YO.DH
Youth Ownership
of Digital Health

AN OVERVIEW OF

YOUTH OWNERSHIP OF DIGITAL HEALTH (YO.DH)

CONNECT. CREATE. COLLABORATE

FOREWORD

As digital transformation reshapes health care globally, the importance of preparing and empowering the next generation of digital health leaders has never been more urgent.
I am pleased that PATH launched the Youth Ownership of Digital Health (YO.DH) initiative, with the support of the Gates Foundation and other key partners. YO.DH is a first-of-its-kind effort to build a vibrant, youth-led global community committed to shaping inclusive and future-ready digital health systems.

At its heart, YO.DH recognizes that youth are digital catalysts to improving access to health. In less than two years, this initiative has grown into one of the largest global Communities of Practice for digital health professionals under 35, spanning over 44 countries. YO.DH reflects a bold shift toward decentralized, peer-driven leadership that values equity, collaboration, and shared ownership.

Looking ahead, YO.DH envisions itself as the go-to global platform for young digital health professionals—connecting, creating, and collaborating across borders.

This report captures YO.DH's journey, impact, and vision for the future. It also serves as an invitation to institutions, policymakers, funders, and innovators to join us in supporting the next generation of digital health leaders. YO.DH is expanding and plans to operationalize local and regional chapters and embed sustainable governance led by community members.

YO.DH is seeking long-term institutional backing to reach the most vulnerable and improve health outcomes, with the power of technology and digital health. Together, we can create systems that are technologically advanced, inclusive, equitable, and driven by those who will shape the world tomorrow.

Neeraj Jain
Director Growth Operations, Asia,
Middle East & Europe (AMEE)
PATH

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgent need for resilient digital systems, particularly within health care. It reinforced a global consensus on the potential of digital health technologies to address systemic gaps, improve health outcomes, and build future-ready health systems. Youth, as digital natives, play a critical role as digital innovations continue to reshape health care. Their ability to leverage technology for social good positions them at the forefront of this transformation, making it vital to nurture them as next-generation digital health leaders equipped with the right knowledge, networks, skills, and representation opportunities.

To address this gap, PATH, with support from the Gates Foundation and partners including International Innovation Corps, Digital Square, and WomenLift Health, launched the Youth Ownership of Digital Health (YO.DH) initiative in July 2023.

YO.DH is a volunteer-led community for digital health professionals aged 35 and under, created to build leadership capacity, foster peer networks, and create a platform for knowledge exchange. The initiative rests on three key pillars: community engagement, capacity-building, and networking, all aimed at nurturing young, well-informed, and responsible digital health leaders.

In 18 months, YO.DH has grown into a thriving, self-sustaining community of over 1000 members, representing 44 countries and 170 cities. The community prides itself on its gender-inclusive approach, with women constituting 51% of its membership. Members hail from diverse sectors, including civil society organizations, consulting firms, start-ups, non-profits, and government bodies.

The community operates based on the principles of Communities of Practice, fostering collaboration, shared learning, and ownership among its members. Its democratic structure ensures broad participation and leadership development, facilitated by a Secretariat, a 19-member core committee comprising members from India and Africa, and rolling cohorts of ambassadors or volunteers serving as champions for youth engagement in digital health.

YO.DH offers seven hybrid initiatives, combining online and offline engagement to ensure accessibility and inclusivity. These provide continuous opportunities for not only knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration but also strengthening community bonds and fostering deeper interpersonal connections. The initiatives have been developed in sync with the members' expectations of YO.DH and continuously refined based on their evolving needs.

The initiative has received overwhelming support from young digital health professionals, whose active participation reflects YO.DH's potential to bridge the existing gaps in the sector, as well as from ecosystem partners who have stepped forward to support the community by sharing their expertise and wisdom. Building on this momentum and the widespread support received, YO.DH has recognized the need to set up localized hubs and expand its reach to a broader audience. As a result, we have launched an exclusive Africa chapter and are looking to partner with institutions to launch student chapters, enabling greater collaboration, leadership development, and global exposure.

Looking ahead, YO.DH aspires to be a leading, go-to forum for digital health practitioners, experts, recruiters, and enthusiasts. The initiative's success will be measured by its ability to advocate for youth representation, nurture future leaders, and foster a vibrant, engaged community committed to advancing digital health inclusively and equitably.

CONSTANTLY ADAPTING

CONNECTED MEMBERS FROM DIVERSE ORGANIZATIONS, PROFESSIONS, AND GEOGRAPHIES TO CREATE A COMMUNITY OF YOUNG DIGITAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

44 + COUNTRIES
170 + CITIES

1000+ DIGITAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

UNIFIED PROFESSIONALS INTO A THRIVING COMMUNITY OF LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE

CREATED A GENDER-INCLUSIVE PLATFORM
51% WOMEN MEMBERS

YO.DH COLLABORATES WITH SEVERAL GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS, ATTRACTING EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES. THE YO.DH AFRICA CHAPTER WAS LAUNCHED IN MAY 2025

I AM A YODHA!
ME TOO!
BUSINESS CARD

NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MAY 2025

TOOK INPUTS AND INCORPORATED COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON INITIATIVES AND OFFERINGS

DIVERSE & UNIFIED...

THE COMMUNITY HAS A TWO-WAY ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM WHERE THE SECRETARIAT IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE MEMBERS AND VICE-VERSA

FOR AMBASSADORS AND CORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, THERE ARE CHECKS AND BALANCES SUCH AS THE BUDDY CALLS AND WEEKLY CALLS. THEY ARE APPRISED OF UPDATES AND UPCOMING PLANS AND THEIR ADVICE IS SOUGHT.

WEEKLY CHECK-IN

ACCOUNTABILITY

PEER TO PEER

CONNECT

COLLABORATE

SELF-SUSTAINING IN THE FUTURE

CREATE

HOLISTIC APPROACH

THE WAY FORWARD

JULY 2023

PROVIDED A PLATFORM TO CONNECT MEMBERS WITH PEERS AND ENGAGE WITH INITIATIVES.

PARTNERED WITH 45+ ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS TO CO-DEVELOP COMMUNITY OFFERINGS, EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

MANY OF THESE RESOURCES ALSO EXIST ON THE YO.DH WEBSITE AND APP

INCREASE KNOWLEDGE
BUILD CAPACITY
NETWORK

EXPOSURE TO THE DIGITAL HEALTH ECOSYSTEM

7 INITIATIVES

YO.DH FEST
5 EVENTS

YO.DH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
59 LEADERS

YO.DH DIALOGUE
14 PODCASTS

YO.DH CHARCHA
10 WEBINARS

YO.DH ADDA
8 SESSIONS

YO.DH DISCOVERY
3 FACILITIES

YO.DH CONNECT
TO BE LAUNCHED SOON

CAPACITY BUILDING

NEWSLETTER

LEADERSHIP BUILDING

YOUTH REPRESENTATION

YO.DH FEST

MADE THE COMMUNITY TO BE A SAFE SPACE FOR MEMBERS TO SHARE IDEAS, HOLD DISCUSSIONS, AND SEEK SUPPORT

FACILITATED COLLABORATION AMONG COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND COLLABORATED WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND WORKSHOPS

WANT TO DO...

INTRODUCTION

> Change happens at the speed of trust. The vision of YO.DH is to cultivate an inclusive community that organically brings together diverse voices and efforts by the youth to strengthen capacity to harness digital and AI as a catalyst and enabler for delivering quality and timely health services across India and beyond. The platform aspires to create a safe space for young leaders in digital health from academia, research, start-ups, NPOs/NGOs, strategy and implementation, government, technology, and medical fields to foster connections, facilitate cross-learning, gain mentorship, and promote gender intentionality as they advance their careers and amplify contributions contextually in digital health.
>
> **Anaita Singh**
>
> **Senior Officer, Integrated Portfolio Management, Digital Health Innovation & AI, Gates Foundation**

CENTER STAGING YOUTH IN DIGITAL HEALTH: A VITAL NEED

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the adoption of digital health became ubiquitous. Telemedicine platforms were used globally for remote medical consultations, and digital media platforms were widely employed to track and deliver resources such as vaccines, medications, and ambulatory care. In the aftermath of the pandemic, the critical need for digital systems and tools in health care became glaringly evident. Digital technologies proved to be a promising solution to resolve and address the limitations, gaps, and challenges of the health care system that the pandemic had revealed. In the post-pandemic landscape, digital innovations have become pivotal in reshaping health care systems and improving outcomes, with technology integration in health care holding great promise. Digital health adoption continues to accelerate, as more than 120 member states develop strategies and policies around eHealth.[1] Additionally, the advent of generative AI has further broadened the horizons of digital advancements in health care.

India has taken the lead in fostering a conducive environment for digital health. It has the world's second-largest digital health ecosystem and received the second-highest venture capital funding for digital health in the Asia-Pacific region over the last decade.[2] As the country embraces digital transformation, it is imperative to leverage the potential of youth to innovate digital health technologies and prepare the next generation of digital health leaders to drive innovation and effectively utilize digital tools to address future health challenges. Furthermore, there is a need to bridge the skewed representation opportunities in decision-making spaces by involving more young people to be at the forefront of digital transformation. Recognizing this gap, PATH, with the support of the Gates Foundation and other partners, including International Innovation Corps, Digital Square, and WomenLift Health, established the Youth Ownership of Digital Health (YO.DH) initiative in July 2023.

Young practitioners and professionals, as digital natives, have a unique advantage in steering this transformation, given their inherent technological fluency and savviness. This positions youth both as beneficiaries and as active participants in the ongoing digital health revolution. However, youth need to be strategically positioned to take advantage of this burgeoning digital health sector and harness its transformative potential. Young professionals aspiring for careers in digital health need access to mentoring, opportunities, and platforms for representation and peer engagement in cross-learning. Upskilling youth in the context of digital health empowers them with skillsets that not only are relevant to the sector but also create a cadre of empowered health care professionals who contribute to strengthening health systems overall.

[1] Global strategy on digital health 2020-2025, WHO
[2] India's Digital Health Ecosystem: Opportunities and Challenges for Investors, 2024

ABOUT YO.DH

YO.DH is a global, volunteer-driven community of digital health professionals aged 35 and under. The initiative aims to foster young leaders who can advance and leverage digital health solutions to address emerging health challenges. It equips them with technical digital health competencies and knowledge, broadens their networks and connections, and bolsters their leadership capabilities.

These objectives premise the mission, vision, and goal of the initiative.

MISSION

The mission is to empower young digital health professionals with greater representation, knowledge, and networks, enabling them to be well-informed, innovative, and responsible digital health leaders in digital health.

VISION

The vision is to empower young professionals in the digital health sector to lead the community.

GOAL

The primary goal is to encourage the next generation of leaders to leverage technology to enhance health care accessibility, affordability, quality, and knowledge.

YO.DH is held up by the following pillars, which engender the activities and offerings of the community:

NETWORKING

YO.DH enables members to connect and engage with experts at the forefront of digital health and other emerging digital health professionals.

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Young community members receive tailored exposure to the digital health ecosystem to enrich their knowledge and inspire creativity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Members are encouraged to interact with fellow community peers to connect, create, and collaborate.

OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

The primary funding grant for YO.DH was given by the Gates Foundation. The initiative is also supported by the International Innovation Corps, Digital Square, and WomenLift Health, with the community's primary custodianship currently held by PATH.

