

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 (09/20) summarizes the findings on the identified **Guidelines, Frameworks, and Tools for Digital Landscape Assessments** and presents resources for assessing national digital health landscapes, a foundational step in digital health projects.

Factsheet 09

Guidelines Frameworks and Tools for Digital Landscape Assessments



Target Audience

Primary Users: Government bodies, ministries of health, donors, technology developers

Secondary Users: Healthcare providers

Relevance

Digital health landscape assessments (DLAs) should be considered as a crucial first step when approaching digital health projects, programs, or national initiatives. DLAs are critical for:

- Developing a comprehensive understanding of the stakeholder environment
- Understanding a nation's specific health challenges and priorities
- Assessing existing policies and regulations and their integration into the healthcare system
- Determining gaps in the current system

Findings

Number of resources identified: 15

Each resource is designed to be adaptable to the specific context and assessment needs of the respective country, offering flexibility in focus and depth of assessment.

These tools and guidelines have been developed by diverse international organizations including the World Bank, WHO, USAID, UNDP, PAHO, Digital Square, GIZ, and others. They collectively represent a significant effort to guide the development and enhancement of digital health systems. While these resources share the overarching goal of advancing digital health infrastructure, each brings a distinct perspective, methodology, and focal area. A common feature among all reviewed resources is their provision of structured approaches or frameworks for evaluating aspects such as DH infrastructure, interoperability, governance, data management, and service delivery. The review of Digital Health Landscape Assessments (DLAs) has yielded several key findings:

- 1. Systematic Approach and Country Leadership:** It's crucial to tailor DLAs to specific country needs and ideally lead them locally or in close collaboration with relevant ministries. This approach enhances alignment with national digital health strategies, prevents duplication of efforts among partners, and ensures efficient resource allocation.
- 2. Building on Existing Digital Landscape Information:** Utilizing previously gathered country-specific data and datasets from initiatives like Map & Match can streamline assessment processes, optimize resource use, and accelerate progress. Sharing DLA results widely supports future assessments and strengthens the impact of findings, such as through the Digital Health Atlas.
- 3. Country Ownership of Assessment Results:** National governments should take ownership of DLA outcomes to facilitate coordinated DH development. In donor-funded initiatives where government engagement is lacking, international organizations should transfer findings and action points to ensure continuity and capacity building.
- 4. Methodological Flexibility and Integration of Tools:** DLAs employ a variety of tools and methodologies tailored to different aspects of the DH ecosystem. Flexibility in methodology allows for customization according to country-specific needs and promotes comprehensive assessments.
- 5. Integration of Harmonized DLA Results:** Harmonizing DLA outcomes with global DH repositories and standards is critical for effective coordination and learning across countries. Aligning assessment tools with existing global frameworks and taxonomies enhances interoperability and supports global DH initiatives.

6. Harmonization of DLA Guidelines & Tools: Standardized DLA tools empower countries to make informed digital health investments aligned with broader health goals. These tools are particularly beneficial in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), facilitating rapid advancement and adoption of best practices in digital health.

These findings underscore the importance of structured, collaborative, and standardized approaches to DLAs in advancing global digital health agendas.

Guide and Guidelines

Classification of digital interventions, services and applications in health, second edition

Provides common language for stakeholders in the DH sector (to Communicate the use of DH)

Published by: WHO

Year: 2023

Language: English

Navigator for Digital Health Capability Models

Assisting (countries & organizations) in choosing the most suitable digital health maturity models

Published by: Digital Square

Year: 2022

Language: English

Frameworks

Digital Landscape Assessment Framework

Analysis of national digital landscapes in relation of SDGs – not health sector specific

Published by: UNDP

Year: 2021

Language: English

Toolkits

Digital Ecosystem Country Assessment (DECA) Toolkit

Conducting assessments for digital development decision-making

Published by: USAID

Year: 2022

Language: English

Digital Pandemic Preparedness Assessment Tool (DPPA)

Streamlining & Identification digital tools (in a nation's ecosystem)

Published by: Digital Square, GIZ

Year: 2021

Language: English

Digital Health Assessment Toolkit Guide

Assessment of the maturity level of digital health in a country

Published by: World Bank

Year: 2021

Language: English

Health Information System Stages of Continuous Improvement (SOCI) Toolkit

Evaluate & enhance HIS effectiveness

Published by: USAID

Year: 2020

Language: English

Global Digital Health Monitor

Online resource: evaluation of digital health maturity

Published by: GDI & Partners

Year: 2022

Language: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic

National eHealth Strategy Toolkit

Provision of assessment framework

Published by: WHO & ITU

Year: 2012

Language: English, Arabic, Chinese, French

Early Stage Digital Health Investment Tool (EDIT)

A tabular toolkit for early-stage DH ecosystem assessments & fostering of coordinated strategies

Published by: DICE

Year: 2022

Language: English

HIS Interoperability Maturity Model (IMM) Toolkit

Assessing & Improving the interoperability of HIS

Published by: USAID

Year: 2017

Language: English

The Information Systems for Health (IS4H) Toolkit

Evaluate & enhance HIS effectiveness

Published by: WHO/PAHO

Year: 2020

Language: English, Espanol

U.S. President's Malaria Initiative Digital Community Health

To enhance healthcare quality in 27 African countries via digital health platforms.

Published by: USAID, PMI, CDC

Year: 2020

Language: English

Online Repository

Digital Health Atlas

Open-source online-based platform: coordinate global DH initiatives

Published by: WHO

Year: NA

Language: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese

Map & Match Initiative (M&M)

Visual baseline resource for ecosystem mapping

Published by: USAID

Year: NA

Language: English



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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