

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 (14/20) summarizes the findings on the identified **Guidelines, Frameworks, and Tools for Monitoring and Evaluation** and highlights the role of monitoring and evaluation in ensuring the success and improvement of digital health interventions.

Factsheet 14

Guidelines, Frameworks and Tools for Monitoring and Evaluation



Target Audience

Primary Users: Developers, donors, ministries of health

Secondary Users: Healthcare providers, government bodies

Relevance

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in digital health are crucial for several reasons. They provide empirical evidence of the effectiveness of ICT, help identify and resolve issues promptly, and inform resource allocation decisions to maximize impact. M&E also ensures accountability and supports continuous improvement in digital health interventions. Additionally, M&E identifies barriers to adopting digital health technologies, offering insights to overcome them. By tracking usage trends and outcomes, stakeholders can ensure the success of digital health programs. The data collected also aids research and innovation, driving progress in the digital health field.

Findings

Number of resources identified: 7

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in digital health (DH) programs require unique considerations compared to non-digital projects due to their dynamic nature. DH programs evolve through stages, each with changing M&E needs. Initially, they assess alignment with needs, functionality, and feasibility, later focusing on user satisfaction, effectiveness, impact, and cost-effectiveness.

Seven key resources have been identified to aid program planners, implementers, and monitoring teams in navigating DH program cycles by providing valuable suggestions for evaluations and monitoring activities at different development stages.

These resources include WHO's "Monitoring and Evaluating Digital Health Interventions" for foundational guidance, and the Evidence DEFINED Framework, CONSORT-EHEALTH, and iCHECK-DH for evaluating effectiveness and impact. WHO's implementation monitoring guide provides case evidence, while "Recommendations on digital interventions for health system strengthening" offers case studies and evidence to guide M&E activities throughout program development.

Toolkits

The Evidence DEFINED framework

Designed for practical use, which streamlines the assessment of DHIs in four steps with a more technical and methods-oriented content.

Published by: Various Authors

Year: 2023

Language: English

mHealth Evidence Reporting and Assessment (mERA) Checklist

Designed to improve the reporting of mHealth interventions. It outlines essential details for replicating mHealth interventions, including content, context, and technical features.

Published by: WHO

Year: 2016

Language: --

Reporting Trials of Electronic and Mobile Health Applications and On-line Telehealth

CONSORT-EHEALTH extends the established CONSORT statement, offering guidance on reporting trials for eHealth & mHealth interventions.

Published by: Various Authors

Year: 2011

Language: English

iCHECK-DH

A 20-item checklist for reporting digital health implementations, covering areas such as claims, methods, sustainability, and budget planning.

Published by: Various Authors

Year: 2023

Language: English

Framework

Framework for the Economic Evaluation of Digital Health Interventions

A recent (2023) and specialized economic evaluation framework for scaling up DHIs (based on WHO's Classification) within limited health budgets.

Published by: World Bank

Year: 2023

Language: English

Guideline

Monitoring and Evaluating Digital Health Interventions

Specifically for enhancing M&E initiatives in Digital Health (DH). User-friendly and provides the theoretical foundations required.

Published by: WHO

Year: 2016

Language: English

Study

Monitoring the implementation of digital health

Focuses on monitoring the implementation of digital health initiatives, consolidating information from several institutions.

Published by: WHO

Year: 2022

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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