In addition to these primary program partners, YO.DH has partnered and collaborated with over 40 organizations and institutions pro bono to curate different events, workshops, knowledge products, resources, and representation opportunities. Over time, some of these organizations have become close collaborators, working closely with YO.DH to chart pathways for more substantial collaboration opportunities. This has helped build a partner ecosystem with organizations that share YO.DH's values and vision and support the community by offering their platforms and resources.

KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

These partners contributed to YO.DH's ever-growing knowledge repository on digital health and public health. They participated in our knowledge-building initiatives, such as guest speakers for our podcasts and webinars, co-hosting joint excursions to digital centers of excellence, authoring blogs and articles, etc.
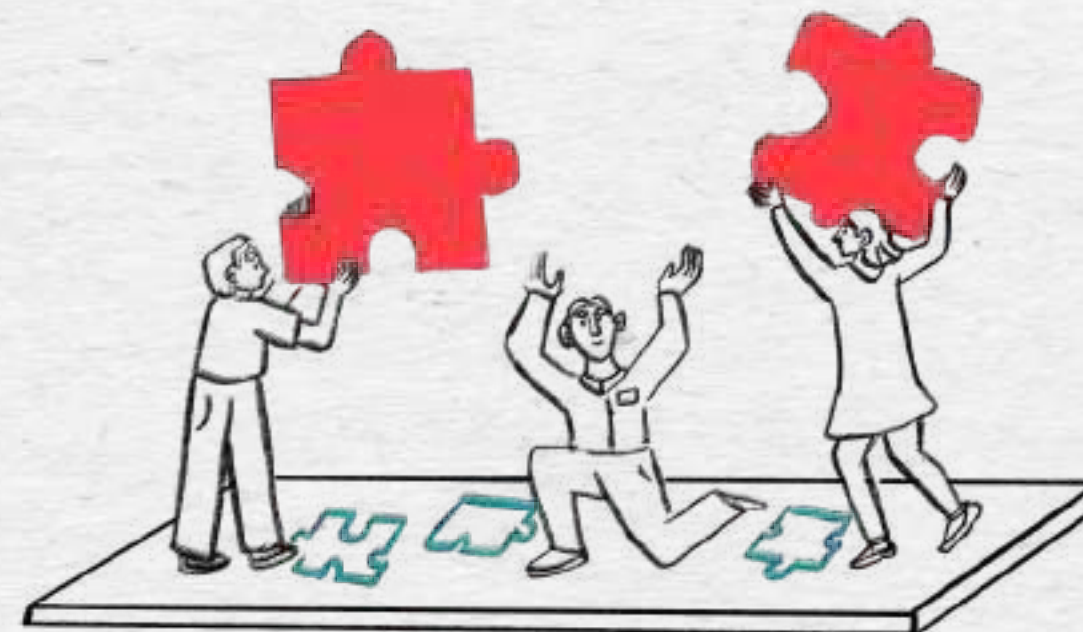
STRATEGIC PARTNER

These partners shared our core commitments to inculcate practices of leadership excellence and build technical capacity among young digital health professionals. They provided insights on strategic manouvers. These included steering the community, offering exclusive opportunities to YO.DH members, exchanging sustainability plans and mutual opportunities, etc. among other strategic efforts.
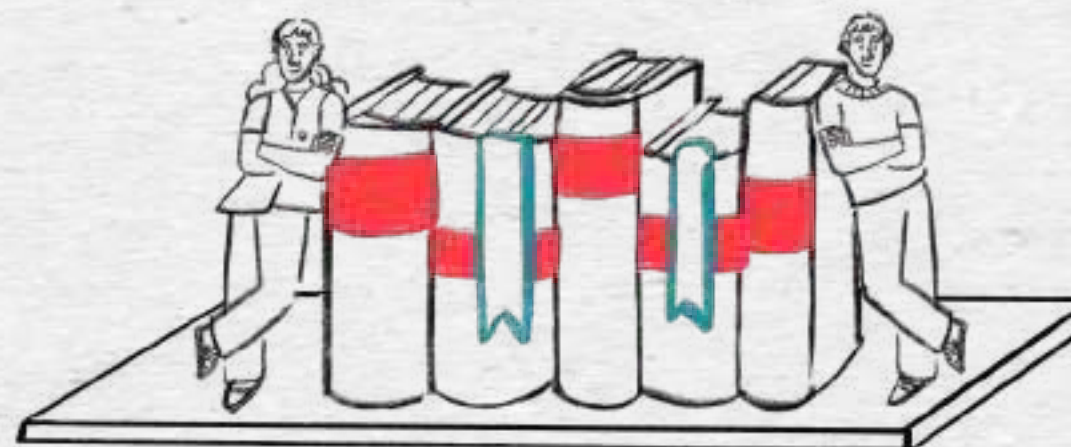
CAPACITY-BUILDING PARTNER

These partners contributed to YO.DH's skill-building initiatives by curating workshops and masterclasses on technical skill-building themes, including design thinking principles, grant-writing, strategic communication, etc.
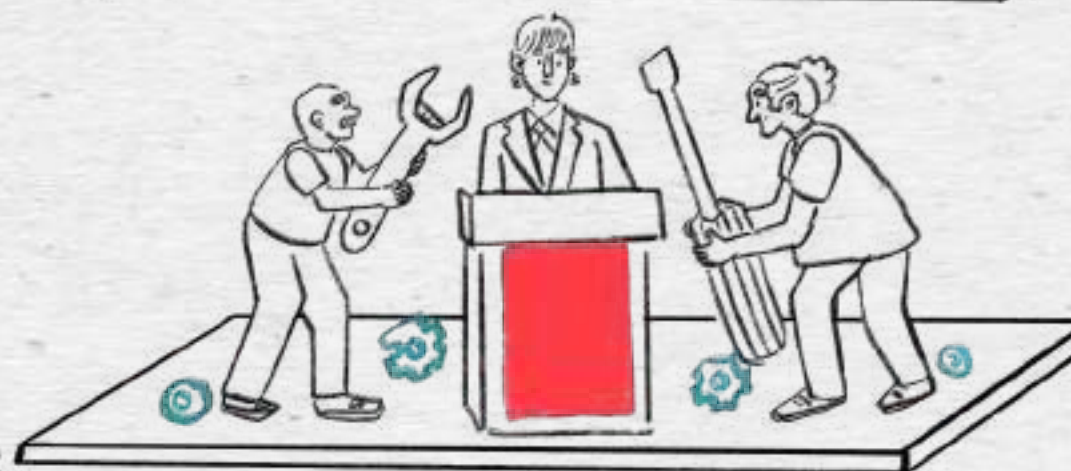
EVENT PARTNER

We collaborated with various organizations for our YO.DH fests to host sessions and facilitate the event. Partners helped execute activities such as hosting panel discussions, workshops, focus group discussions, crowd facilitation, etc. and shared resources for logistical support. Additionally, we also partnered with several organizations to co-host events, hackathons, field visits, etc.
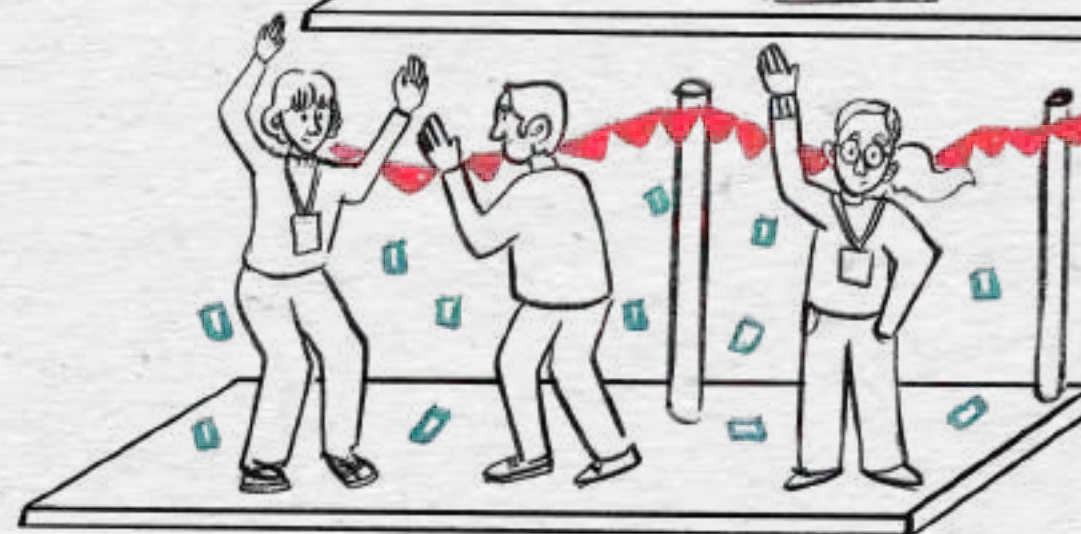
PROGRAM PARTNERS

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, we work with partners to create impactful solutions so that people can take charge of their futures and achieve their full potential. In the United States, we aim to ensure that everyone—especially those with the fewest resources—has access to the opportunities needed to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Mark Suzman, under the direction of Bill Gates and our governing board.

PATH is a global nonprofit dedicated to achieving health equity. With more than 40 years of experience forging multisector partnerships, and with expertise in science, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales up innovative solutions to the world's most pressing health challenges.

Digital Square is a digital health marketplace—or 'square'—where supply and demand come together to accelerate health equity. Digital Square brings technical, operational, and advocacy expertise to address well-recognized barriers to scaling digital health. Our strong partnerships across the sector allow us to identify barriers faced in different areas of the marketplace and collectively design new approaches to overcome them. Our work focuses on three key areas: alignment & coordination, global goods, and regional & country support.

The International Innovation Corps (IIC) is a social impact fellowship program that runs as a part of the University of Chicago Trust and the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. The program aims at creating scalable, sustainable, and long-term social impact. IIC teams design interventions, pilot solutions, implement and iterate, and record and scale best practices by engaging stakeholders. Through direct impact on the ground, in complex multi-stakeholder environments, the IIC Fellowship ultimately seeks to cultivate future leaders of policy and international development.

WomenLift Health is a nonprofit organization aimed at working with partners around the world to accelerate the advancement of talented women into senior leadership by investing in mid-career women and influencing the environments in which they live and work.

A WORD FROM OUR PARTNERS

"In the nascent and rapidly evolving landscape of digital health in India, the role of young professionals cannot be overstated. It is vital that we invest in building their capacity to shape the future of healthcare delivery and innovation. YO.DH has consistently provided a platform to bring together passionate individuals, fostering dialogue, and enabling learning opportunities that are not just theoretical, but grounded in real-world applications. Through partnership between YO.DH and IIC, I've found that our shared mission to nurture the next generation of digital health leaders has created a natural and impactful synergy. Personally, I've gained immensely from this association, whether through the thoughtfully curated learning sessions or the opportunity to connect with like-minded peers from across the country. YO.DH represents a much-needed community for young professionals collaboration and growth, and I look forward to seeing it continue to inspire and empower many more young professionals in the years to come."

Surbhi Arul
India Program Head, International Innovation Corps

"As someone working at the intersection of AI and global health, I've found the YO.DH community to be a breath of fresh air. In fact, the same week I started at PATH, I spoke at the YO.DH kickoff. Not just as a young person, but because I was stepping into a leadership role in digital health. That early moment set the tone. YO.DH doesn't just talk about youth leadership; it actually gives young people real responsibility and space to lead. The results have been impressive. This kind of community is exactly what our field needs: bold ideas, fresh perspectives, and a healthy disregard for the status quo. If we're serious about building digital health systems that actually work for everyone, we need more of what YO.DH is bringing."

