

Responsible Digital Health Speaker Series Launch - Digital Health and Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

People

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The digital revolution continues to change the face of health systems the world over. At the 71st World Health Assembly (WHA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) recognised the full potential of the digital health revolution to enhance health service capacities and accelerate progress towards achieving health and wellbeing related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 3. They also recognised that the responsible and appropriate use of digital health solutions remains a great challenge. The potential for positive impacts through the application of digital health tools are clear, and it is often cited that they will be a key vehicle on the road to achieving Universal Health Coverage. However, poorly designed, unsustainable, unsafe and irresponsible digital health products can be a waste of time, energy and physical and financial resources, and more importantly can risk the wellbeing for those whose lives they were supposed to improve. Along this continuum of negative outcomes due to badly designed digital health tools, the perpetuation of stereotypes, the widening of the digital divide and the abuse of personal data are also key concerns.

The Digital Health Initiative aims to:

- Encourage and facilitate the sustainable, safe and responsible development and adoption of digital health products amongst international organisations, NGOs, the private sector and government organisations;
- Build capacity among health care workers, local governments, publics, and other end users;
- Ensure uptake and use of strong digital health tools and guidelines.

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With less than 10 years left to meet the target of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), attention is increasingly being turned to the promise of digital health strategies. However, in order to realise this potential and contribute to achieving UHC, it is essential that digital health strategies are developed correctly, responding to the real health needs of underserved communities and ensuring that digital development for some doesn't deepen the divide in access and provision of health care for others. In this first webinar we will introduce the concept of "Responsible Digital Health" and explore how it can contribute to achieving UHC.

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At the end of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Outline the benefits of digital health and how it can contribute to achieving UHC
2. Identify challenges associated with the application of digital health for UHC

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This Responsible Digital Health Speaker Series will feature experts from healthcare, academia, public and private sector.

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Participation is open to government officials, diplomats, staff of international organizations, development practitioners, faculty members, and administrators of educational institutions.

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