capacity building, especially in low- and middle-income countries?
- International regulation: Should there be global standards for AI in health (e.g., safety, accuracy, interoperability)?
- Partnerships: How to balance engagement with the private sector while protecting public health interests.
- Emergency response: How to use AI for pandemic preparedness, surveillance, and rapid response while respecting rights.

Global Initiative on AI for Health 2025

Summary: The Global Initiative on AI for Health (GI-AI4H) is a collaborative effort launched in July 2023 by the World Health Organization (WHO) together with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Its aim is to support safe, ethical, and evidence-based adoption of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Key goals include developing governance frameworks, technical standards, guidance, and policies to ensure AI tools are trustworthy, equitable, and effective across different health systems. The initiative seeks to build global capacity, share knowledge, and support country-level implementation of AI applications in health.

Some of the deliverables include guidance documents (such as on ethics, governance, and regulation), frameworks for evaluating AI-based medical devices, and courses or resources for stakeholders to understand the benefits and risks of AI in health.

The World Health Assembly endorses the extension of the Global Strategy on Digital Health to 2027 and approves the next phase for 2028–2033 2025

On 23 May 2025, the World Health Assembly endorsed an extension of the Global Strategy on Digital Health from its original end date in 2025 to 2027, and also approved beginning work on a new strategy for 2028–2033. World Health Organization

The current strategy (2020–2025) has led to major achievements:

- 129 countries have adopted national digital health strategies
- Over 1,600 government officials across 100+ countries have been trained in digital health and AI
- New global tools and frameworks (e.g. ethics guidance, digital health certification, maturity assessments) have been rolled out
- Regional cooperation, interoperability, and governance have strengthened

The extension reflects the recognition that digital health is central to goals like universal health coverage, pandemic preparedness, and resilient health systems, and signals a commitment to scale up digital transformation more equitably and sustainably

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES (CONT.)

WHA 78 - Agenda Item 24.2: Global Strategies and Plans of Action that are scheduled to expire within one year

2025

Summary : This page from the 78th session of the World Health Assembly contains statements on Agenda Item 24.2, titled "Global Strategies and Plans of Action that are scheduled to expire within one year. " One of the strategies that was discussed was the Global Strategy on Digital Health (2020-2025). This discussion is what led to the extension as described in the WHO article above. Member States that spoke in favor of extending the Global Strategy on Digital Health (2020-2025) included Burkina Faso, Ecuador, India, Iran, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia.

Strengthening community health in Cambodia through digitalization

2025

Summary : UNICEF's initiative to strengthen community health in Cambodia through digitalization has significantly enhanced the effectiveness of frontline health workers in rural areas. By integrating digital learning platforms, such as mobile applications, health workers like Chieb Pep have gained access to essential training and resources, enabling them to provide better care and support to their communities. This digital approach has also facilitated the transition from paper-based to digital health systems, improving the efficiency and accuracy of health data management. Supported by the Government of Japan, this initiative underscores the importance of digital tools in modernizing healthcare delivery and ensuring that every child, regardless of location, has access to life-saving health services.

Strengthening Bhutan's National Digital Health Strategy 2025

2025

Summary : WHO is collaborating with Bhutan's Ministry of Health and GovTech Agency to finalize the National Digital Health Strategy and Action Plan for 2025. The strategy aligns with WHO-ITU frameworks and is being refined through a national workshop with partners like UNICEF and JICA. Dr. Karthik Adapa from WHO is supporting the validation to ensure it meets national and global standards.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES (CONT.)

Regional Director's Keynote Address - Leveraging Technological Innovation for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention: Insights from Asia-Pacific

2025

Summary : The WHO Southeast Asia Regional Director's keynote highlights the impact of big data and AI in improving health promotion and disease prevention across Asia-Pacific. It cites examples from India, Thailand, and Singapore where technology supports better health policies and personalized care. The address also notes challenges like data privacy and infrastructure that must be addressed to maximize benefits.

