



The Digital Health Applied Leadership Program

BUILDING A NEW CADRE OF DIGITAL HEALTH LEADERS

Piloted in 2021, the Digital Health Applied Leadership program (DHALP) is an executive training program that enhances participants' capacity to successfully lead and execute digital health programs. With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), BACKUP Health, and partners like the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, and TechChange, the pilot program trained 42 leaders from four countries in planning digital health systems, management, and leadership. In an evaluation, participants indicated the relevance and practicality of training, increase in knowledge, confidence, application of concepts, and institutionalization of learning within the ministry. The program is currently (2025) being implemented in Burkina Faso, Rwanda and Zambia to 60 mid-level digital health leaders.

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The Digital Health Applied Leadership Program (DHALP): Overview

Overview: A 6-month learning and leadership coaching program to prepare participants to successfully create and lead digital health transformation initiatives for health systems strengthening.

Target audience: Digital health leaders who are involved in the planning, procurement, and implementation of digital health strategies at a national level and are committed to advancing digital health transformation.

Training components:

- Digital Health: Planning National Systems course
- Leadership training and 1-1 coaching
- Cross-country peer exchange & learning
- Digital health applied learning project
- Community of practice
- Elective deep dives
- Global peer & alumni network
- Technical mentorship
- Applied learning project showcase

Learning outcomes:

- Lead digital health transformation by applying system-level approaches.
- Evaluate and implement appropriate resources, guidelines, toolkits, and best practices to plan, implement, and evaluate digital health activities.
- Identify health systems challenges and analyze and prioritize digital health investments to address such challenges.
- Develop plans and strategies for scalable, sustainable, and interoperable digital health solutions.
- Apply the value of data exchange standards and cybersecurity and their impacts.
- Mobilize multi-sector stakeholders, partnerships, and resources to achieve objectives.
- Navigate complex environments of multi-sector stakeholders to mobilize the resources necessary to achieve objectives.

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