Bilal Mateen
Chief AI Officer, PATH

"YO.DH plays a very important role in the digital health and UHC ecosystem. Their ability to break down complex issues and make them accessible to young people everywhere is of immense value to a sector that is dominated by technical experts. Transform Health had the great privilege of collaborating with YO.DH on a youth podcast series for Digital Health Week 2024 with six interviews between young people and leading figures in the digital health field took place on a number of thematic issues."

Frank Smith
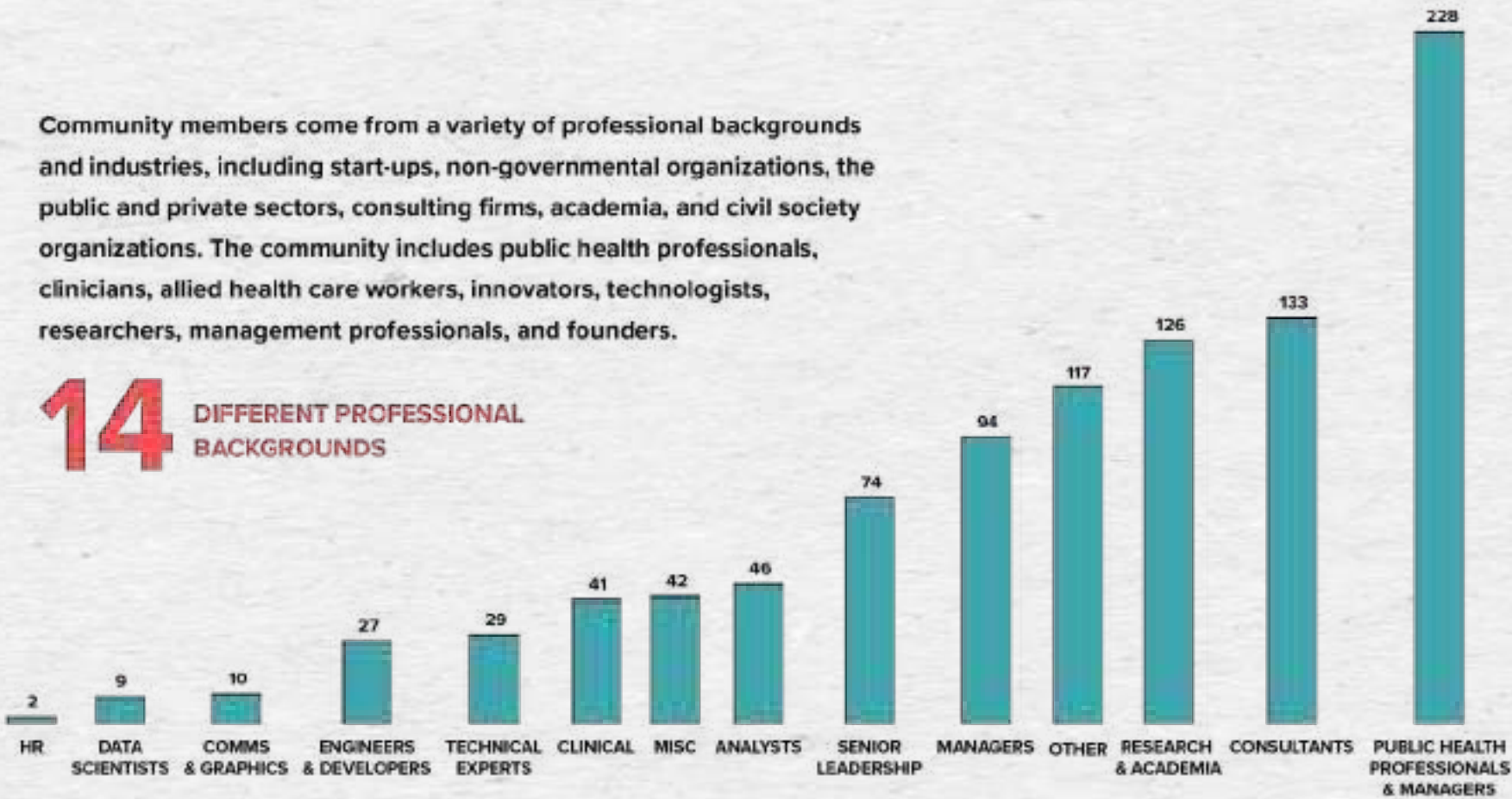Campaign, Business Development and Strategy Lead, Transform Health

YO.DH DEMOGRAPHICS

YO.DH's first in-person gathering was held in July 2023 in New Delhi, India. This event gauged members' interest and need for a digital health community like YO.DH, with over 70 young professionals from various public health organizations in attendance.

Community members come from a variety of professional backgrounds and industries, including start-ups, non-governmental organizations, the public and private sectors, consulting firms, academia, and civil society organizations. The community includes public health professionals, clinicians, allied health care workers, innovators, technologists, researchers, management professionals, and founders.

14 DIFFERENT PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS

Category	Value
HR	2
DATA SCIENTISTS	9
COMMS & GRAPHICS	10
ENGINEERS & DEVELOPERS	27
TECHNICAL EXPERTS	29
CLINICAL	41
MISC	42
ANALYSTS	46
SENIOR LEADERSHIP	74
MANAGERS	94
OTHER	117
RESEARCH & ACADEMIA	126
CONSULTANTS	133
PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS & MANAGERS	228

YO.DH is a growing international community

1000+
MEMBERS GLOBALLY

44+
COUNTRIES

170+
CITIES

*AS OF MAY 2025
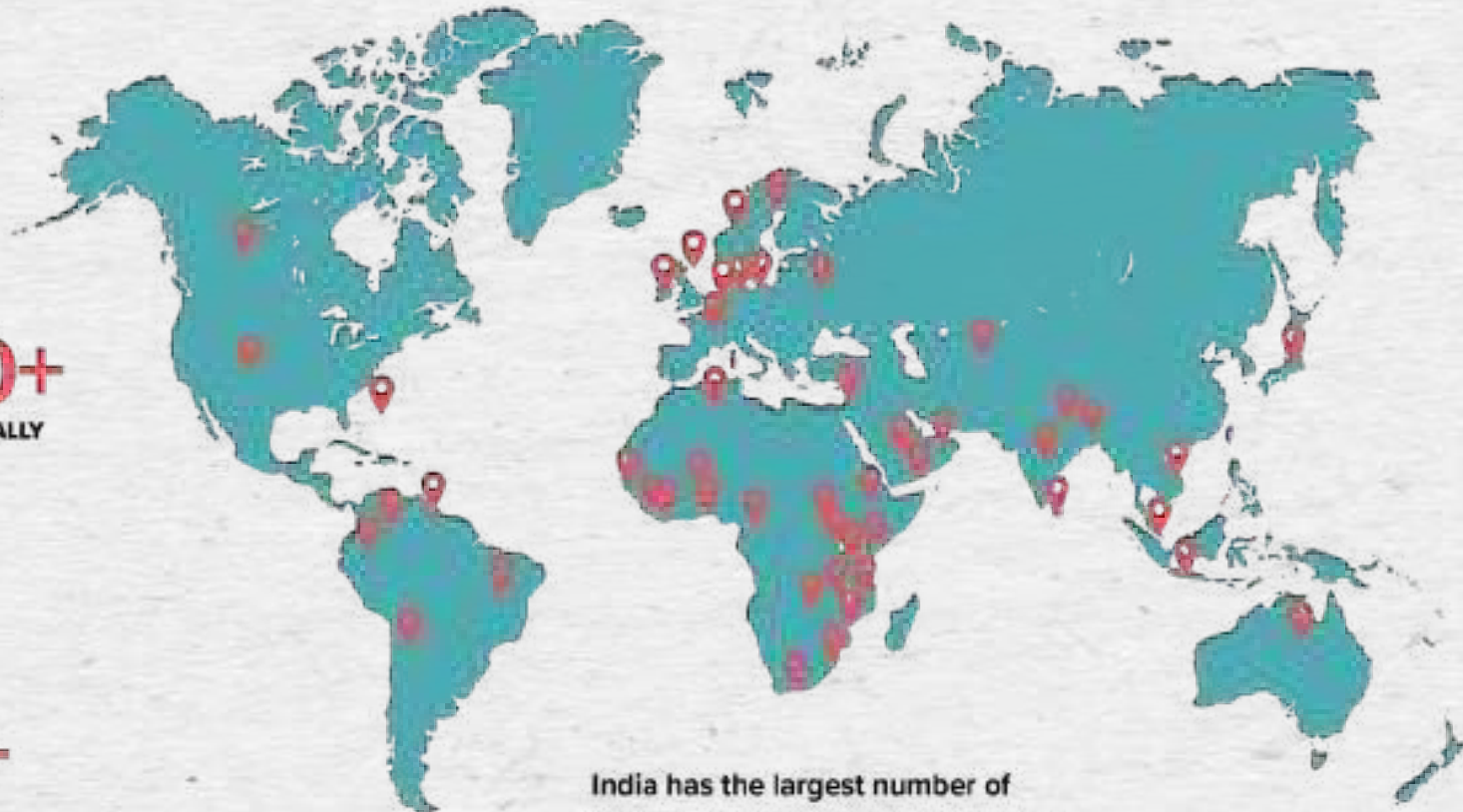
India has the largest number of YO.DH members followed by Africa.

YO.DH's diversity remains one of its greatest assets. It serves as a convergence point for professionals who often work on similar themes and problems but seldom get the opportunity to communicate and deliberate.

EARLY-STAGE 40.2%

MID-LEVEL 39.6%

SENIOR-LEVEL 20.20%
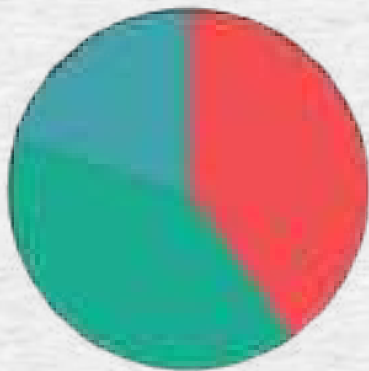
The YO.DH Secretariat is an all-women-led team. Championing diversity and inclusivity is deeply rooted in both the commitment and practice of the community with members from diverse ethnic groups, social backgrounds, and gender identities.

FEMALE 51.25%

MALE 48.55%

PREFER NOT TO SAY 0.2%
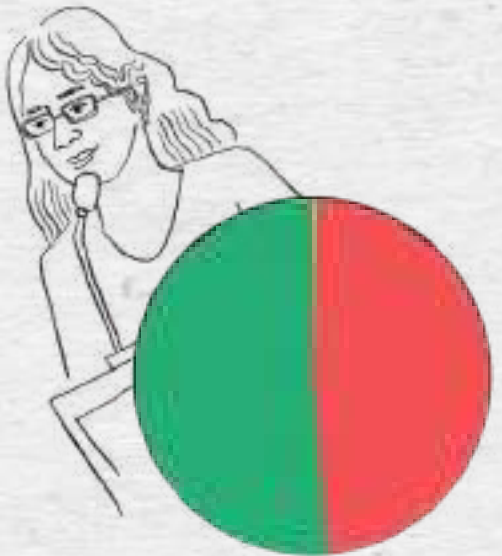
CHAPTER 2:
OUR APPROACH

"

Joining the Youth Ownership in Digital Health Community has been one of the most forward-thinking decisions I've made. It's more than a just network. It is a vibrant platform where brilliant minds come together to learn, share, and shape the future of digital health across the continent. To anyone who is really passionate about transforming Healthcare leveraging technology, this is where you belong. So, join and contribute your quota to the global health care landscape.