Regional Director's Keynote Address - Leveraging Technological Innovation for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention: Insights from Asia-Pacific

2025

Summary : The WHO Southeast Asia Regional Director's keynote highlights how big data and AI are improving health promotion and disease prevention in Asia-Pacific. It cites examples from India, Thailand, and Singapore using technology for better health policies and care. The speech also stresses the need to tackle challenges like data privacy and infrastructure to fully benefit from digital health innovations.

One Year On, Electronic Immunization System Covers 99 Per Cent of Children Across Lao PDR

2025

Summary : UNICEF highlights the one-year success of Lao PDR's Electronic Immunization Registration system, covering 99% of health facilities and over 152,000 children. Supported by Japan, Gavi, and WHO, it provides real-time vaccination data to healthcare workers. Starting as a COVID-19 pilot, it expanded nationwide with training for 3,000+ workers. This system strengthens immunization efforts across the country.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES (CONT.)

Digital health solutions — 2025

Summary: The ITU backgrounder on ICTs and Digital Health explains how digital tools like telemedicine, wearables, AI diagnostics, and electronic health records are transforming health systems by improving access, efficiency, and equity. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of these technologies, but major challenges remain, including poor connectivity, high costs, weak interoperability, and gaps in regulation, data privacy, and cybersecurity. The ITU works with partners such as WHO to develop standards, provide toolkits, and support governments in building digital health infrastructure. Key initiatives include Be He@lthy, Be Mobile for mobile health messaging and AI for Health to promote safe and equitable use of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

Guidance: Ethics and Governance of AI for Health: Large Multi-Modal Models (LMMs) — 2024

Summary: This WHO publication outlines ethical principles and recommendations for governments, developers, and providers to address the risks of large multi-modal models (LMMs) in healthcare. Key recommendations include establishing regulatory frameworks and agencies, conducting independent impact assessments, and fostering inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement to ensure LMMs protect human rights, promote well-being, and maintain equity.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES (CONT.)

Technical Brief : The role of artificial intelligence in sexual and reproductive health and rights 2024

Summary: This WHO publication highlights opportunities, risks, and key considerations for AI's use in SRHR, including improving access to information via chatbots and predicting health concerns, while emphasizing risks like privacy violations, data biases, and misinformation. The brief calls for robust data protection, diverse training data, ethical development standards, and human oversight to ensure AI promotes equity, autonomy, and human rights in SRHR, preventing systems from replacing human judgment. One important feature of the brief is that it looks at AI from a technology and health perspective by emphasizing its potential to improve access to information and screening while also pointing out its substantial risks, including data breaches, bias, misinformation, and inequitable access due to the "digital divide". It also looks at AI from a health services perspective by emphasizing its potential for enhanced decision support for providers, more accurate diagnostics, personalized treatments, and greater efficiency in health systems, but it also raises concerns about ethical implications, privacy, accountability, and the need for inclusive, rights-based implementation across diverse global contexts.

Artificial Intelligence for Health: Supporting countries to deploy responsible AI technologies to accelerate equitable health for all 2024

Summary: This WHO brochure guides countries on how to deploy AI responsibly to achieve equitable health for all by promoting safe, ethical, and people-centered AI systems. It highlights AI's potential to improve diagnosis, drug development, and public health interventions, but emphasizes the need for robust governance to address risks like biased algorithms and unethical data use. WHO develops standards, policies, and guidelines to help countries build trustworthy AI ecosystems, support their effective implementation, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to ensure AI serves the public good.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES (CONT.)

Leading the Future of Global Health with Responsible Artificial Intelligence

2024

Summary: This WHO brochure on "Artificial Intelligence for Health" outlines the immense potential of AI to revolutionize health systems, from improving diagnosis and treatment to managing public health emergencies, but stresses that its deployment must be responsible, ethical, and equitable. The WHO aims to guide countries in establishing safe and fair AI ecosystems by developing ethical standards and governance frameworks to bridge the gap between rapid technological advancements and lagging regulations, ultimately working to foster trust and advance global health goals.

Advancing Digital Transformation in Salvador, Brazil's Public Health Sector

2024

Summary : The World Bank article highlights Salvador's digital health transformation through the Vida+ system, which has been implemented across 175 healthcare facilities, surpassing its initial target. This initiative, part of the Salvador Social project, enables real-time patient data access and supports prenatal care programs. The establishment of a Situation Room at the Municipal Health Secretariat facilitates data-driven decision-making, enhancing the efficiency of healthcare services. Looking ahead, Salvador aims to integrate artificial intelligence to further improve predictive analytics and personalized care.

