

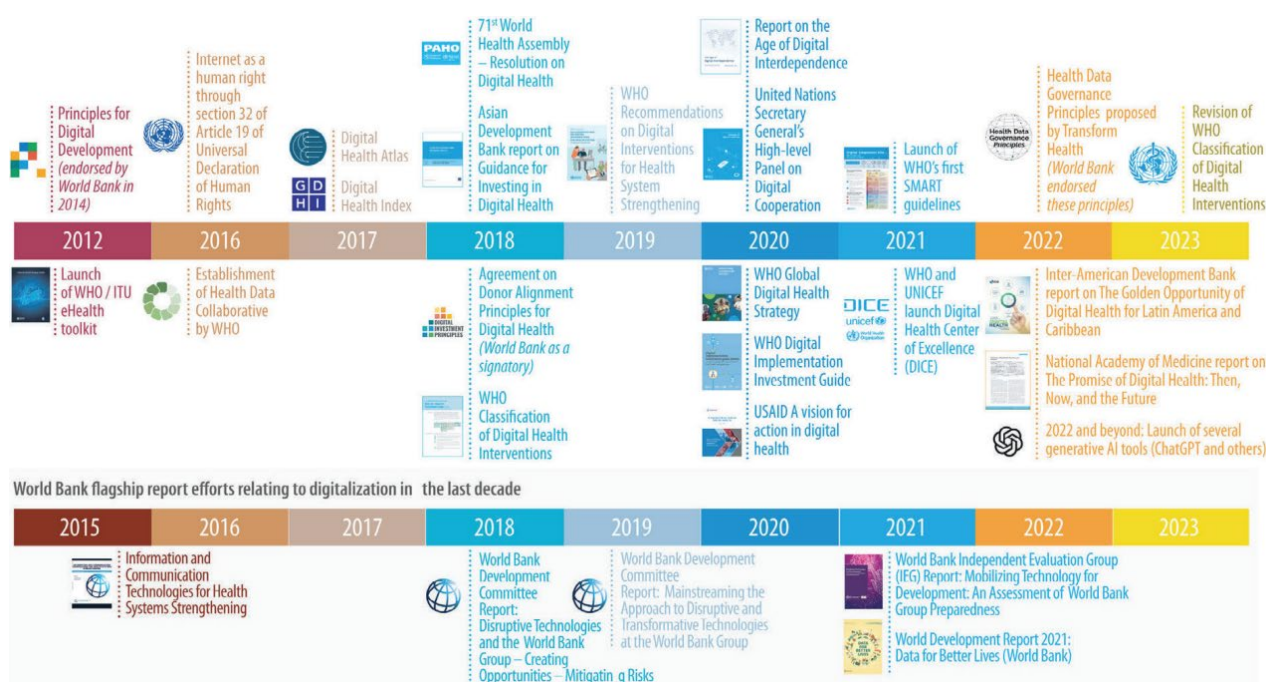
State of the art digital health projects build on existing evidence, and normative guidelines, frameworks, and tools in various areas, ranging from software development to financing and equitable programming. In the context of the GIZ Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control (DIPC) Initiative, the Robert Koch Institute, Germany, has conducted a comprehensive analysis on key digital public health definitions and concepts, and on 75 normative resources for digital health programming 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 (08/20) summarizes the findings on **The Historical Context of Guideline Development**. It traces the milestones in digital health guideline development and their significance for modern system transformation.

Factsheet 08

The Historical Context of Guideline Development



Amid tight fiscal constraints, health systems are under pressure to offer enhanced, high-quality, and integrated services. ICT has expanded rapidly to support health systems and must constantly adapt to technological changes. Regulatory efforts began in 2005 when the World Health Assembly encouraged member states to develop long-term eHealth plans. Initially, eHealth focused on digitalizing health data and creating Health Information Systems (HIS), such as DHIS 2, human resource information systems, and logistics management systems. By the late 2000s, the focus shifted to mHealth, using mobile devices for healthcare delivery. As technology evolved, the scope broadened to digital health, encompassing digital consumers, smart devices, IoT, AI, and big data.



Milestones in the development of digital health and guidelines (Source: Digital-In-Health, World Bank, 2023)

Today, digital health is crucial for achieving UHC and the SDGs, requiring guidelines and frameworks for regulation. A World Bank report (2023) highlights 2012-2022 as a transformative period in digital health, marked by the introduction of the Principles for Digital Development and the release of AI tools like ChatGPT4. During this time, global agreements, resolutions, and guidelines were established to facilitate digital technology adoption in health systems. Significant milestones include the WHO/ITU eHealth toolkit (2012), the Digital Health Atlas and Index (2017), and WHO's Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–2025.

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This is based on [“Navigating the Digital Health Ecosystem: A Review of Key Guidelines, Frameworks, and Tools”](#)

Read the full report [here](#) or scan the QR code

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