Kehinde Muraina

Senior Program Analyst, CHAI
YO.DH Africa Core Committee Member

"

YO.DH AS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

YO.DH assembles a community of young practitioners of digital health who share a common vision: to leverage digital health to address public health challenges and build their capacities and knowledge. Therefore, YO.DH functions as a Community of Practice (CoP) focused on digital health.

The structure and philosophy of YO.DH has been deeply inspired by the CoP model developed by Etienne Wenger[3] and its design strongly emulates the key principles of CoP:

> **CoPs are defined as :**
>
> **"a group of people who share a common concern and who come together to focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance a domain of professional practice."**

FOCUS ON VALUE

YO.DH emphasizes the importance of the quality and content of its initiatives, offerings, and knowledge products by developing relevant and technically sound materials that benefit community members. The themes and topics of these offerings come from the community, which helps build both utility and value.

DESIGN FOR EVOLUTION

YO.DH is an ever-evolving, fluid community that has clearly established its mission and intent. This strong foundational premise, combined with a flexible approach, has resulted in a community that regularly matures and consolidates its offerings in alignment with the needs, best practices, and experiential learning of its members. The community does not shy away from remolding its approach/structure to initiatives (refer to section on YO.DH Ambassador Program) or introducing new offerings in response to the needs and demands of members (refer to section on YO.DH Adda and YO.DH Africa Chapter). This design also weaves into the community's self-sustainability aspirations by allowing the possibility of a seamless transfer to a prospective host, enabling them to adapt the community as they see fit without compromising its ethos and goals. This ensures that regardless of the extent to which YO.DH evolves, it will remain committed to empowering young professionals in the digital health space.

OPEN DIALOGUES

YO.DH has consistently maintained a clear and transparent line of communication with members, welcoming their suggestions, ideas, critiques, and constructive feedback. The Secretariat maintains communication reciprocity, informing members about all new developments and updates from YO.DH through social media channels, emails, and the newsletter. This ensures members are apprised and well-aware of the community's ongoing activities.

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3 Wenger-Trayner, Etienne, McDermott, Richard, Snyder, William. Seven Principles for Cultivating Communities of Practice. Brighton, MA: Harvard Business Review Press; 2014.

ENCOURAGE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

Each community member has different stakes, levels of engagement, enthusiasm, and commitment. This heterogeneity was not seen as a point of contention but was approached strategically. Offerings and opportunities were devised to provide something of value to everyone and encourage participation from different groups of members. This approach honored individual interests while simultaneously helping generate and sustain member interest and build a vibrant community. Community interaction and co-creation were also approached similarly, with different types of inputs sought from various member groups. Active members, such as core committee members and ambassadors, were included in higher-level discussions, including sustainability plans, while the larger community was encouraged to contribute topics for podcasts, webinars, modalities of the mentorship program, etc. This differential participation approach helped foster meaningful member engagement.

COMBINE FAMILIARITY AND EXCITEMENT

Initiatives infuse enthusiasm by experimenting with out-of-the-box modalities, such as the structures and contents of YO.DH Adda or YO.DH Digest. Presenting ideas in exciting, out-of-the-ordinary ways helps maintain members' interest and creates novelty.

CREATE A RHYTHM FOR COMMUNITY

YO.DH has regularized its periodic initiatives, allowing members to anticipate upcoming events and activities. This consistency reinforces YO.DH's identity as an active community with continuous engagement.

DEVELOP BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMUNITY SPACES

YO.DH's offline events are vibrant, energetic gatherings of members, many of whom travel interstate to be in attendance. These offline summits have been curated such that they include balanced elements of learning, networking, and fun, creating value for attendees. Online engagements are also designed to be accessible and engaging for all members, often featuring ice-breaker activities to encourage participant engagement. The Secretariat regularly has focused community calls with ambassadors and core committee members to gather their inputs and thoughts. Additionally, the Secretariat holds individual calls with members to better understand their work, identify collaboration scope, and engage them more often with YO.DH and its initiatives.

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE APPROACH

Over nearly two years, YO.DH has grown into a global community with more than 1000 members through a combination of targeted and organic community expansion strategies. During its initial launch, invitations were sent to public health and digital health organizations and teams, encouraging nominations for membership. As YO.DH events and initiatives became regular, and as the community structure began to formalize, membership steadily grew. The multiplier effect has been key to community growth—existing and new members spread the word among their peers and networks, helping further expand the community reach within target groups.

To effectively manage the community and achieve the intended outcomes, an overarching governing body was institutionalized, responsible for oversight, establishing functional structures, and supporting daily operations. This included maintaining strong community relationships and laying the groundwork for eventual community sustainability. The YO.DH Secretariat was instituted to oversee these efforts. It is headed by Pallavi Jain, Program Lead, with support from Sarah Parwez, Program Associate.

Together, these three groups form the horizontal community structure (see Figure 2.1) of YO.DH, demonstrating the community's commitment to fostering equitable partnerships and distancing itself from a tiered hierarchical system.

To build a self-sustaining community, deliberate efforts have been made to induct and nurture potential community leaders capable of guiding YO.DH. The Secretariat is supported by core committee members who have shown dedication to YO.DH's mission from the outset. They have championed and contributed to the community's offerings while overseeing cohorts of YO.DH ambassadors— members who volunteer with the YO.DH Secretariat for a three-month period. Both core committee members and ambassadors serve as community leaders, representing the broader member group and helping to steer the initiative's direction.

YO.DH COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

FIGURE 2.1. HORIZONTAL COMMUNITY STRUCTURE OF YO.DH.

Other community members also play an essential role in decision-making and are regularly consulted to help shape the themes of YO.DH's offerings, including the design and delivery of its capacity-building programs. YO.DH follows a collaborative, iterative process, using ongoing community feedback to refine and adapt its initiatives over time. Emphasizing an experiential learning approach allows the community to evolve while remaining responsive to members' needs.

Including community members in decision-making is based on the proven success of community-driven models. Community engagement is most impactful when members are the ones driving initiatives and activities. Positioning community members at the forefront ensures authenticity, ownership, and sustained involvement. This was especially important during expansion phases, where a YO.DH community champion was essential to amassing local support and leading the operational efforts. Additionally, leveraging the potential of peer-to-peer engagement and relationships helped sustain interest, form genuine connections, and elicit a sense of "belonging" among members.
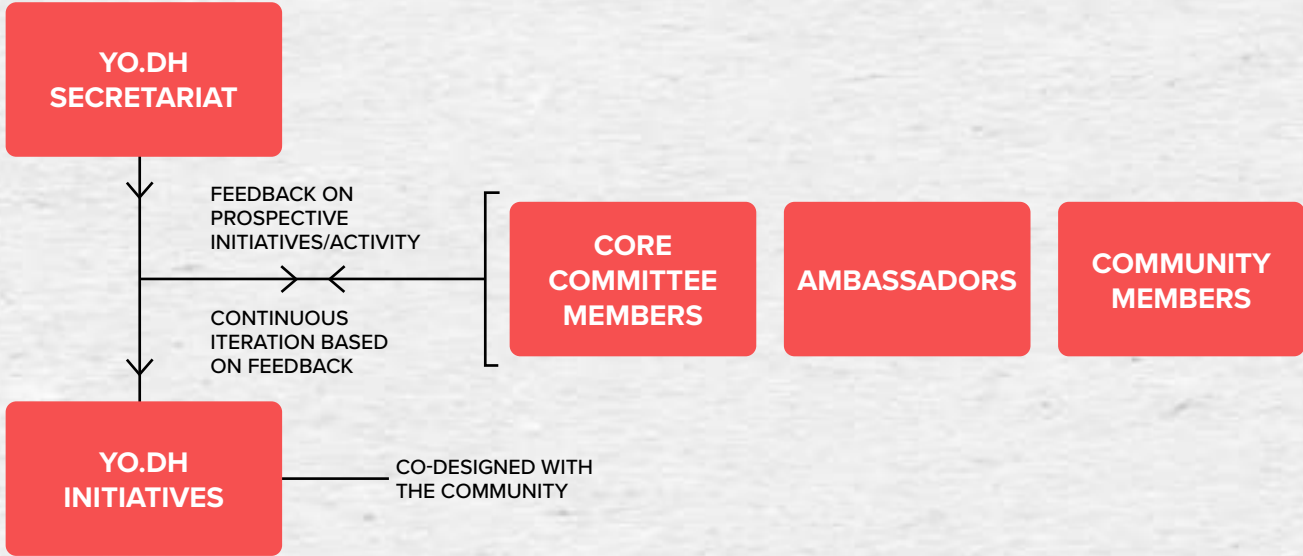

FIGURE 2.2: ITERATIVE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF YO.DH

TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To support community interactions and foster clear communication with members, engagement tools such as the YO.DH website, mobile application, WhatsApp groups, monthly community newsletter, and social media channels (LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube) are actively utilized.

The YO.DH website and mobile applications were designed with a strong emphasis on user experience and accessibility to keep members updated about the latest YO.DH events and to host all the knowledge products developed. They also feature interactive elements for community engagement, including a community directory, chat feature, and discussion forum.

OUR SEVEN INITIATIVES

> "
>
> Being a YO.DH Ambassador has been a transformative experience. The program empowered me to turn my passion for digital health into action—through hands-on learning, collaborative projects, and leadership opportunities. Hosting and participating in Saturday sessions broadened my perspective on innovation, policy, and real-world healthcare challenges. I'm truly grateful to be part of such an inspiring community of changemakers and look forward to supporting YO.DH in every way I can.
>
> **Vinod G**
>
> **Project Coordinator- CMC Vellore**
> **YO.DH Ambassador, India**
>
> "

YO.DH INITIATIVES

YO.DH offers seven initiatives including the Ambassador Program, Dialogue (a podcast series), Charcha (a webinar series), Discovery (field visits), Adda (open mic sessions), Fest (leadership events) and Connect (a mentorship program).

These initiatives blend online and offline engagement, utilizing webinars, podcasts, meetups, forums, and social media to create a collaborative virtual space. This approach enables knowledge sharing and collaboration across borders. Offline events foster community and connection, while online events allow for synchronous and asynchronous knowledge exchange. The different initiatives focus on leadership development, knowledge enhancement, and spotlighting emerging leaders, and have been curated in collaborations with over 40 partner organizations.

The aim of the YO.DH initiatives are as follows:

Knowledge building and transfer

YO.DH aims to facilitate intergenerational dialogues with veterans in the space to pass on their knowledge, so that young professionals are well aware of the complexities, challenges, and opportunities that exist.

Capacity-building around technical themes

The initiatives focus on relevant, high-impact topics as guided by member insights.

Networking and building connections and professional relationships

By interacting with experts and professionals from various fields, members can not only establish invaluable connections but also expand their professional scope.

Interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-learning

Digital health intersects with a multitude of disciplines and sectors both within health care and in other cross-cutting areas. Anyone working in this field needs a broad range of skill sets and knowledge to be well-equipped and contribute effectively. YO.DH initiatives promote interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral engagement by exposing members to diverse perspectives, encouraging holistic and systems-level thinking.

YO.DH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The YO.DH Ambassador Program is a three-month volunteering program where selected community members work with the YO.DH Secretariat and core committee members to co-create community initiatives, brainstorm new ideas, and implement operations in a decentralized manner. The core objectives of this program are as follows:

° Engage volunteers to give them first-hand experience in managing YO.DH and working with communities.

° Inculcate leadership skills, build cross-organizational networks, and a collaboration spirit, and develop the overall capacity of the cohort members to assume leadership roles while engaging in peer learning.

° Co-create the YO.DH initiatives and provide the cohort members with a platform to voice their ideas, develop their knowledge, and avail representation opportunities.

APPROACH

The ambassador program was an additional initiative created to address a strong need to expose members to the community's internal workings and functions, while simultaneously instilling within them all the skillsets and knowledge required to lead it at the forefront. Out of all the initiatives, the ambassador program is the most collaborative, dynamic, and evolved.

The first cohort was launched with a flexible, loosely structured format, allowing space for experimentation and learning. The outcomes and insights from this initial phase laid the foundation for future iterations of the program. Each subsequent cohort introduced new structures, learned from past experiences, and refined the approach.

Different modalities of running the program were piloted to determine which was most effective. Initially, members were organized into functional working groups (social media team, writing team, program team, outreach and media team, events team) headed by core committee members. In the successive cohort, these groups were restructured, and by the third cohort, the working group model was completely phased out. Instead, the "buddy pair" model was introduced, pairing each ambassador with one core committee member. These pairs were assigned rotating tasks each month, ensuring all ambassadors participated in each initiative and promoting an equitable distribution of responsibilities. Incentives were also strengthened periodically to boost motivation and accountability, and an evaluation tool was used to track performance and engagement. High-performing ambassadors received recognition and social media shout-outs. The fourth cohort

of the ambassador program is a special IndiaXAfrica cohort, which features 19 core committee members from across India and Africa. This global cohort was set up to help operationalize the YO.DH Africa chapter, with the support of core committee members from India who have already helped establish YO.DH Global. It aims to create activities exclusive to Africa with input from members in the region and provide members with exposure to global opportunities.

ACTIVITY

° The ambassador program follows a well-defined structure, with roles, responsibilities, and action points assigned to each member. Over three months, ambassadors participate in 12 weekly check-in calls and contribute to the rollout of YO.DH initiatives like YO.DH Adda, YO.DH Fest, newsletter, blogs, social media posts, etc. They provide input for designing and developing activities such as the YO.DH mentorship program, brainstorming ideas for YO.DH Fest, developing strategies for launching programs and events, and helping shape the community's long-term vision and sustainability plans. They are apprised of all updates on the community's operation plans, including ideas for new offerings where their critical feedback and opinions are valued.

° As part of the "buddy pair", the core committee members serve as intermediaries between the Secretariat and ambassadors. They are responsible for peer mentoring their respective ambassadors and collaborating to execute their designated tasks.

IMPACT

04 COHORTS INDUCTED

59 AMBASSADORS

19 CORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LEARNINGS

Executing the ambassador program has elucidated several learnings—both about the program's structure and managing the community at large. Some significant mentions include the following:

º The ambassador program highlighted the need for a two-way accountability mechanism between the Secretariat and ambassadors. It is important for the Secretariat to provide consistent feedback, guidance, and support. Regular weekly check-ins, progress tracking, and open communication channels ensure that ambassadors feel both responsible and supported. This reciprocal approach keeps them motivated, maintains their interest, and promotes a sense of ownership within the community.

º Initial handholding is vital to support the ambassador's journey. It is essential to provide them with structured onboarding, orientation, and guidance on the workings and internal processes to make them feel equipped and well-integrated within the community's functioning.

º Recognizing each ambassador's individuality and how they can contribute is crucial.

º Each ambassador brings distinct strengths, perspectives, and aspirations. It is essential to recognize and leverage these when assigning roles and tasks. This alignment enhances the quality of their outputs and boosts motivation.

º Building a personal rapport with each ambassador is important to understand their sensibilities and strengths, which can improve their experience and program outcomes. Moreover, this personal connection builds trust and encourages transparent dialogue.

º Creating opportunities for peer learning has proven to be instrumental in building both interpersonal relationships, allowing ambassadors to learn from one another's experiences and strengths, and also creating lasting relationships and synergies within the cohort.

º Continuous evolution of the program is crucial because it helps improve its structure. This has been achieved by collecting consistent feedback from the ambassadors and understanding the expectations of each incoming cohort.

IMPACT

14 PODCASTS

14 GLOBAL EXPERTS

14 COLLABORATORS

14 TOPICS

YO.DH DIALOGUE

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

It is a monthly podcast featuring stalwarts and experts in digital health who have been leading efforts to digitize and integrate technology into health care, including entrepreneurs, leaders of health tech organizations, non-profits, and many more.

APPROACH

The approach to the podcasts has focused on simplifying conversations with experts, encouraging them to break down complex themes into easy-to-understand concepts using examples and sharing their lived experiences. This way, audiences with varying levels of expertise can engage with and comprehend these conversations.

Over time, the format of the podcasts has evolved through experimentation with three different styles: members of the YO.DH community host the conversations with experts, a social influencer from a non-health background host the podcasts, and, collaborations are created for special series.

The purpose of each approach was to subsequently: provide representation to YO.DH community members, handpick a storytelling influencer from outside the health field to make conversations accessible while crafting them into compelling narratives to reach a diverse audience, and, expand the YO.DH platform to other communities, enabling open knowledge exchange and building consumer capacity.

ACTIVITIES

The production of each podcast episode followed a meticulous process to ensure the content was of the highest quality. After discussing and finalizing the topic with the speaker, thorough research was conducted to prepare an exhaustive list of tentative questions. The recording, production, and editing were completed using a third-party platform to ensure high and consistent quality across all episodes.

01
UNCOVERING DIGITAL HEALTH
DEC 2023

RATHISH BALAKRISHNAN
CO-FOUNDER, SATTVA CONSULTING
SALONI SETHI
YO.DH MEMBER

02
UNLOCKING THE POWER OF DIGITAL PUBLIC GOODS
FEB 2024

NITA TYAGI
DIRECTOR- PARTNERSHIPS AND GROWTH, EGOV FOUNDATION
PALLABI ROY
YO.DH MEMBER

03
DECODING DIGITAL PUBLIC GOODS
APR 2024

DR. BILAL MATEEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIGITAL SQUARE
RUDRAKSHA RISHI MITRA
YO.DH MEMBER

04
DISRUPTING THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE MARKET
MAY 2024

PRASHANTH TANDON
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, TATA 1MG
OMKAR SATHE
YO.DH MEMBER

05
HOW IS AI TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE?
JUNE 2024

SANYA CHAWLA
DIRECTOR- GLOBAL HEALTH INNOVATIONS, QURE.AI
KOPAL KHANNA
TAP-A-TALE

06
IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY, POLITICS, AND CONFLICT IN HEALTH CARE
SEPT 2024

RICARDO BAPITSE LEITE
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF UNITE AND CEO OF HEALTHAI
KOPAL KHANNA
TAP-A-TALE

07
HOW IS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE?
OCT 2024

LAURIE WERNER
DIRECTOR, CENTER OF DIGITAL AND DATA EXCELLENCE AT PATH
KOPAL KHANNA
TAP-A-TALE

08
HEALTH CARE TRANSFORMATION THROUGH STORYTELLING
DEC 2024

MEESHA BROWN
PRESIDENT AND CEO, PCI MEDIA
KOPAL KHANNA
TAP-A-TALE

09
FUTURE PROOFING DIGITAL HEALTH THROUGH ALIGNED LEADERSHIP AND A DIGITALLY ENABLED WORKFORCE

NEKESA WERE
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY, MEDIC
PRINCE BONNEY
CURIOUS MINDS, GHANA

10
CLIMATE CHANGE AND DIGITAL HEALTH
NOV 2024

HEIDI GOOD
PROJECT LEAD- DPI FOR CLIMATE AND HEALTH, DIGITAL SQUARE
MICHAEL KAKANDE
RESILIENT40

11
SCALING DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO ACHIEVE UHC
NOV 2024

PRIYA VOHRA
CO-FOUNDER, SATTVA CONSULTING
SARAH PARWEZ
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, YO.DH

12
CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE DIGITAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

SEAN BLASCHKE
SENIOR HEALTH SPECIALIST AND UNIT CHIEF (OIC), UNICEF HQ
PALLAVI JAIN
LEAD, YO.DH

13
DIGITAL HEALTH, DATA AND PATIENT-CENTERED CARE: HOW TO PUT PEOPLE FIRST
NOV 2024

CAROL KAMASAKA
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER, DIGITAL HEALTH, PATH
ISAAC NGUGI
CUEA INNOVATION HUB

14
DECOLONISING DIGITAL HEALTH, GENDER DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION
NOV 2024

PAPE GAYE
FOUNDING PRESIDENT, BAOBAB INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
CAROLINE KNOP
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR HEALTH LAB

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LISTEN TO THE PODCASTS:

LEARNINGS

The learnings derived from hosting these podcasts have been the following:

° The podcasts have become a way for audiences of diverse interests and skill levels to engage in knowledge-building.

° They provide the host with an enriching experience and a representation opportunity tohave one-on-one conversations with stalwarts in the health sector.

° Thorough preparation by the host and the expert ensures that conversations are meaningful and that the experts' experiences are captured effectively.

° Keeping the podcast structure simple and language free of jargon while remaining informative ensures the topic stays relatable to global audiences and facilitates worldwide exchange of ideas and knowledge.

° The inclusion of the "Rapid Dialogue" segment has been especially well received by speakers and audiences. This makes the podcast more appealing to younger audiences while ensuring the episode ends on a more positive note for the speaker.

IMPACT

10 WEBINARS

38 EXPERTS

650+ PARTICIPANTS

YO.DH CHARCHA

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

It is an online forum hosting webinars and workshops with leaders and young professionals in the digital health and allied fields. As a knowledge and capacity-building initiative, the aim of YO.DH Charcha is to foster open conversations on the latest topics in digital health and cultivate the necessary skill sets required by young digital health professionals.

APPROACH

The YO.DH Charcha webinars and workshops are part of the knowledge and capacity-building pillars of YO.DH.

Within YO.DH Charcha, three streams exist: webinars with experts moderated by members of the YO.DH community, webinars inviting select members of the YO.DH community as experts showcasing their work and expertise, and, skill-building workshops focusing on generic transferable skill sets within the health care sector, such as design thinking, proposal writing, and visual communication.

The topics and themes for workshops are chosen based on current trends in the public and digital health sectors and the interests of YO.DH community members. Efforts were usually made to alternate between the three streams periodically. All sessions were purposefully moderated by community members to give them a platform for public speaking, deepen their understanding of the topics, and form well-meaning connections with experts.

ACTIVITIES

The production of each podcast episode followed a meticulous process to ensure the content was of the highest quality. After discussing and finalizing the topic with the speaker, thorough research was conducted to prepare an exhaustive list of tentative questions. The recording, production, and editing were completed using a third-party platform to ensure high and consistent quality across all episodes.