Sri Lanka becomes the first country globally to develop the country's National Action Plan for Health Security utilizing the e-NAPHS platform

2024

Summary : The WHO highlights Sri Lanka as the first country to develop its National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) using the e-NAPHS digital platform. The 2024–2028 plan integrates data from key assessments to address health security gaps through a costed, two-year operational strategy. It emphasizes multisectoral collaboration, monitoring, and alignment with international health regulations.

Launching of the Maldives Integrated Health Information System (MIHIS) Portal — 2024

Summary : The Maldives launched the Integrated Health Information System (MIHIS) Portal in December 2024 to improve digital health access. Built on the DHIS2 platform with WHO support, it allows citizens to access health data like vaccination records. MIHIS integrates with national health registries to promote preventive care. WHO also helped train over 100 people to manage this system effectively.

Guidance: Regulatory considerations on artificial intelligence for health — 2023

Summary: This WHO publication emphasizes a robust governance framework and regulatory oversight to ensure the safety, accuracy, and effectiveness of AI in healthcare. Key aspects include establishing clear guidelines for data quality and privacy, managing risks associated with continuous learning systems, fostering transparency and accountability, promoting human well-being and equity, and ensuring the AI's ability to promote positive health outcomes.

Classification of digital interventions, services and applications in health — 2023

Summary: Provides a structured framework to describe and categorize digital health tools, aiming to create a standardized vocabulary for the health and technology sectors. This taxonomy organizes digital health interventions into three key axes: 1) Health Challenges: This WHO publication Identifies the specific problems and needs within the health system that digital interventions are designed to address, 2) Primary Users: Categorizes digital interventions based on who primarily uses them, and 3) Digital Capabilities/Architecture: Details the specific digital capabilities and technologies that are utilized within applications and services, such as telemedicine, AI, or mobile apps.
The 2nd edition updates the previous version with new digital health interventions and includes a focus on equity.

We are on the cusp of a digital health revolution yet millions risk being left behind

2023

Summary : This statement introduces a major WHO/Europe report assessing the state of digital health across European countries, acknowledging strong progress in areas like electronic health records and data privacy legislation. It highlights gaps such as insufficient digital health literacy, uneven adoption during the COVID-19 pandemic, and limited strategic evaluation of tools and interventions. The document calls for universal broadband access, long-term investment, trust through robust regulation and transparency, and international cooperation toward interoperability of digital systems. The statement emphasizes that while digital health has transformative potential for healthcare quality, equity, and workforce efficiency, without deliberate, inclusive policies many—especially vulnerable populations—risk being excluded from its benefits.

Timor-Leste launches a digital platform for TB, HIV, and Malaria surveillance

2023

Summary : Timor-Leste launched a digital surveillance platform for TB, HIV, and malaria in partnership with WHO. Built on DHIS2, it replaces paper records with real-time data tracking and reporting. The platform includes an interactive dashboard and mobile app for offline use. This improves disease monitoring and targeted healthcare interventions.

WHO Malawi 2023 Annual Report – Digital Health Section

2023

Summary : The WHO Malawi 2023 Annual Report highlights the organization's digital health initiatives aimed at enhancing healthcare delivery and data management. Key achievements include the implementation of the Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR), which improved vaccine tracking and coverage across the country. Additionally, WHO supported the integration of digital health solutions into the national health information systems, facilitating real-time data access and decision-making. These efforts align with WHO's broader strategy to strengthen digital health infrastructure and promote data-driven healthcare in Malawi.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES (CONT.)

Digital alerts warn of disease outbreaks thanks to Kyrgyzstan's new system — 2023

Summary : The World Health Organization (WHO) article discusses Kyrgyzstan's implementation of the integrated digital surveillance system, iEPID, developed with WHO support. This system enables real-time monitoring of infectious disease outbreaks, such as measles, meningitis, and COVID-19, by automatically generating alerts when preset epidemiological thresholds are exceeded. By integrating data from various health information systems, iEPID reduces manual reporting errors and enhances the efficiency of public health responses. The initiative is part of the Sanarip MED digital health program, aiming to strengthen the country's disease prevention and surveillance capabilities.

