Catalyzing digital transformation
Introducing the Data Use Acceleration and Learning project

Data and digital health tools and approaches can improve health equity, but currently there is a gap in awareness and alignment between the design and implementation of national-level health strategies and the global investment and normative guidance put in place to support these strategies. As a result, the innovation and lessons that emerge at a country level often are not reflected.

Under the Data Use Acceleration and Learning (DUAL) project, PATH and Cooper/Smith will document and amplify learnings from five countries digitalizing their health systems to strengthen the use of health data to achieve health impact. DUAL will share these learnings with governments, implementers, policymakers, and funders to better align financing, normative guidance, and programmatic approaches.

DUAL will share what works (and what doesn't) to achieve digital transformation.

Background

In Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania, digital health partners, including PATH and Cooper/Smith, and country governments are accelerating the digital transformation and use of data within their national health systems with funding support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These countries have demonstrated the impact of dedicated political leadership and robust, consistent stakeholder engagement for achieving digital transformation. As more countries embrace the use of data for health action, the experiences of these countries present a learning opportunity for the larger regional and global community.

Photo: PATH/Gabe Bienczycki

DUAL will help inform and influence the direction of the global health sector by documenting a model of digital transformation for data use based upon these five country experiences, advocating for changes to financing, policy, and implementation to better align with this model.

Approach

DUAL will capture and drive adoption of country learnings three four interlocking phases.

Develop research framework

DUAL will conduct a desk and literature review of existing documentation, publications, and theories of change to develop a data use methodology and framework for engaging five focal countries. To inform the evidence gathering process and define the core components of a model for digital transformation for data use in countries, DUAL will develop a research framework and data collection tools.

Change objectives

Develop research framework

Gather evidence

Develop digital transformation model

Dissemination and advocacy

Oct. 2020–Jan. 2021
- Conduct desk review
- Develop methodology

Feb.–Aug. 2021
- Conduct stakeholder interviews
- Hold cross-country conversations

Aug. 2021–Feb. 2022
- Synthesize findings
- Develop model/toolkit and communication materials

Feb.–July 2022
- Engage and build awareness of model with key stakeholders

Uptake of digital transformation model.

Greater coordination between governments, investors, and implementers.

Increased supportive normative guidance for digital transformation for data use.

Stakeholder engagement
Continuous engagement to ensure buy-in and build digital ambassadors

Expert consultation
Technical consultation

Advisory group
Digital health influencers and leaders

Broad sharing with stakeholders
Funders, policymakers, implementers, countries

Gather evidence

DUAL will collect and prioritize findings from these five countries and other relevant digital health case studies. Lessons will be captured, vetted, and refined in key informant interviews, virtual discussions, and online forums through a participatory process.

DUAL will identify critical success factors, tools, and approaches from these five countries to help other governments and key stakeholders sustainably improve health information systems by creating a country-driven digital health agenda.

Develop digital transformation model

After a thorough evidence-gathering process, we will distill the lessons and experiences captured into a toolkit for digital transformation. The toolkit will be a practical, comprehensive guide on ways to plan for and implement the enabling components of a digital transformation model based on country context and the current state of digital health systems.

Lessons will be packaged into accessible and actionable materials to drive momentum and encourage application. These may include policy and funding model recommendations, advocacy briefs with guidance for national governments, and investment frameworks.

Dissemination and advocacy

DUAL will prioritize stakeholder engagement from the onset. We will work with experts and advisors to inform and vet evidence and identify digital and data champions to be ambassadors for DUAL's digital transformation model. In addition to building country awareness about how to implement the model, we will also engage funders, policymakers, and other stakeholders to reflect innovations and country lessons in global policies, the design of future interventions, and funding mechanisms.

DRIVING ADOPTION OF COUNTRY LEARNINGS

DUAL will develop a model for digital transformation for data use that will help replicate country lessons and best practices for a wide range of constituencies. DUAL envisions a future in which all digital health stakeholders work systematically and in collaboration with one another to help countries digitally transform their health systems in keeping with their health targets, digital maturity, and current best practices, thereby saving lives and improving the health of people around the world.

DUAL

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PATH

COOPER/SMITH

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