

INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH – IS4H



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

Department of Evidence and Intelligence for action in Health



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PLAN OF ACTION FOR STRENGTHENING INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH 2019-2023

Introduction

1. The countries of the Region of the Americas have made substantial progress in improving information systems for health (IS4H). However, they still face major challenges in ensuring reliable, secure, and timely data in the necessary format to inform decision-making, policy development, monitoring and evaluation, and the production of intelligence for action in health. At the same time, emerging technologies and the potential offered by the information society, such as big data, may offer benefits to public health never before seen in human history (1).

2. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals' objective of ensuring that "no one is left behind", countries will need to reassess their approaches, actions, and priorities in data and information management, as well as the costs associated with these interventions. They must also bear in mind the need to disaggregate data by income, sex, age, race, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location, and other relevant characteristics of their national and subnational context.

3. This document presents the Plan of Action for Strengthening Information Systems for Health 2019-2023, which contains strategic lines of action and tools to support implementation of the 2019 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2). Its purpose, moreover, is to help health institutions in the Member States to advance toward meeting the targets of the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030 (3), especially targets 6.1 and 6.2, in alignment with other government initiatives such as open government and e-government (4).

Strategic Line of Action 1

Information system management and governance

This refers to institutional strengthening for process management, decision-making, and policy-making, based on the different components of an information system for health, with emphasis on leadership; use of information technology; data production, management, and processing; infrastructure for internet access; standards and regulations for the development or introduction of software applications and databases; enhanced capacity building; and review and updating of legislation.

Strategic Line of Action 2

Data management and information technologies

This refers to technology tools and regulatory instruments, standards for electronic health records, the identification and classification of information products, technology infrastructure, and the definition, classification, and integration of health data sources comprised of structured and unstructured data.

Strategic Line of Action 3 Information and knowledge management

This refers to active participation by the scientific and academic community, civil society, and information producers and users in the real-time collection or capture of data and information, and facilitation of access to accurate information at the right time and in the right format.

Strategic Line of Action 4

Innovation, integration, and convergence

This refers to the introduction of innovative methodological models and technological applications related to the rapid growth of the internet, the evolution of information technology, and big data, including the health sector's participation in e-government and open government initiatives. It also includes the implementation of a digital literacy strategy to develop a pool of trained human resources to function in the information society, using information and communication technologies, and managing databases that facilitate informed policy- and decision-making