Strengthening health information systems & evidence-based policy — 2023

Summary : The World Health Organization (WHO) has played a pivotal role in transforming Lao PDR's health information systems (HIS) into a unified, responsive framework. Prior to 2013, the HIS was fragmented, with siloed systems and manual data processes. WHO's introduction of the District Health Information Software version 2 (DHIS2), an open-source, web-based platform, integrated various health programs, enabling efficient data collection and analysis. This system has proven agile, facilitating rapid responses to emerging health threats like COVID-19. Additionally, WHO's support has led to the development of Lao PDR's first Digital Health Strategy in 2023, focusing on governance, workforce, and infrastructure to ensure coordinated progress in digital health initiatives.

AI4Health Focus Group — 2023

Summary: The ITU-WHO Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence for Health (FG-AI4H) was established to develop international standards and frameworks for the safe and effective use of AI in healthcare. The group focused on areas such as AI-based diagnostics, medical imaging, and the extraction of relevant information from complex health data. It aimed to ensure that AI solutions are trustworthy and can be scaled globally.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES (CONT.)

New UN initiative aims to step up AI's contribution to health — 2023

Summary: Launched in July 2023, this initiative by ITU, WHO, and WIPO seeks to expand AI's contribution to health by developing governance frameworks, technical standards, and guidelines. It aims to promote cooperation on knowledge and data sharing and assist low- and middle-income countries in adopting AI solutions for health. The initiative focuses on areas such as radiology, cardiology, and dermatology.

In Kazakhstan, Artificial Intelligence and the Research Commercialization Behind It Are Saving Lives — 2022

Summary : This feature describes how Kazakhstan's PneumoNet AI system was developed to help diagnose lung diseases (including COVID-19, tuberculosis, cancer, pneumonia) more quickly and accurately, alleviating pressure on hospitals during the pandemic. The article emphasizes the role of policy-driven research commercialization via programs like the Fostering Productive Innovation Project (FPIP) and the Technology Consortia Grant Program (TCGP), which help link private sector actors with research institutions. It argues that the Kazakh experience shows how combining technological innovation, government support, and commercialization pathways can yield high-impact public health outcomes, especially in resource constrained or geographically dispersed settings.

Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health: WHO guidance — 2021

Summary: The World Health Organization's (WHO) "Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health" guidance emphasizes human rights and well-being as central to AI's design, deployment, and use in healthcare to ensure technologies provide public benefit. It outlines ethical risks and challenges, such as algorithmic bias, data privacy, lack of transparency, and unequal access, and proposes six core principles to guide the responsible use of AI. The guidance provides recommendations for stakeholders across public and private sectors to develop ethical governance frameworks, maximize AI's potential in health, and ensure accountability for its outcomes.

Global strategy on digital health — 2021

Summary: The WHO's Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025 provides a roadmap to guide member states in strengthening health systems using digital technologies. Its vision is to promote equitable, person-centered, and sustainable digital health solutions to improve health outcomes for all. The strategy outlines four strategic objectives: promoting global collaboration, advancing national strategy implementation, strengthening governance, and advocating for person-centered systems enabled by digital health.

Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health: WHO guidance: executive summary — 2021

Summary: The "executive summary" is a shorter, distilled version of the above publication that is designed to provide a quick overview of the key points, findings, and recommendations of the complete guidance document.

AI Repository — 2020

Summary: The ITU AI Repository is a global platform that identifies AI-related projects and research initiatives contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in health. It serves as a resource for sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration in the field of AI for health.

Implementation of programme to promote digital transformation in the healthcare sector – DigiSanté

2025

Summary : Digital Switzerland (2025) launched the DigiSanté programme to promote digital transformation in healthcare by enabling secure, standardized data exchange. Led by federal offices, it focuses on interoperability, data protection, and patient-centered care. The initiative runs through 2034, supporting infrastructure and legal frameworks. It also creates the Swiss Health Data Space for secure collaboration among healthcare stakeholders.