01
THE ROLE OF TELEMEDICINE IN EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
FEB 2024

RAJESH KAUSHISH,
JOINT DIRECTOR, C-DAC MOHALI
DR. HALEEMA YEZDANI,
VICE PRESIDENT, HMSS INDIA
JAGDEEP GAMBHIR,
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, KARMA PRIMARY HEALTHCARE
ABHISHEK MISHRA,
PROGRAM OFFICER, PATH

04
OVERCOMING OBSTACLES IN IMPLEMENTING AI SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE
MAY 2024

TANVI LALL,
DIRECTOR (STRATEGY), PEOPLE + AI
JIBU ELIAS,
COUNTRY LEAD (INDIA), RESPONSIBLE COMPUTING CHALLENGE, MOZILLA FOUNDATION
RESHAM SETHI,
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER, PATH

07
MASTERING THE ART OF CRAFTING IMPACTFUL PROPOSALS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR
MAY 2024

RITESH AERON,
PARTNER, ENIRA CONSULTING
PALLAVI JAIN,
PROGRAM LEAD, YO.DH

10
EXPLORING AFRICA'S PUBLIC AND DIGITAL HEALTH SYSTEM
MAY 2025

ISSAC NGUGI,
HEALTH ANALYST INTERN, PRESTA TECHNOLOGIES LTD.
LIZZY MBUGUA,
NURSING STUDENT, CUEA
KEHINDE MURAINA,
SENIOR PROGRAM ANALYST, CHAI
ABDULLAHI SALAHUDEEN,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MEDICS IN TECH
SARAH PARWEZ,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, YO.DH

02
DESIGN-BUILD-SOLVE: AN INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN THINKING
MAR 2024

DESIGN FOR IMPACT AND SAATHI VENTURES
PALLAVI JAIN,
PROGRAM LEAD, YO.DH

05
CRAFTING COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES, TELLING POWERFUL STORIES: A SKILL-BUILDING WORKSHOP
JUN 2024

ZEHRA KAZMI,
LEAD (COMMUNICATIONS), PATH
ISHA JAIN,
SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, PATH
PALLAVI JAIN,
PROGRAM LEAD, YO.DH

08
FROM 1 TO 100: UNPACKING INDIA'S DIGITAL HEALTH EVOLUTION THROUGH THE 100 MICROSITES PROJECT
MAR 2025

VEDA HALVE,
PROGRAM OFFICER, PATH
DR. PALLAVI GANGIL,
HEALTHCARE AND DIGITAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION SPECIALIST, PIRAMAL SWASTHYA
VIKAS UPADHYAY,
SENIOR PROJECT ASSOCIATE, IIC
DR. SAURABH INGOLE,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, PATH

11
LAUNCH OF THE YO.DH AFRICA CHAPTER
MAY 2025

CAROLINE MBINDYO,
CHIEF INNOVATION OFFICER, AMREF
TRAD HATTON,
COUNTRY DIRECTOR, PATH DRC
DR. ERNEST MBO,
DIGITAL HEALTH COUNTRY DIRECTOR, PATH DRC
ERICA LAYER,
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, HEALTH.ENABLED
PALLAVI JAIN,
PROGRAM LEAD, YO.DH
SARAH PARWEZ,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, YO.DH

03
STARTUPS IN THE DIGITAL HEALTH SPACE: JOURNEY OF OUR YO.DHA
APR 2024

SIDHARTH RATH,
FOUNDER AND CEO, SWASTHYA PUS HEALTH
MANOJ SANKER,
CO-FOUNDER, NEMOCARE
SHAMBHAVI BHAGAT,
RESEARCH ASSISTANT, PHFI

06
'EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION': YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN DIGITAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE IN ASIA PACIFIC (APAC)
AUG 2024

UNITE PARLIAMENTARIANS
PALLAVI JAIN,
PROGRAM LEAD, YO.DH
DR. SHARAN MURALI,
SCIENTIST C, ICMR NIE
ARSHIYA SINGH AND PAROMITA ROY,
UNITE PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK

09
HACKATHON ON BUILDING HIGH-VALUE HEALTH SYSTEMS THROUGH AI: AN INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR
MAR 2024

ANNE BISHCOPS,
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW, HARVARD HSIL
CAROLINE BULSTRA,
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW, HARVARD HSIL
RUNA KHAN,
WINNER, HARVARD HEALTH SYSTEMS HACKATHON
PALLAVI JAIN,
PROGRAM LEAD, YO.DH

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THE WEBINARS.

LEARNINGS

The following are the learnings from curating the YO.DH Charcha sessions:

° The Charcha sessions are developed to give members holistic exposure to the public and digital health ecosystem. While the predominant focus remained on capacity-building for digital health themes, the need was also recognized to equip members with broader, cross-cutting themes such as communication and proposal writing. This approach supports the overall development of members as digital health professionals.

° The Charcha session has been a key platform for providing members with representation opportunities by hosting and featuring as speakers in the sessions. This allows them to develop their public speaking and facilitation skills, while speakers gain public visibility for their work.

IMPACT

03 FACILITIES

45+ PARTICIPANTS

20+ EXPERTS

YO.DH DISCOVERY

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

YO.DH Discovery involves field visits to centers of excellence, innovation centers, and incubators in the field of digital health that showcase pioneering solutions, research, and experiments that have created noteworthy impacts in the digital health space.

The field visits are designed to inspire participants to think critically about implementing and scaling innovations in diverse health care settings and gain first-hand experience of seeing them deployed in operations.

APPROACH

The approach to organizing field visits has always prioritized selecting centers that are accessible to most members from across the country. These centers of excellence are chosen for their critical importance and relevance in their areas of innovation. During these field visits, participants were exposed to a wide range of stakeholders, providing them with a comprehensive understanding of the innovation, including its evolution, impact, and operations, amongst other aspects

ACTIVITIES

As a part of YO.DH discovery, field visits to three facilities have been initiated. The details are as follows:

1. **C-DAC, Mohali and PGIMER, Chandigarh**

   On April 1, 2024, YO.DH discovery organized its inaugural field visit in partnership with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mohali, and the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. The objective was to explore digital health innovations, particularly telemedicine solutions, and to gain an in-depth understanding of the operational framework behind eSanjeevani—India's national telemedicine service.

   The eSanjeevani team conducted an informative knowledge-sharing session that outlined the inception, growth, and implementation of the eSanjeevani platform. Live demonstrations showcased the patient and provider perspectives, effectively demonstrating its real-world utility.

   The interactive session sparked meaningful dialogue between the participants and the eSanjeevani team. Discussions focused on the platform's development, its alignment with universal health coverage (UHC) goals, and key operational aspects such as update frequency and user feedback mechanisms. These exchanges offered valuable insights into the challenges and milestones of implementing a nationwide telemedicine initiative.

   Following the session at C-DAC, the delegation went to PGIMER, Chandigarh, to witness the eSanjeevani model in a live clinical setting. At PGIMER, participants watched teleconsultations in various specialties, including ENT, Pediatrics, Gynecology, and Internal Medicine.

   During interactions with clinicians at PGIMER, the YO.DHAs explored operational realities such as consultation volume, daily workflow challenges, and strategies for service delivery. These insights further contextualized the practical impact and adaptability of eSanjeevani in diverse health care settings.

   The field visit concluded with the team returning to Delhi, enriched with new insights and renewed motivation. The exposure to real-world digital health implementation not only improved participants' understanding but also reaffirmed their commitment to leveraging technology for equitable health care delivery.

   The visit also offered extensive networking opportunities. YO.DHAs representing diverse geographies, institutions, and career levels came together, fostering new connections and collaborative discussions.

2. **Harvard Health Systems Innovation Lab hackathon at IIT Ropar, Punjab**

   On April 11, 2024, members of the YO.DH program took part in the 6th Annual Harvard Health Systems Innovation Lab (HSIL) Hackathon titled "Building High-Value Health Systems: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence", held at IIT Ropar, Punjab.

   YO.DH representatives served as mentors throughout the day-long event, offering strategic guidance to participating teams as they worked on AI-driven solutions to address critical health care challenges. The mentoring involved helping refine ideas, understand implementation pathways, and integrate practical industry perspectives into the proposed solutions.

The event also featured a keynote address by Pallavi Jain, Program Lead, YO.DH, who highlighted the importance of inclusive and equitable digital health systems. This was followed by a panel discussion featuring YO.DH members. The discussion focused on the role of youth in shaping ethical and responsible digital health ecosystems, underscoring the importance of youth engagement in health innovation.

This visit also included observing the infrastructure and exploring IIT Ropar's "Tinkering Lab", gaining exposure to the startups incubated at the institute by meeting various teams, viewing prototypes and their evolution, and understanding the funding and marketing strategies.

The event offered a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and reinforced YO.DH's commitment to nurturing young leadership in digital health.

LEARNINGS

As a part of YO.DH discovery, field visits to three facilities have been initiated.
The details are as follows:

° In-person convenings enable participants to foster a spirit of community and camaraderie, encouraging more open dialogue, willingness to learn from peers, network, and foster connections.

° Learning from experts provides in-depth knowledge, hands-on experience, motivation to experiment with existing solutions, and the ability to contextualize the problem and the proposed solution.

YO.DH ADDA

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

YO.DH Adda are monthly online sessions hosted by YO.DH members for the larger YO.DH community to come together and interact. These calls include a mix of updates, ice-breaker sessions, quizzes, breakout rooms, and discussions or debates on digital health and related topics. YO.DH Adda serves as a platform for the community's voices, encouraging idea sharing and engaging members in a fun yet productive way.

APPROACH

The germinating seed for initiating the YO.DH Adda series was the community members' growing need for an informal space for open and free-flowing dialogue around topics of interest in digital health and allied areas. With this in mind, the YO.DH Adda series was conceptualized where complete ownership was given to designated team members. They decided the themes for each session, along with its structure, facilitation, and focal point of discussion.

ACTIVITY

1. Let's Talk Digital Health, April 2024

2. Take a Pause! (Mental Health), May 2024

3. Leveraging Technology to Address Health care Challenges, June 2024

4. Understanding Nominal Group Techniques, July 2024

5. YO.DHx: Digital Health Project Bytes, September 2024

6. Navigating Common Challenges in Digital Health, November 2024

7. Deliberate, Design, Discuss: How Can the Health Problems of the Elderly be Solved Using Digital?, December 2024

8. Data, Health care, and Everything In-between, January 2025

LEARNINGS

The following are the learnings from curating the YO.DH Charcha sessions:

° Stewardship of each of the sessions by designated teams from within the community gave the members a sense of accountability and ownership of each session. This ensured active participation, involvement in session planning, and prior preparation of knowledge sharing materials.

° As these topics of discussion were aligned with the community members' direct interests, it ensured active participation from a global audience, enabling cross learning and exchange of ideas.

° Members were given complete creative liberty to shape the flow and agenda of the adda sessions. No two sessions were alike. This prompted members to think out of the box, experiment with modalities, and challenge their own comfort zones.

° The atmosphere of the addas was kept informal and friendly, yet structured. This environment supported the creation of a "safe space" to encourage members to participate actively without hesitation.

IMPACT

200 PARTICIPANTS

08 SESSIONS

30+ YODHAS

IMPACT

05 EVENTS

500+ PARTICIPANTS

40+ EXPERTS

25+ COLLABORATORS

YO.DH FEST

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

A series of leadership events featuring large-scale gatherings focused on knowledge sharing, raising awareness, and delivering impactful leadership sessions with community members, experts, innovators, and entrepreneurs in the digital health space. These events provided the YO.DHA members the opportunity to interact, exchange ideas, network, and share learnings with industry peers.

