

Technical Specification – Digital Health and Health Information System (HP 20)

Digital technologies are playing an increasingly vital role in transforming health systems across ASEAN. From strengthening surveillance and health system responsiveness to expanding access to care and supporting real-time decision-making, digital health solutions have become essential tools in building more resilient, equitable, and efficient health systems. Health Priority 20 (HP 20) focuses on advancing digital health and health information systems to support national and regional health goals. ASEAN recognises the urgent need to modernise health data infrastructure, improve the interoperability of digital systems, and ensure that health data is timely, accurate, and secure.

Proposals should demonstrate how digital health interventions and strengthened information systems will contribute to a more integrated, inclusive, and responsive health system for ASEAN and demonstrate that they have taken into account the following general, global, regional and national considerations:

General

- Strengthening health systems through digital health technologies, contributing to universal health coverage and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Overarching themes:
 - Promote early detection and response for public health threats
 - Promote remote access to care
 - Support evidence-based policy making and resource allocation during health emergencies
 - Promote interoperability between information systems and use/upgrading of existing systems where possible and feasible
 - Enhance rapid and targeted public health communication

Global

- Refer to the [“Global Strategy on digital health 2020-2025”](#) for the guiding principles, implementation strategy and action plan
- Refer to [WHO Innovation Hub](#) for details on catalysing digital health innovations including ecosystem building, innovation scale up, and normative guidance
- Refer to UNICEF’s strengthening health systems – [digital health and information systems](#) for details on digitally enabled health systems to drive results for children
- Refer to WHO/ITU (International Telecommunication Union) [“National eHealth Strategy Toolkit”](#) for resources to guide policymakers at ministries of health in establishing national eHealth/digital health strategies
- Refer to WHO’s [Classification of digital health interventions](#) for details on uses of digital technology for health, specifying discrete digital capabilities applicable to clients, health workers, health system managers, and data services

- Refer to [WHO's Digital Health Atlas](#) for a website-based technology registry for systematically tracking national and subnational digital health activities, in order to equip governments, technologists, implementers and donors to better coordinate implementations, monitor their functionality and geographical growth, and establish gaps against which to collaboratively target investments
- Refer to [WHO/ITU Be He@lthy, Be Mobile initiative](#), for details to harness mobile technologies for communication on noncommunicable disease (NCD) risk factors. Explore for expansion to include public health emergencies
- Refer to WHO's "[mHealth: Use of appropriate digital technologies for public health](#)"

Regional:

- Refer to the [AHC 2 Work plan for Cluster Priority 20 \(Digital Health and Health Information System\)](#) and its relevant Programme Objectives (2021-2025) to identify priority activities
- Refer to the [ASEAN policy brief](#) to align with the policy recommendations on standardising and strengthening the regulatory frameworks of digital health across the ASEAN region
- Refer to the "[ASEAN digital masterplan 2025](#)" to align with desired outcomes and enabling actions.
- Refer to the "[ASEAN digital integration framework](#)" to align with the key elements including the six priority areas.
- Reach out to WHO or FAO regional offices to learn of any relevant regional initiatives to complement or collaborate with.

National

- National Actions Plans for Global Health Security
- National Health/eHealth policies
- National standards and Guidelines for electronic medical records systems
- National cyber security and protection bills
- National ICT master plans
- National surveillance strategies
- National laboratory strategic plans