Artificial Intelligence Week

2025

Summary : The UAE Ministry of Health's Artificial Intelligence Office drives AI adoption to improve healthcare services and efficiency. It leads AI projects like predictive health models and crisis management tools. The office also focuses on ethical AI use and building local expertise. These efforts support the UAE's goal of advancing sustainable healthcare through technology.

From Isolated Innovations to Full-Chain Restructuring: Accelerated Implementation of Digital and Intelligent Healthcare Applications

2025

Summary : This article highlights China's shift from isolated digital health tools to full-chain restructuring, with hospital informatization established and over 40 AI imaging products certified. Platforms like Ant AQ improve access and efficiency. Rapid tech deployment is transforming healthcare infrastructure and services. The focus is on integrating innovation, standards, and coordination for sustainable healthcare.

Gov't developing AI-based app for Malaria testing — 2025

Summary : The Government of Guyana is developing an AI-powered malaria testing application in collaboration with Harvard University, aiming to eradicate the disease. The app has demonstrated 99% accuracy in pilot tests conducted in Region Nine. Once fully operational, it is expected to assist other malaria-affected countries. This initiative is part of broader efforts, including mass distribution of insecticide-treated nets and training programs in remote communities, to combat malaria across the nation.

The comprehensive action plan for the digital transformation of the healthcare sector has been approved. — 2025

Summary : Mongolia's Ministry of Digital Development and Health approved a 2025–2028 plan to digitally transform healthcare through a centralized health information exchange. The plan focuses on data sharing, reducing redundant tests, and improving treatment continuity. It aims to strengthen data security, adopt international standards, and enhance IT capacity in healthcare.

UK MHRA leads safe use of AI in healthcare as first country in new global network — 2025

Summary : The UK became the first country to join the HealthAI Global Regulatory Network, with MHRA leading safe AI use in healthcare. The UK collaborates internationally to share safety data and set standards. This builds on the AI Airlock program, enabling regulated AI testing. The initiative aims to speed up trusted AI adoption in healthcare and boost innovation.

Hanoi pushes for digitalization in healthcare sector — 2025

Summary : This article discusses Hanoi's plan which was launched to implement electronic medical records in all public hospitals by September. The initiative includes upgrading IT systems and integrating chip-based patient ID cards. Hospitals like Saint Paul and Duc Giang report improved efficiency and patient satisfaction. This effort aims to modernize Hanoi's healthcare through digital innovation.

Hanoi promotes int't cooperation for technology transfer in healthcare sector — 2025

Summary : Hanoi's People's Committee emphasized the importance of international collaboration to advance technology transfer in the healthcare sector. The initiative aims to enhance medical infrastructure, improve patient care, and integrate advanced technologies into local healthcare practices. By fostering partnerships with global institutions, Hanoi seeks to accelerate the adoption of innovative solutions and best practices in its healthcare system. This approach aligns with the city's broader strategy to modernize healthcare services and ensure sustainable development in the sector.

Artificial Intelligence in Software as a Medical Device — 2025

Summary : The FDA's page on AI in Software as a Medical Device explains how AI/ML technologies improve healthcare by analyzing data to support providers. It outlines the FDA's regulatory approach, including premarket pathways and lifecycle management. The page emphasizes ensuring safety and effectiveness through collaboration across FDA centers.

Dong Nai's Health Sector Gradually Applies Artificial Intelligence in Medical Examination and Treatment

2024

Summary : Dong Nai Province of VietNam began integrating AI in healthcare to improve diagnosis accuracy and efficiency. Major hospitals are using AI to detect lung diseases, breast cancer, and brain abnormalities. The technology helps with early detection and supports radiologists. Several hospitals are piloting AI to enhance care and reduce staff workload.

To promote Healthcare Transformation…MOH Calls for Participation in the Healthcare SANDBOX

2024

Summary : Saudi Arabia and WHO held their first strategic dialogue in Riyadh to strengthen health cooperation. They focused on priorities like antimicrobial resistance, digital health, and universal coverage. The dialogue highlighted Saudi Arabia's commitment to global health leadership. It marked a key step in enhancing partnership and joint initiatives with WHO.

