Who we are

PATH-led initiative that is advancing digitally enabled health services around the world to help close the health equity gap.

Global team with a robust and diverse skillset based in 10+ countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Africa, Switzerland, and the U.S.

What we do

The challenge:
At least half of the world’s population cannot obtain essential health services.

The opportunity:
Digital interventions can play a key role in extending the reach and quality of health services, improving health access and outcomes.

Our work:
Digital Square’s resources, coalitions, and its portfolio of mature digital public goods for health (global goods) support large-scale, high-quality, sustainable implementations of digital health interventions.

Visit Digital Square’s website: https://digitalsquare.org.

Digital Square brings partners together to advance health equity through digital transformation.

Digital Square is a PATH-led initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and a consortium of other partners.

Since 2016, Digital Square at PATH has worked with ministries of health to align adaptable, interoperable digital technologies with local health needs. Digital Square does this by:

- Providing technical assistance to local stakeholders who are executing digital health initiatives.
- Strengthening national-level digital health expertise to enable sustainable implementation.
- Promoting the development, adoption, and reuse of mature digital public goods for health (global goods), and advancing their availability, adaptability, and scalability.
- Fostering alignment to improve how countries and the global health community design, use, and pay for digital health tools and approaches.
- Developing and curating resources to support the global digital health implementation ecosystem.

The Digital Square initiative grew out of lessons learned during the Ebola outbreak from 2014-2016 in West Africa, where the fragmented and uncoordinated use of digital tools complicated response efforts. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need for digital tools to support the collection and use of health data, and it has underscored the importance of coordination in the digital health sector. Digital Square provides a mechanism to foster alignment and coordination among investors, implementers, and innovators to reinforce one another in hearing, understanding, and supporting country priorities.

Over the past five years, Digital Square has raised more than $100M from 15 investors to catalyze a range of digital health investments, including the development and maturation of digital health global goods that are readily adaptable at scale. These global goods are used in more than 130 countries and showcased in Digital Square’s Global Goods Guidebook. Digital Square’s investment in 38 global goods has led to increased maturity for 16 software systems.

The advancement of global goods is crucial for saving lives and improving health around the world because these free and open-source digital health tools can be used across different countries and health program verticals, cutting down on fragmentation and duplication to accelerate scale and health impact.
This is Digital Square’s global footprint:

The world of digital health is (still) rife with redundant investments, lack of integration between healthcare datasets, wasted dollars, and unsustainable projects. Digital Square works in these three main areas to address the upstream causes of these problems:

- Generate a strong, shared evidence base to guide investment decisions.
- Align funding with global policies and evidence-based best practices.
- Advocate for our investors and the private sector to support digital technologies in low-resource contexts.
- Co-create investments to facilitate a robust procurement process and ease coordination among investors.
- Govern with an ethos of inclusion and transparency to foster a neutral, trusted marketplace.

- Allocate global good investments through an open application process.
- Provide rigorous, pragmatic technical oversight on investments.
- Serve as a community manager by connecting the global goods community to each other and to country efforts.
- Advise on standards development and technical ecosystem design to encourage at-scale adoptability.
- Coordinate with WHO and others to streamline approval of digital public goods for health.

- Partner with regional and country digital health leaders to successfully lead and execute digital health transformation initiatives to strengthen the health system through contextualized technical assistance platforms.
- Support the maturation of local markets and health systems to understand, identify, and sustain global goods for localized adoption and use.
- Coordinate resources and expertise from multiple investors to support country and regional digital health initiatives.