



## 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>.

## The Digital Health Applied Leadership Program: Building a new cadre of digital health leaders

Country governments around the world are committed to using digital technologies to improve their health systems, increase access to health data, and advance health equity. Strengthening digital health knowledge and leadership skills across the health workforce is key to scaling up digital health systems. But there have not been any programs focused on building the professional and institutional capacity within government, and promoting the level of interagency participation, leadership, and coordination required to enable digital transformation for health systems strengthening. The Digital Health Applied Leadership Program (DHALP) is designed to address this challenge.

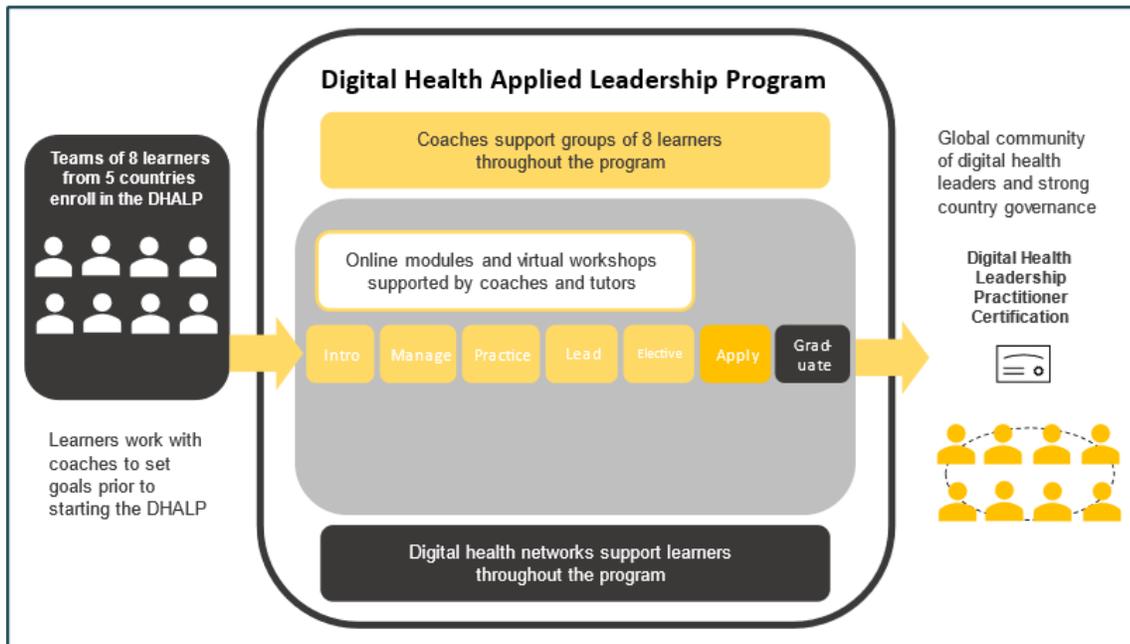
The DHALP launched in 2021 as a year-long learning program that enhances participants' capacity to successfully lead and execute digital health programs. Designed with a comprehensive leadership curriculum for a diverse cohort of learners, the DHALP consists of core online courses, workshops, instruction from tutors, and guidance from country-specific coaches who support participants in planning and delivering a country team project designed to build digital health capacity across participating countries. This model provides opportunities for learners to reflect on and apply their new knowledge and skills, while also sharing their experiences with a peer group during regular meetings with their tutors and coaches.

**At an individual level**, learners who complete the DHALP receive a digital health leader practitioner certificate, demonstrating that they have acquired the relevant skills and knowledge to implement, scale, and sustain digital health interventions. In addition, they will have gained an understanding of how to build inclusive teams, articulate a strategy, advocate for resources, and collaborate effectively across departments, as well as with donors and other partners. **At the country level**, teams of learners gain the necessary skills and experience to strengthen governance structures required to drive robust, country-owned digital health programs. **At the global level**, the DHALP establishes a network of practitioners who can continue learning from each other and advocate for the policies and resources needed from multilateral institutions, donors, and the private sector to advance global digital health.

The concept of the DHALP was co-created at the November 2019 *Digital Health Leadership Capacity Building Conference* by representatives from 17 low- and middle-income country governments, the World Health Organization (WHO), investors, and educators. With Digital Square's support, the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) is currently implementing the DHALP for Africa-based participants with a consortium that includes the University of Thies, the Stanford Center for Health Education, and Inshuti Mu Buzima-Partners in Health. Other partners are the World Bank, and TechChange.



## This is the DHALP's learning framework:



The DHALP prioritizes training in the technical concepts and leadership and planning skills needed to steer national digital health stakeholders. Key aspects of its robust design include:

### Meticulous country and participant selection

Two main goals guide the criteria for both country and participant selection when it comes to enhancement of digital health capacity: scaling up within a country and scaling across a region. The DHALP recruits mid- to senior-level managers and leaders from national and subnational levels who are working in areas relevant to digital health. A minimum of four participants per country team come directly from digital health decision-making bodies within governments at the national level.

### Active and continuous learning with both individual attention and peer exchange

The training program consists of several online modules, tutoring for six months of the training, and coaching all year to support the planning, implementation, evaluation, and presentation of a digital health capacity building project from each of the five country teams.

### Rigorous standards for expertise and involvement from coaches

Coaches are recruited from a wide pool of experts suggested by consortium collaborators, in consultation with participating country stakeholders and Digital Square. Each country team is assigned a coach for the duration of the training program who has expert knowledge of the country's digital health capacity, and the specific digital health system and stakeholders in the assigned country.

### Digital Square seeks continued partnership in growing the DHALP

Donors and stakeholders are working with us to replicate and scale the DHALP curriculum for additional cohorts in other regions. For more information about the DHALP and to discuss partnership opportunities, please contact Lauren Wall at Digital Square ([lw@path.org](mailto:lw@path.org)).

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