SDAIA, KAUST Launch MiniGPT-Med Model To Help Doctors Diagnose Medical Radiology via AI

2024

Summary : The Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA) and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) introduced MiniGPT-Med, a large multimodal language model designed to assist doctors in diagnosing medical radiology using artificial intelligence. Trained on various medical images, including X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs, the model performs tasks such as generating medical reports, answering visual medical questions, and identifying diseases. Developed collaboratively by AI specialists from SDAIA and KAUST, MiniGPT-Med demonstrates a 19% improvement in efficiency over previous models, enhancing diagnostic accuracy across multiple imaging modalities. This advancement marks a significant step in integrating AI into medical diagnostics, aiming to improve healthcare delivery in Saudi Arabia.

Minister of Communication and Technology Participates in Somalia Digital Health Summit 2024.

2024

Summary : The article covers the 2024 Somalia Digital Health Summit, where Minister Mohamed Adan Moalim stressed technology's role in transforming healthcare. The Ministry is working on digital regulations, data protection, and infrastructure to improve health services. The summit united government, health experts, and civil society to advance digital innovation in Somalia's healthcare.

Choosing the Egyptian Health Care Authority as the First Digitally Connected Electronic Health Care System in North Africa

2024

Summary : Kenya piloted a mobile-based digital system for real-time data collection during a mass drug campaign for neglected tropical diseases. Supported by WHO and partners, it improved accuracy and reached 90% coverage. This marks a key advance in Kenya's digital health efforts, boosting data-driven public health actions.

Notice of the General Office of the People's Government of Hainan Province on Issuing the Three-Year Action Plan for the High-Quality Development of Digital Health System and Digital Economy of Hainan Province (2024-2026)

2024

Summary : This 2024 notice from the Hainan Provincial Government outlines a three-year action plan (2024–2026) to advance digital health and the digital economy. It focuses on full-life-cycle digital health services, AI-assisted care, internet hospitals, and digital therapeutics. The plan promotes innovation, industry clustering, and data infrastructure. Implementation involves interdepartmental coordination, regulation, and policy support.

E-Health Initiative in Digital Transformation (Vision 2030) 2024

Summary : Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Health (MOH) is advancing its digital health initiatives under the Vision 2030 framework, aiming to enhance healthcare accessibility, efficiency, and quality. The strategy focuses on transforming the MOH into a regulatory authority, promoting value-based care, and integrating digital solutions across the healthcare system. Key principles guiding the strategy include sustainability, cooperation, patient-centered care, and cost efficiency. The implementation of this strategy is expected to lead to improved patient experiences, reduced administrative burdens, and better health outcomes through the use of digital health technologies.

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ePIS Project Information 2024

Summary : The ePIS project in Bhutan aims to digitize healthcare to improve data access and support Universal Health Coverage. Launched in 2021 with government and Asian Development Bank support, it integrates medical records, radiology, and labs into one system. As of 2024, it covers all 54 hospitals, with plans to expand to primary care centers by 2025.

Digital Health Strategy 2023-2027 of Bangladesh 2023

Summary : The Bangladesh Digital Health Strategy 2023–2027, by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, aims to modernize healthcare through digital technologies aligned with Vision 2041 and Digital Bangladesh. It focuses on connecting health facilities, expanding telehealth, and improving data interoperability to enhance access and efficiency. The strategy emphasizes training health workers, strengthening data privacy, and using AI tools for better decision-making. Key initiatives include developing a digital health ID, expanding mobile health platforms, and fostering public-private partnerships for innovation.

Digital Health Agenda 2023-2027 — 2023

Summary : The Ecuador Digital Health Strategy 2023–2027, developed by the Ministry of Public Health, outlines a comprehensive plan to digitally transform the nation's healthcare system. The strategy focuses on enhancing governance, integrating electronic health records, expanding telemedicine, ensuring data security, and building digital capacity among healthcare workers. It adopts a phased approach to implementation, aiming for a fully integrated digital health ecosystem by 2027. The strategy aligns with Ecuador's broader digital transformation goals and is supported by international partners such as the Pan American Health Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank.

