

## CHECKLIST FOR DIGITAL HEALTH INVESTMENTS

Donor investment continues to play a major role in funding digital health systems in low- and middle-income countries. Recent research and analysis on digital health market dynamics and the role of funders shows that the way they approach and structure investments plays a critical role in fostering long-term scale and sustainability in line with a country's digital health vision and strategy. We intend this checklist as a tool for decision makers to ensure that their investments align with the [Principles for Digital Development](#) and the [Principles of Donor Alignment for Digital Health](#), maximize return, and promote a healthy digital health ecosystem.

### Checklist

The checklist comprises questions that decision makers within funding organizations would do well to inquire about before approving a digital health investment. These questions also serve as a guide to organizations developing investment proposals. Answering these questions in the proposal will strengthen funding opportunities and mitigate implementation risks.

- Does the proposal reference and articulate a planned contribution to relevant national, regional and global digital health strategies?
- Do relevant national, regional and global governing bodies demonstrate ownership over the work described in the proposal, specifically by (1) endorsing how the proposal adheres and/or aligns with the strategic plan(s) laid out by that governing body, and (2) endorsing how the proposal articulates their role as overall owner of the work?
- Does the proposal successfully link disease- or domain-focused investments to national digital transformation strategies, providing a credible roadmap to extending investment benefits beyond a single program or domain?
- Is the solution designed for interoperability with existing country digital health systems? Does it align with the country's digital health architecture?
- Does the proposal include a digital health maturity assessment or plans to conduct one to inform appropriate systems design?
- Does the proposal include a well-designed user needs assessment or plans to conduct one to inform appropriate systems design?
- Does the proposal incorporate existing solutions (e.g., digital global goods) OR provide an evidence-based justification for investing in a brand new digital innovation (e.g., a landscaping assessment that reveals a need unmet by existing solutions)?
- Does the proposal incorporate country initiatives to strengthen capacity and de-risk implementation success and sustainability? In particular,
  - By supporting relevant governing bodies to achieve digital health learning objectives and drive decision making for the proposed work?

- By partnering with local organizations for implementation and long-term support of the digital health initiative?
- Have relevant governing bodies and co-investors aligned on what the total cost of ownership is for this investment, how they will finance those costs, and what the financing plan is for expenditures expected to extend beyond the term of the investment?
- Is there a solid M&E plan that reflects indicators of health outcomes and demonstrations of cost savings or efficiencies?