Navigating the Digital Health Ecosystem: a Review of Key Guidelines, Frameworks and Tools **Part 1:** *The Digital Health System*

DIPC

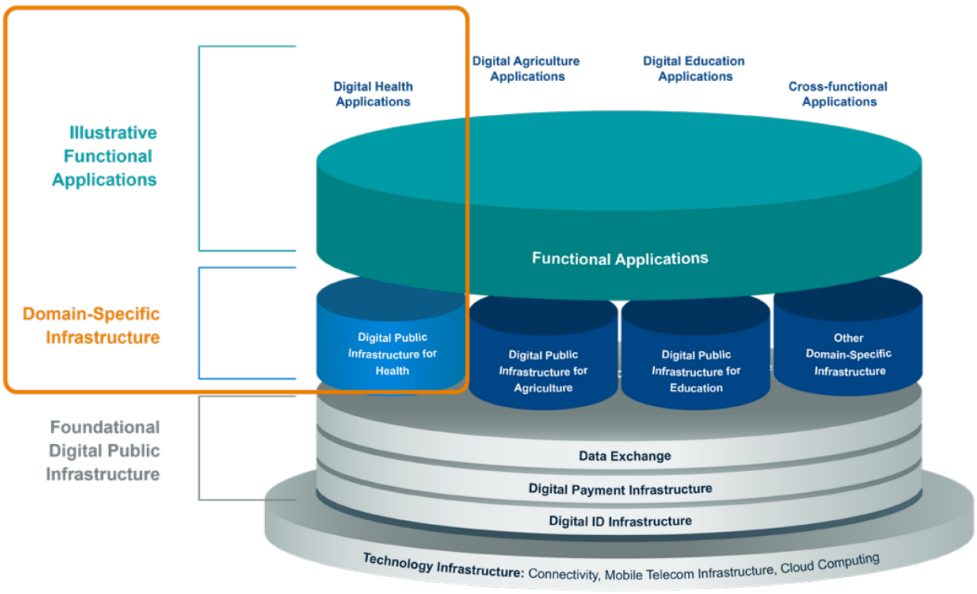
State of the art digital health projects build on existing evidence, and normative guidelines, frameworks, and tools in various areas, ranging from software development to financing and equitable programing. In the context of the GIZ Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control (DIPC) Initiative, the Robert Koch Institute, Germany, has conducted a comprehensive analysis on key digital public health definitions and concepts, and on 75 normative resources for digital health programing across 11 digital health topics, published between 2012 and early 2024 [link]. Findings from the report have been summarized in form of 20 easy to use Factsheets.

The current factsheet (03/20) summarizes the findings on the topic of **Digital Public Infrastructure for Health (DPI-H)** and describes the concept and implementation of DPI-H, essential for scalable and interoperable healthcare systems.

Factsheet 03

Digital Public Infrastructure for Health (DPI-H)

DPI-H comprises the health-specific components of a country's digital infrastructure that enable an ecosystem of inclusive, scaled and user-driven digital applications in a health system (Vital Wave, 2023). Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) consists of secure, interoperable digital systems based on open standards, designed to provide equitable access to public and private services. Governed by legal frameworks, DPI promotes development, inclusion, innovation, and human rights.



Conceptual model for DPI and Health Domain-Specific DPI (Source: Vital Wave, 2023)

Examples include digital identity systems, payment platforms, and data exchanges. Digital Public Infrastructure for Health (DPI-H) enhances healthcare delivery in low- and middle-income countries through client registries, health information exchanges, and central data repositories. DPI-H aims to improve health outcomes, service delivery, and system efficiency. Successful implementation requires robust governance, technical capacity, core infrastructure, and stakeholder engagement, while addressing challenges like fragmented investments, regulatory gaps, and data governance.

References:

- Vital Wave. Digital Public Infrastructurefor Health: Charting a path to implementation in LMIC health systems. 2023. https://vitalwave.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Digital-Public-Infrastructure-for-Health_20231025.pdf (accessed 30.05. 2024).
- WHO, ITU. National eHealth Strategy Toolkit.Geneva: World Health Organization, 2012.

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