MoHAP Launches Health Sector's First National Centre of Excellence for AI — 2023

Summary : The UAE Ministry of Health launched its first National Centre of Excellence for AI to boost healthcare quality and efficiency. The center focuses on AI applications like licensing, organ transplants, and radiology, with support from SAS. Managed by Emirati professionals, it aligns with the UAE's AI 2031 strategy and Centennial 2071 vision. This initiative strengthens the country's leadership in healthcare innovation.

New Cofepris Digital Platform for Research and Clinical Trials (Digipris) sets the pace in regulation — 2023

Summary : The Mexican Foreign Affairs Ministry announced efforts to ensure COVID-19 vaccine access for Mexicans in the US and Canada, regardless of migration status. Vaccination is being coordinated through consulates and health offices. They maintain communication with local health authorities and are negotiating with the US government to support independent service providers at Mexican consulates.

"Digital health" acceleration strategy 2023

Summary : The French "Digital Health" Acceleration Strategy, launched in January 2021 under the France 2030 Plan, aims to position France as a leader in digital healthcare. It focuses on transitioning from curative to preventive, predictive, and personalized medicine, fostering a robust digital health ecosystem, and ensuring secure, ethical processing of healthcare data. The strategy encompasses 33 actions and an AMI (Appel à Manifestation d'Intérêt) to support innovation and economic growth in the sector. Collaborating ministries include Health, Economy, Higher Education, and the General Secretariat for Investment (SGPI) .

Artificial Intelligence Transparency Statement n.d.

Summary : The Australian Digital Health Agency (2025) outlines its commitment to responsible AI use in healthcare, emphasizing transparency, safety, and ethical governance. The agency employs AI for internal tasks like cybersecurity and data analysis, ensuring compliance with Australian government policies. Staff training and a dedicated AI Accountable Official support these initiatives. The statement will be reviewed annually to adapt to evolving AI practices.

Digitalisation in healthcare n.d.

Summary : The German Federal Ministry of Health's page outlines efforts to digitalize healthcare through laws promoting electronic patient records and better use of health data. It highlights secure networks, digital health apps, and telemedicine to improve care access and efficiency. The strategy also includes a National Health Portal to provide reliable health information to the public.

Malaysian Health Technology Assessment Section (MaHTAS) n.d.

Summary : The Malaysian Health Technology Assessment Section (MaHTAS) evaluates health technologies to support evidence-based policies for Malaysia's Ministry of Health. It produces assessment reports, develops clinical guidelines, and identifies emerging technologies to improve healthcare quality and efficiency.

Government encouraging the use of eHealth (telehealth) n.d.

Summary : The Dutch government is actively promoting the adoption of eHealth technologies to enhance healthcare accessibility and efficiency. Initiatives include funding for telehealth services, support for digital skills development, and the establishment of personal health data environments. Programs like the eHealth at Home Scheme and the eHealth Rally aim to integrate digital solutions into daily care. The government also facilitates innovation through platforms like Zorgvoorinnoveren.nl and Health Impact Bonds.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Africa's Lawmakers Commit to Strengthening AI, Digital Health and Smart Manufacturing Frameworks at Inaugural Africa Digital Parliamentary Summit in Lusaka — 2025

Summary : The Pan-African Parliament (2025) held the Africa Digital Parliamentary Summit to strengthen legislative capacity on AI, digital health, and smart manufacturing. Parliamentarians focused on data protection and evidence-based policymaking. The summit produced the Lusaka Declaration to guide Africa's inclusive and responsible digital transformation. The event was supported by APHRC and GSMA.

IGAD Hands Over Digital Health Equipment to Djibouti's Ministry of Health — 2024

Summary : IGAD (2024) handed over digital health equipment to Djibouti's Ministry of Health to boost disease surveillance and data sharing. The initiative targets cross-border health sites and national health systems. Supported by the EU and BMZ, it strengthens regional response capacity. GIZ leads implementation under the EU Digital Solutions project.

IGAD and the government of Djibouti (MOH) kick-off strengthening Djiboutian Digital Disease Surveillance and Monitoring through SORMAS — 2023

Summary : IGAD and Djibouti's Ministry of Health (2023) launched the implementation of SORMAS to strengthen digital disease surveillance. The initiative includes training, system setup, and cross-border coordination. Supported by the EU and German cooperation, it aims to enhance epidemic response. The project emphasizes data protection and open-source health data sharing.