° **Cross-sector collaboration**
Facilitate networking and collaborative discussions among health care professionals, administrators, health IT specialists, policymakers, and industry representatives to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing.

° **Professional development**
Provide continuous learning and development opportunities through workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, including insights on career opportunities in digital health from industry experts.

° **Capacity-building**
Enhance participants' skills through hands-on leadership and skill-building workshops, supporting their growth toward becoming future leaders in the digital health sector.

° **Community participation and engagement:**
Utilize the YO.DH community

platform to amplify the voices of young digital health professionals, providing them with a space to share their journeys and lessons learned and build a network of like-minded professionals. Encourage peer learning and develop a sense of community and ownership.

APPROACH

The YO.DH Fest events are independently led and co-created with community members. Key areas of involvement for the YO.DH community include brainstorming potential ideas, taking ownership of different facets of the events, supporting logistics, and facilitating sessions. By involving community members from the inception of the events—through organizing and execution—these events foster a sense of ownership over their success. In the process, community members gain vital skills such as event planning and team building. Additionally, YO.DH has collaborated on other events that provided members with exclusive access, networking, and representation opportunities.

ACTIVITIES

The YO.DH Fest events are independently led and co-created with community members. Key areas of involvement for the YO.DH community include brainstorming potential ideas.

YO.DH Fest, December 2023
The large-scale YO.DH Fest, conducted in 2023, was co-designed by the YO.DH community members. It featured skill-building workshops on topics like leadership and design thinking. It was facilitated by innovative thinktanks like Quicksand, International Innovation Corps, and Amani Institute. The event featured panel discussions with leading digital health experts from organizations like the Gates Foundation, PATH, World Bank, Dimagi, and others. Additionally, there were inspiring fireside chats with entrepreneurs sharing their journeys and insights, along with informal networking opportunities with young leaders in the digital health field.

Digital Brushstrokes: A Digital Health Art-Sip Mixer, March 2024
The YO.DH Fest Mixer was organized exclusively for YO.DH community members to celebrate the power of collaboration. The event featured Surbhi Arul, Associate Director of International Innovation Corps, who delivered an enthralling masterclass on leadership and encouraged young digital health professionals to introspect on the kind of leaders they want to become in the future. YO.DH members networked and engaged in conversations with digital health innovators while immersing themselves in an art experience, unleashing their creativity and participating in an art therapy session.

Innovation to Implementation: Advancing Health care through Digital Health, July 2024
The day-long event, commemorating one year since YO.DH's launch, brought together over 200 participants from across India, featuring 14 sessions led by 25 distinguished speakers, including lightning talks, expert panels, and hands-on workshops. The festival served as a vibrant platform for the young digital health professionals to connect, collaborate, and learn. Highlights included the official launch of the YO.DH mascot "YO.DHA", engaging digital installations like the "Run YO.DHA Run!" game, an AI photobooth, and dynamic sessions exploring cutting-edge innovations in digital health. Ambassadors played a key role in coordinating the event and co-developing the agenda. The event not only showcased technological advancements but also fostered a strong sense of community and purpose among participants.

Building AI for Public Health Ecosystem
Accelerating Innovation through South-South Collaboration, December 2024: This event was held in collaboration with PhixAi. Over 10 YO.DH members were offered exclusive passes to attend this closed-door event, with one YO.DH member being awarded a speakership opportunity at the summit, and many featured in the Innovators Compendium launched at the summit. Members attended panel discussions and talks led by stalwarts in the health-AI space and interacted with global AI experts.

World Health Summit Regional Meeting, April 2025
YO.DH supported the World Health Summit Regional Meeting, held in New Delhi, India, by facilitating the participation of over 40 YO.DHAs. YO.DH offered members an exclusive 60% discount on registration for 60 members on a first-come, first-served basis. This served as an opportunity for the YO.DH members to engage in discussions on global health and connect with international experts from the field. Attending YO.DHAs also had the opportunity to network and interact with fellow members and summit attendees, opening potential avenues for collaboration, thoughts, and ideas.

LEARNINGS

Hosting the YO.DH Fest events have allowed the team to reflect on the process followed and the outcomes. While the objectives of these events were achieved, the following are some additional lessons learned:

° The Fest offers members a shared space to attend panel discussions, keynote addresses, workshops, and masterclasses, while also connecting with fellow YO.DH members. This all-in-one platform serves as a dynamic environment for learning, networking, and collaboration.

° The Fest is organized for young professionals, by young professionals. Most sessions are moderated and facilitated by core committee members, ambassadors, and active community members. This not only strengthens their role as community leaders but also offers them visibility for their work and contributions.

° The diverse range of workshop-style sessions allows members to build and strengthen transferable skills pertinent to their professional growth.

° For young professionals beginning their careers, access to experienced connections and networks is often limited. The Fest bridges this gap by providing networking opportunities for young professionals to connect with peers and experienced professionals.

° Beyond learning and networking, the fest helps foster the spirit of camaraderie and friendships among members. It serves as a space where members can find other like-minded individuals, with whom they can exchange ideas and explore potential future collaborations.

YO.DH
Youth Ownership
of Digital Health

#I am a YODHA

THE PROGRAM IS TO BE LAUNCHED SOON.

YO.DH CONNECT

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The YO.DH mentorship program seeks to connect seasoned professionals with bright and passionate young members of the YO.DH community. The mentorship program aims to guide and support members as they navigate the complexities of the digital health landscape and help them overcome the challenges faced in the early career stages.

APPROACH

From the very beginning, the primary goal has been to integrate the community's needs, expectations, and value-added propositions into the design of the mentorship program. Every effort has been made to ensure the program is responsive, impactful, and empowering to achieve outcomes that truly meet the community's needs. The needs assessment tool was developed using human-centered design principles, placing the "community" at its core.
The tool was validated by core committee members, ambassadors, and experts prior to deployment. Its results guided the initial conceptualization and design of the mentorship program. A thorough literature review of existing mentorship models was conducted, along with focus group discussions and interviews with mentors and former participants in mentorship programs. The drafting cycle was iterative, with constant feedback and input from core committee members and ambassadors.

ACTIVITIES

To support community co-creation in designing the mentorship program, a needs assessment tool was created to identify and quantify areas where mentorship could provide the greatest value. The results of this needs assessment tool were then analyzed, and the findings served as the foundation for the program's design. A draft of the mentorship program was then prepared and is currently under review. Following a critical evaluation and finalization of the operational components, the program will proceed to the pilot phase.

LEARNINGS

The needs assessment conducted shed light on the community's competencies, interests, and experiences, and highlighted their specific needs and areas requiring support and mentorship. It highlighted that many young people do not feel well connected to industry peers and that most peers have been moderately helpful in offering guidance on navigating the sector. The majority expressed interest and agreement in the need for a mentorship program. Their primary motive was to connect with successful peers in the industry and further hone their technical skills and troubleshoot issues they face professionally, such as leadership and entrepreneurial acumen. Most respondents expressed interest in a three-month, hybrid program model in small, closed groups of five or fewer mentees. Notably, over 50% indicated willingness to pay a nominal fee to participate in the program. Key themes of interest included digital health, AI, health innovation, health policy and advocacy, and health systems strengthening, among others. This in-depth understanding was only possible by conducting a needs assessment survey and engaging in multiple discussions with members.

EXPANDING YO.DH

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YO.DH has been a unique space for collaboration among young professionals committed to advancing digital health, particularly across Africa. It has allowed me to broaden my perspective, share ideas, and strengthen my skills through meaningful engagement on practical initiatives. This community complements other global networks I'm part of, offering a dynamic, inclusive, and locally grounded platform to promote more equitable and connected health systems.

Ousseni Ouedraogo

Medical Data Advisor- MSF WaCa
YO.DH Africa Core Commitee Member

"

YO.DH AFRICA CHAPTER

YO.DH participated in and collaborated with several global digital health events and organizations. This led to a monumental surge in interest in starting member-led local YO.DH hubs to deliver contextual offerings and initiate local discourses on digital health. These regional hubs or 'Chapters' enable members to take ownership of initiatives and leverage YO.DH's offerings to their unique environments to create ripples of change. These localization efforts represent the endorsement and support of the community in YO.DH's joint mission and vision to empower young professionals in digital health.

The YO.DH Africa chapter was formally launched in May 2025- the first regional YO.DH chapter, with the support of 9 African core committee members and ecosystem partners. This launch not only marked the actualization of YO.DH's expansion efforts, but also generated much buzz and excitement within the continent.

The launch was in congruence with the emerging African digital health ecosystem and Africa's position as a leader in the space. YO.DH's growing presence in Africa aligned with the regional digital health advancements taking place. The YO.DH Africa chapter aims to contribute to the growing momentum by capacitating its youth and enabling them to be future leaders in digital health.

LAUNCHING THE YO.DH AFRICA CHAPTER

1 GAUGING MEMBER INTEREST

One-on-one conversations were held with African digital health leaders and YO.DH members to assess interest and motivation for joining a YO.DH Africa chapter.

2 CONDUCTING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A formal needs assessment was carried out with African members to identify key themes and areas of interest.

3 IDENTIFYING CHAMPIONS AND FORMING THE CORE COMMITTEE

A 9-member Core Committee from diverse backgrounds, including entrepreneurs, data scientists, digital health experts, nursing and pharmacy, along with a veteran mentor, was formed with early supporters and regular participants who expressed strong interest in shaping the community.

4 REGULARIZED WEEKLY MEETINGS AND BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS

Weekly check-ins with the Africa Core Committee began, focused on launch strategies and chapter development.

5 UNDERSTANDING THE AFRICAN DIGITAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Core Committee members shared in-depth presentations on the African digital health landscape to build contextual understanding.

6 STRATEGIC MEMBER EXPANSION AND PARTNERSHIP MAPPING

A detailed partnership mapping exercise was conducted with digital health institutions and organizations across Africa, followed by introductory calls.

7 LAUNCH OF THE YO.DH AFRICA CHAPTER

A virtual event was held to officially launch the YO.DH Africa Chapter, welcoming members, collaborators, and partners from across the region.

8 LAUNCH OF THE INDIA X AFRICA AMBASSADOR COHORT

To support efforts to operationalize and activate the YO.DH Africa chapter, a dedicated India x Africa Ambassador Cohort, has been launched under the YO.DH Ambassador Program. This specially curated cohort brings together members from India and the Africa Core Committee groups, with the India team offering strategic guidance, peer mentorship, and knowledge-sharing support to aid in establishing and strengthening the Africa chapter. Together, the cohort is helping to build institutional capacity within YO.DH Africa, as well as collaborating to develop initiatives for both YO.DH Global and Africa, and advancing South-South collaboration through joint deliverables and activities. These include the co-creation of a short podcast series, collaborative blog pieces, and the development of a health innovation compendium that collates digital health innovations from within the YO.DH Community. As the first global Ambassador Cohort, this group is laying the groundwork for future cross-regional collaborations, while also providing its members with invaluable global exposure, leadership experience, and skills development.

The YO.DH Africa chapter aims to:

- Mobilize young African digital health practitioners into a global youth movement driving digital health transformation.

- Foster South-South collaboration, cross-learning, and exchange of best practices in digital health.

