

Digital Health

Accelerating access to quality healthcare in low-resource settings to save lives of pregnant women and children

Vision

Terre des hommes foundation (Tdh) is recognised as a key player and trusted partner of choice by national governments and global health stakeholders for the implementation and the scale up of digital health solutions as a means to develop, strengthen, and sustain health systems and support equitable and universal access to good quality health services.

Mission

Tdh integrates digital solutions into all its health interventions to accelerate impact and improve prompt and affordable access to good quality health services for a sustainable reduction of maternal, newborn, and child diseases and mortality in low- and middle-income countries. Tdh leverages its experience of digital health and its extended strategic partnerships by piloting, evaluating, and bringing to scale new digital health solutions at community and primary healthcare level.



Values

Tdh seeks to use the most appropriate technologies and methodologies. To execute its work and adheres to four closely connected values:

- Technical excellence through user-centric design, applying international standards, protocols, and validated tools.
- Focused on impact thereby ensuring digital technology remains a means to attain the objective of reducing mortality and morbidity of children and their mothers at a large scale.
- Building integrated solutions that can interoperate with existing digital ecosystem and that are embedded into the local health system (eg: DHIS2 interoperability, FHIR compliant).
- Design & build for scale that is a complete end to end solution, and replicable across geographies.

Occupying various roles in the value chain

Design of Solution **Transfer Deployment** Scale up development programme Integrated into the health policy Piloting and evaluation Identification **Functional** Tech-transfer of and non-functional of needs platform at scale requirements Ideation of solutions Proof of concept Know-how Adaptation to and staff set up **Identification of** specific contexts partners and donors Approach to boost

Added value

For over 60 years, Tdh has been striving to ensure the right of every child to grow up healthy. In the last decade, Tdh has been providing the best possible access to quality care for newborns, children under five, and their mothers in rural and semi-urban areas of Africa and Asia. We have been integrating digital health since 2010, which is at the heart of Tdh's Health Theory of Change and Tdh's Institutional Strategy.

In 2022, over 5.5 million children and members of their families benefited from Tdh's health activities powered by digital health tools. Research studies demonstrate that Tdh's digital health solution (Integrated e-Diagnostic Approach – IeDA) has a significant impact on the performance of healthcare workers

improving diagnosis and treatment along with a high level of adherence to standard clinical protocols. In consequence, IeDA contributes to the rational use of antibiotics reducing the risk of antimicrobial resistance.

Tdh is also one of the pioneers to explore the use of artificial intelligence in its interventions while promoting ethical use and equitable access to digital technologies. Our work in digital health is recognised globally today as a best practice to follow as shown by international publications and our participation in relevant networks (Geneva Digital Health Hub, Transform Health Coalition, among others).

Graphical representation of digital health SWOT at Tdh



Strengths

Strong adaptation and contextualisation of digital tools

Anticipated integration of tools into national policies

Embedding of tools in approaches that maximise their use



Weaknesses

High technological dependency

Weak interoperable tools

Limited technical and human resources for tool development

Low adaptability of tools



Opportunities

Standardisation of the sector

Multiplicity of specialised players

Growing volume of funding for digital health

Growing adaptation of our state partners

Localised development of technical hosting infrastructures and policies



Threats

Emergence of specialised actors with strong

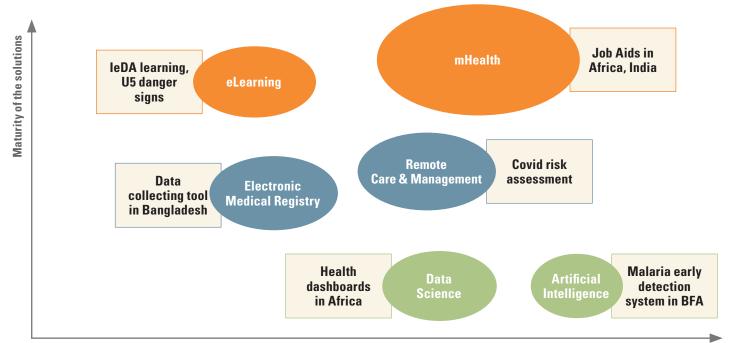
Decline in the economic competitiveness of our digital health approaches

Approaches

- Digital health at Tdh is not an end in itself but a means to strengthen health systems and reach out in a more effective and efficient manner to deliver quality health services to its target populations. This makes Tdh's digital tools tailored to the needs of the community and the best fit for enhanced user experience.
- The digital tools of Tdh have been developed by mixed teams of health specialists, scientists, researchers, data experts, local teams, health authorities, and internal developers bringing in a diverse perspective and a holistic solution design mechanism.
- Tdh's short development phase allows swift deployment of the first version of the tools and to improve them through an iterative improvement process that feeds on feedback from users and their needs.

- Tdh works closely with the Ministries of Health in respective countries of intervention starting from the project design until scale up with the purpose to **promote** local ownership. This close association with the public health system ensures influence on conducive national policies, facilitates sustainable financing of the digital solutions and their future absorption in the health system.
- Tdh approaches digital health in a holistic way by seeking to maximise the use of tools through localisation and a strong field presence to train users (more than 7,000 healthcare workers trained), encourage them to adopt the tools, promote creation of communities of practice and inculcating community acceptance and feedback sharing.
- Tdh will continue to work in collaboration with recognised organisations, technological companies, and academia, at international, regional, national, and local levels, who complement Tdh for the use and improvement of tools in data science and performance monitoring.

Prime domains that drive Tdh's digital health



Estimated user base (globally)

Potential impact on health



Best in class digitalised protocols

- Mother and child < 5
- Primary and community health systems
- Prevention and therapeutics

Effective solutions deployment and adoption

- Staff training and adoption
- Ability to scale up nationwide

Strategic design of health systems digitalisation

- Advisory to health authorities
- User-centric design

Continuous system performance by data exploitation

- Data-driven policy decision making
- Effective and timely interventions (crises)

Ambitions

With an innovation focus and working in challenging contexts, Tdh has developed and successfully scaled digital solutions for over a decade. Tdh aims to leverage its 60 years of community connect and its presence in more than 30 countries to scale digital health to reach 10 million beneficiaries in the next three years with improved quality of care, better diagnostics, enhanced data utilisation and upgraded evidence-based decision-making in the health system. Tdh's ambition will be fuelled in the four following areas:

- Expand digital health solutions from primary healthcare to community and national levels
- ▶ Replicate to other countries and continents (from Africa and Asia to Europe and MENA region) in targeted contexts and needs by promoting cross-learning, partnering with local organisations, and promoting localisation
- ▶ Build on the development and humanitarian nexus, especially in the context of protracted crise.
- ▶ Facilitate access to digital platforms for the implementation of new health technologies and predictive analytics for evidence-based decision-making while respecting data protection policies

Partners and Donors





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