AFRICA REGIONAL GROUP (AFRO)

Kenya breaks new ground and pilots its first digital health campaign system — 2025

Summary : Kenya piloted its first digital health campaign system to collect real-time data during a mass drug administration for neglected tropical diseases. Supported by WHO and partners, the mobile-based system improved data accuracy and achieved 90% coverage. This pilot marks a key step in Kenya's digital health progress, boosting efficient, data-driven public health efforts.

Côte d'Ivoire: self-testing extends cervical cancer screening services — 2024

Summary : This article discusses Côte d'Ivoire's integration of self-testing into its national cervical cancer screening strategy, significantly improving access, especially for women living with HIV. By 2023, 90% of women at participating health centers opted for self-testing, up from 51% in 2022. The initiative, part of the SUCCESS project supported by WHO and UNITAID, has expanded from 34 to over 200 health facilities, enhancing early detection and treatment. The approach empowers women to take charge of their health, reducing cultural barriers and increasing screening uptake.

Strengthening health security: Ethiopia transforms public health emergency management through innovative digital ePHEM system — 2024

Summary : Ethiopia launched the ePHEM system to improve public health emergency management. Training programs equipped participants with skills in surveillance and data analytics. The system integrates with platforms like DHIS2 for real-time data use. This digital approach enhances Ethiopia's ability to respond to health emergencies efficiently.

AFRICA REGIONAL GROUP (AFRO) (CONT.)

Tanzania strengthens healthcare associated infection surveillance to prevent future outbreak — 2025

Summary : Tanzania enhanced its healthcare-associated infection (HAI) surveillance following a Marburg virus outbreak in the Kagera Region. With support from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), WHO and the Ministry of Health conducted a four-day training for 41 healthcare workers in Kagera, focusing on HAI detection, prevention, and management. This initiative is part of a broader national strategy to bolster health system resilience and outbreak preparedness. The training included capacity building in infection prevention and control, with participants receiving practical tools, standardized procedures, and training in data analysis to strengthen surveillance quality and timely reporting.

Uganda's Ministry of Health Launches Digital Health Strategic Plan — 2023

Summary : Uganda's Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, USAID, and other partners, launched the Health Information and Digital Strategic Plan 2020/21–2024/25. This plan aims to enhance the country's health information system by institutionalizing patient-level digital systems at the point of care, addressing data quality and reporting delays, and providing a framework for digital health implementation, research, and innovation. The strategy aligns with the Ministry's objectives and the National Development Plan III, emphasizing the importance of digitalization in improving health service delivery and preparedness for public health emergencies. Key stakeholders, including national and local governments, the private sector, and academia, are engaged in this multi-sectoral approach to strengthen Uganda's health system.

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

PAHO and MOH Drive Innovative Digital Health Strategies in Trinidad and Tobago — 2025

Summary : The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Health (MOH) convened in April 2025 to advance the country's digital health transformation. The meeting focused on enhancing governance, digital literacy, and exploring innovations in telehealth, artificial intelligence (AI), and cybersecurity. A Technical Cooperation Roadmap was developed, aligning with the MOH's Digital Health Policy. The collaboration also introduced the Global Digital Health Certification Network, emphasizing global digital health standards.

Honduras sets a milestone in digital transformation with the implementation of SIP Plus — 2024

Summary : Honduras launched the Perinatal Information System Plus (SIP Plus), a digital platform designed to enhance maternal and perinatal healthcare through real-time data collection and analysis. This system integrates with the country's Electronic Health Record and includes automatic reporting of key health indicators. A notable achievement is the incorporation of birth certificates into SIP Plus, positioning Honduras as the second country in Latin America to achieve this integration. The initiative, supported by the Canada project, aims to address health disparities among vulnerable populations by providing timely and data-driven decision-making capabilities.

NON-OFFICIAL RESOURCES

The power of AI for health equity 2023

Summary: PATH harnesses the power of digital tools to make diagnostics & treatment more accessible.They leverage digital technologies and data to make health systems more resilient.