The Digital Transformation of the Health sector in the Americas Region
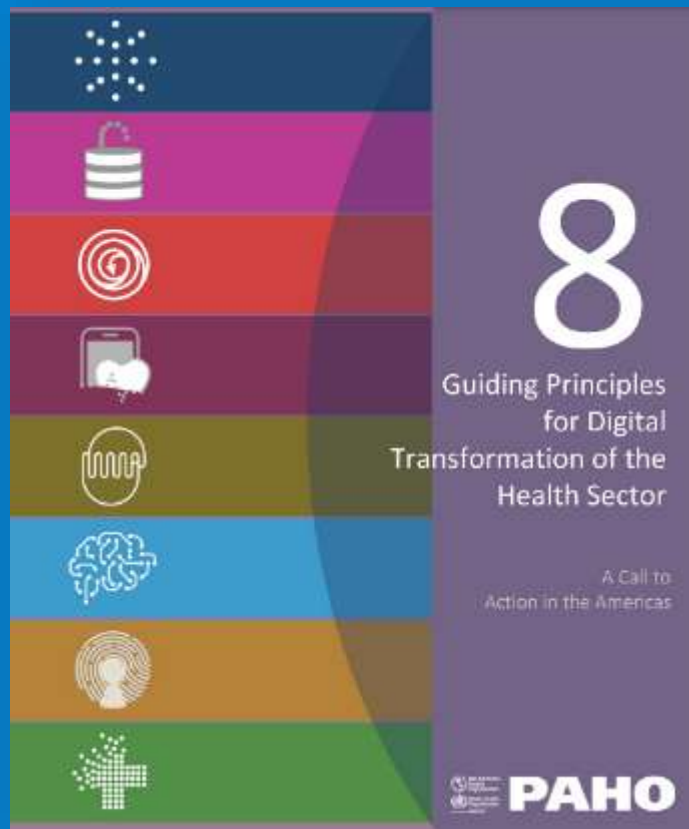
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8 Guiding Principles for Digital Transformation of the Health Sector

	Principle		Description
1	Universal connectivity		**Ensure** universal connectivity in the health sector by 2030
2	Digital public goods		**Co-create** digital public health goods for a more equitable world
3	Inclusive digital health		**Accelerate** towards inclusive digital health with an emphasis on the most vulnerable
4	Interoperability		**Implement** interoperable, open, and sustainable digital health and information systems
5	Human rights		**Mainstream** human rights in all areas of digital transformation in health
6	Artificial intelligence		**Participate** in global cooperation on artificial intelligence and any emerging technology
7	Information security		**Establish** mechanisms for trust and information security in the digital environment of public health
8	Public health architecture		**Design** public healthcare architecture in the era of digital interdependence

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A Call to Action in the Americas

PAHO

Digital Health Transformation in the Americas

Pan American Health Organization

World Health Organization — Regional Office for the Americas

Information systems
- IS4H Initiative
- Data management (ICD-11, CRVS & Core indicators)
- Cybersecurity

Digital transformation
- Telehealth
- Cross border interoperability (Pan American Highway (Digital health)
- Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Public Goods

Digital literacy
- Continuous education
- Behavioral insights

Digital Health Transformation in the Americas

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Americas

1. Governance & Policy

- **Brazil** launched *SUS Digital* in 2023 as part of its National Digital Health Strategy, integrating electronic health records with telehealth services for over 200 million people.
- **El Salvador** deployed an **AI-powered telemedicine initiative** (2025) to expand access in rural areas, leveraging large language models to support primary care consultations.

2. Infrastructure & Connectivity

- In the **Caribbean** partners are working on **digital public infrastructure** to ensure secure patient identification and cross-border care (essential for small island states).

3. Interoperability & Data Exchange

- **PAHO's Regional Framework for Information Systems for Health (IS4H)** provides a framework for countries to align health data governance, interoperability standards, and digital transformation policies (endorsed in 2024–2030 Action Plan).
- **Uruguay's** is a global benchmark, showing how interoperable systems can ensure secure exchange of health data across institutions.

4. Workforce Readiness

- A PAHO survey (2023) revealed that **over 60% of health workers** in Latin America reported needing additional training in digital tools and AI.
- **Costa Rica** is piloting the **AI Readiness Assessment for Health Workforce** in collaboration with PAHO to build tailored capacity-building programs.

5. Equity & Inclusion

- **Telehealth in the Peruvian Amazon** connected indigenous communities with urban specialists during COVID-19, showing the potential of digital tools to bridge historical inequities.

Pan American Health Organization

World Health Organization Americas

Opportunities for Collaboration

1. Stronger Primary Health Care
- Digital tools enabling better screening, prevention, and management of chronic diseases.
- Telehealth extending services to rural and underserved communities.

2. Data-Driven Decision-Making
- Real-time dashboards for outbreak detection and response.
- Advanced analytics and AI supporting evidence-based health policies.

3. Improved Patient Engagement
- Mobile apps and portals allowing patients to manage appointments, access records, and follow treatment plans.
- Digital literacy programs empowering citizens to take ownership of their health.

4. Regional and Cross-Border Collaboration
- Shared digital platforms for disease surveillance and elimination initiatives.
- Trust frameworks supporting secure data exchange across countries.

5. Efficiency and Cost Savings
- Reduced duplication of tests and services through interoperable systems.
- AI-assisted workflows optimizing resources and reducing wait times.

6. Innovation Ecosystems
- Opportunities for public-private partnerships fostering local innovation.
- Adoption of open-source technologies for scalable, sustainable solutions.

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