

The digital health strategy for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) is a key component of the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean's vision for the future. It aims to harness the power of digital technologies to improve health systems, services, and outcomes, and to address the region's unique challenges. The strategy is built on the following pillars:

Digitalization (digitalization) – The process of converting analog information into digital format, enabling it to be stored, processed, and transmitted electronically. This includes digitizing health records, laboratory data, and other health information. Digitalization is the foundation for digital health, as it enables the use of digital technologies to improve health systems and services.

Another key pillar is **Digital Health Services**, which focuses on using digital technologies to deliver health services more effectively and efficiently. This includes telemedicine, mobile health (mHealth), and digital health platforms. Digital health services can improve access to care, reduce costs, and increase the quality of care. For example, telemedicine can enable patients to consult with their doctors remotely, and mHealth can provide patients with timely health advice and reminders. Digital health platforms can integrate data from different health systems, enabling a more holistic view of the patient's health.

The third pillar is **Digital Health Systems**, which focuses on using digital technologies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health systems. This includes digital health registries, decision support systems, and digital health infrastructure. Digital health systems can improve the flow of information, reduce errors, and enhance the coordination of care. For example, digital health registries can provide a comprehensive view of a patient's health history, and decision support systems can help clinicians make better clinical decisions. Digital health infrastructure, such as secure digital health networks, is essential for the successful implementation of digital health services and systems.

Finally, the fourth pillar is **Digital Health Governance**, which focuses on ensuring that digital health is implemented in a secure, ethical, and equitable manner. This includes developing digital health policies, standards, and regulations, and ensuring that digital health is accessible to all. Digital health governance is essential for building trust in digital health services and systems, and for ensuring that digital health is used to improve health for all people in the region. This involves addressing issues such as data privacy, security, and digital health equity.

The digital health strategy for the Eastern Mediterranean Region is a comprehensive and ambitious plan that aims to transform health systems and services through the use of digital technologies. It is built on four key pillars: digitalization, digital health services, digital health systems, and digital health governance. By implementing this strategy, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean hopes to improve the health and well-being of all people in the region.

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