- Launch Africa-specific initiatives such as short-term Digital Health courses and Modules, pro-bono consultancy opportunities, Global Networking Circles, etc.

Following the suit of YO.DH's member-driven processes, the launch of the chapter strongly incorporated members' input and had them lead the activation activities.

Our quest for expansion, scale, and localization continues as we explore opportunities for launching more local YO.DH chapters while also advancing efforts to formalize the YO.DH Student Chapter, ensuring youth voices remain central in shaping the future of digital health.

OUR REFLECTIONS

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Participating in the Youth for Digital Health (YO.DH) program was far more than a typical online engagement, it was a truly immersive and enriching experience. Despite being held virtually and scheduled on weekends, each session was thoughtfully designed, highly interactive, and intellectually stimulating. The program fostered meaningful dialogue through structured discussions, breakout room collaborations, and critical reflections that promoted peer learning and analytical thinking. By integrating real-world public health scenarios, practical and case-based discussions, the program effectively bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and field-based application. I am grateful to have been part of this journey.

Shrishti Srivastava

Public Health Specialist, IHAT
**YO.DH Ambassador, India**

"

OUR LEARNINGS

YO.DH is a one-of-its kind project in the digital health space, and one of the first global community aggregating young digital health enthusiasts onto a common platform. Throughout its various stages of operations, the Secretariat had to reinvent itself and respond to community needs. This reiterative process, elucidated some vital learnings that are described below.

INSTITUTIONAL BACKING

The sustainability of the community is underpinned by the presence and support of a strong host organization. This body enables legitimacy to the community, provides strategic, financial and logistical support, and generates traction while ensuring the smooth deliverance of community programs and initiatives.

ECOSYSTEM OF PARTNERS

Having a robust network of trusted and recurring collaborators provides a reliable foundation to draw upon when needed. This ecosystem plays a crucial role in advancing YO.DH's vision of becoming self-sustaining by creating an internal pool of resources, capabilities, and a dependable support system to effectively deliver offerings.
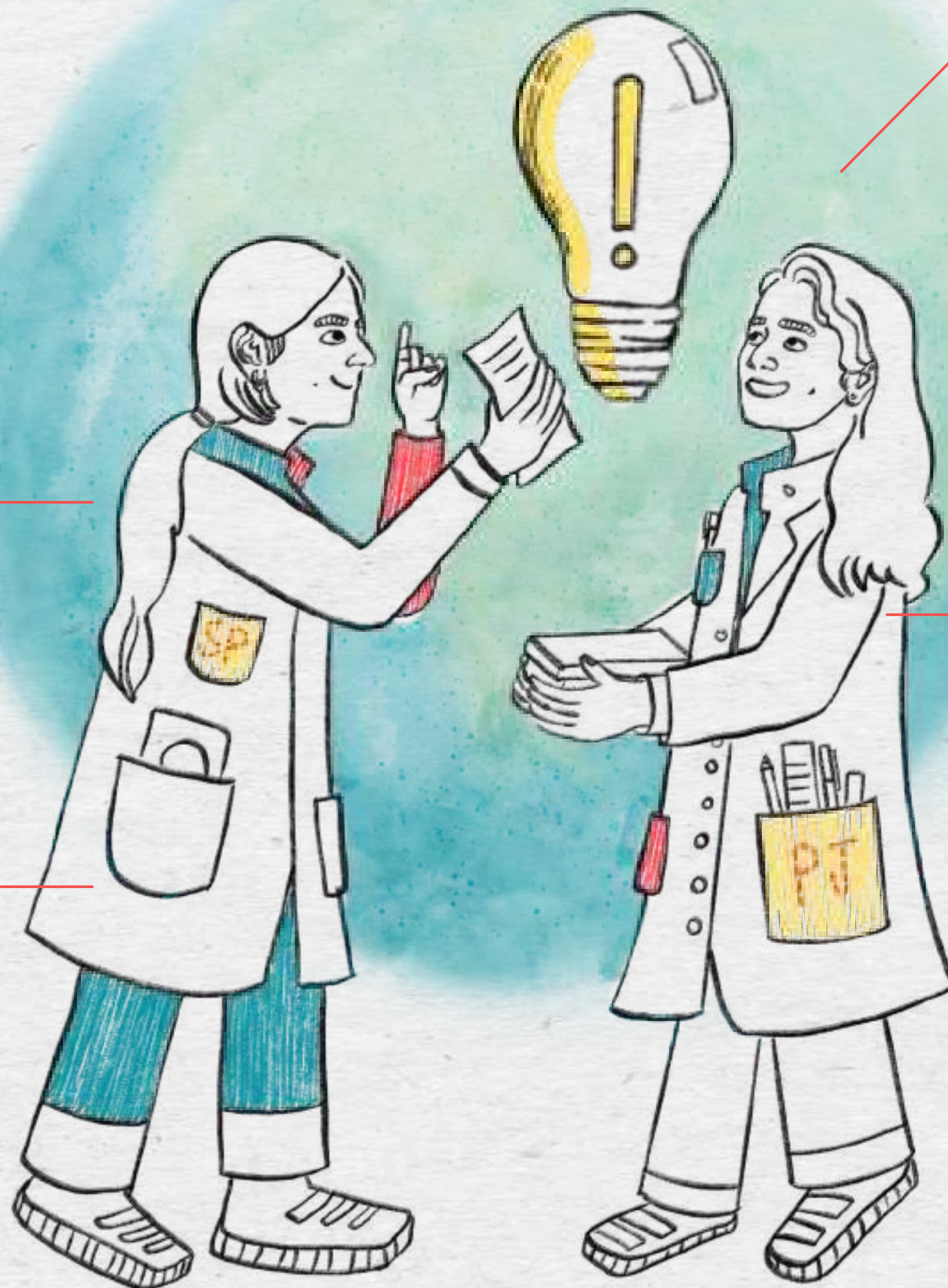
LOCALIZATION OF THE COMMUNITY

Global communities serve as a well-rounded network to bring together diverse people onto a singular platform. However, along with global exposure and knowledge sharing, localized engagements emerge as a vital approach to foster contextualized learning and mobilization. Even in the case of YO.DH, as its global community member base increased, there was felt a need to instate micro communities that could cater to the diverse needs of individual groups and facilitate contextualized dialogues. This ensures not only deliverance in relevant local realities but also enables members to exercise ownership over these micro-communities. The initiation of the YO.DH Africa and the Student chapter is a step towards this.

MAINTAINING CONTINUED MOMENTUM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

All Communities of Practice including YO.DH bring together groups of individuals who are passionate and driven about their area of interest. This self-motivation acts as a strong pillar for such volunteer-driven communities. However, it is vital to constantly spur motivation levels and interests of the community members to keep them actively engaged. This also requires constant innovation and handing over ownership to the members, amongst others. Ways this was done at YO.DH was through featuring members on social media, newsletters, inviting blog pieces, featuring innovations and projects being worked on, selecting star ambassadors of the month, and amplifying them within the community to provide visibility.

CONCLUSION

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YO.DH is more than a network; it's a movement. We're providing a platform for young leaders in digital health from across the world to foster connections across borders, build knowledge, imbibe global perspective, and emerge as the leaders of tomorrow. Over the past two years, YO.DH has evolved into a thriving and self-driven community that brings together innovators, practitioners, researchers, and advocates who are deeply committed to advancing equitable digital health. What started as a shared vision has now become a vibrant ecosystem—shaped by the energy, ideas, and leadership of young people themselves. This report is not just a record of milestones—it is a celebration of youth-led action, meaningful collaboration, and the growing recognition of youth as core partners in shaping the future of digital health.

Pallavi Jain

Program Lead (Digital Health-YO.DH), PATH

In a swiftly digitalizing healthcare ecosystem, YO.DH has been forthcoming in recognizing youth as catalysts for creating equitable digital health systems. By involving young people's ideas, inputs, and voices in the space and promoting intergenerational dialogue, YO.DH is redefining the status quo.

Sarah Parwez

Program Associate, (Digital Health-YO.DH), PATH

"

LOOKING AHEAD

As the global health ecosystem increasingly turns to digital solutions to address complex challenges, including youth voices has become essential. YO.DH has exemplified that when young professionals are given the right platforms, resources, and networks, they come together as a community of support with shared purpose and passion. In less than two years, the initiative has built one of the largest, most diverse, and gender-inclusive communities of young digital health professionals globally, spanning 44 countries and over 170 cities. This achievement not only underscores the demand for youth-led engagement in digital health but also positions YO.DH as a compelling model for future communities aiming to cultivate meaningful participation, equity, and leadership among the next generation.

YO.DH's hybrid model of engagement, democratic governance structure, and adaptive programming has enabled deep-rooted ownership, peer-led learning, and a strong culture of collaboration. Beyond just metrics and milestones, the initiative has laid the foundation for a cultural shift, redefining leadership in digital health to become more inclusive, decentralized, and responsive. It has also created a blueprint for how youth-led initiatives can be purposefully built and sustained as a CoP that influences knowledge exchange, sharing opportunities, and co-learning.

With strong support from ecosystem partners and an active, future-focused community at its core, YO.DH is now well-positioned to expand its reach, strengthen its partnerships, and further embed youth leadership in shaping the future of digital health. Looking ahead, YO.DH stands not only as a thriving initiative but also as a proof of concept of how digital health systems can be designed with youth at the center and opening up opportunities to connect, create, and collaborate.

VISION AND STRATEGY FOR YO.DH GOING FORWARD

YO.DH envisions garnering global recognition and becoming the go-to platform for digital health professionals aged 35 and under, helping them connect, create, and collaborate.

OPERATIONALIZE LOCAL AND GLOCAL ENGAGEMENTS

YO.DH was conceptualized as a singular global entity based in India. As it expanded and gained international traction, interest grew in contextualizing and localizing efforts for the community. This led to the need to operationalize geographically focused chapters to address the emerging needs of diverse stakeholders. The vision for YO.DH is to institutionalize these chapters, expand to include students pursuing digital health and allied courses, and involve community members to lead them and build partnerships supporting these efforts.

SELF-SUSTAINABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

Keeping aligned with YO.DH's goal of self-reliance and autonomy, the community is envisioned to be eventually represented by identified community leaders who will hold significant roles in its governance. These community leaders will be self-motivated and empowered to represent the community, participate in decision-making, and eventually oversee its operations.

INSTITUTIONAL BACKING

A cornerstone for community sustainability is institutional backing. Efforts are underway to identify and onboard a single leading institution or a consortium of institutions that could govern YO.DH in its entirety. This institution or group of institutions would be committed to advancing digital health and developing young leaders in the space. The supporting institution would lead all community activities both strategically and financially.

MEET THE REPORT AUTHORS

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Program Lead (Digital Health-YO.DH), PATH

Pallavi Jain is a practitioner in the social development sector with over 10 years of experience of working in more than 15 states across India and internationally. She is currently leading the Youth Ownership of Digital Health (YO.DH) project at PATH India Country Office, New Delhi. She has a strong background in communication including development of ICT tools and application of Human Centered Design approach; partnership development, stakeholder management, strategy building and project management and has worked across several thematic areas within the development sector.

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MEET THE REPORT DESIGNER

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Shreya Mohan is a visual story-teller, who loves converting complex words and data into playful, approachable illustrations. She especially enjoys doing this in real time, surrounded by people, in the form of live illustration. In her free time she likes learning new things like bachata, even when initially proven bad at it.

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