The Digital REACH Initiative

(The Digital Regional East African Community Health Initiative)

The Digital Regional East African Community Health (Digital REACH) Initiative will be a new, groundbreaking initiative within the East African Community (EAC) that will implement ICT across all dimensions of the health sector in East Africa. It has the power to transform health outcomes across the region for millions of people.

This initiative has been developed based on collaboration and inputs from representatives of each of the EAC Partner States and is supported by all Presidents of the EAC, specifically the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Uganda.

Vision 2028

Interconnected health systems for a healthy and prosperous East Africa

Mission Statement

Maximise the power of digital health in East Africa by ensuring an enabling environment and by implementing scaled, coordinated, transformational, and innovative approaches

Outcome Goals

Optimise the Diagnosis and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Improve quality, access, and continuity of care across EAC countries

Improve Health Worker Education and Training: Provide standardised and recognised healthcare training and capacity building for health workers

Improve Supply Chain Management: Improve supply chain efficiency, drug procurement, and economies of scale through better tracking and bulk purchasing

Enhance Public Health Education and Awareness: Improve community health-related knowledge and provide patient education for preventive care, and behavior change

Guarantee Universal Access to Quality Healthcare: Provide universal and portable health insurance to anyone in the region and identify everyone with a right to quality healthcare

Increase Surveillance and Improve Response: Build capacity and improve disease surveillance to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious diseases, emergencies, and outbreaks

Optimise Human Resource Allocation and Management: Optimise health worker mobilisation and deployment, especially in rural and remote areas

Monitor Population Health Status: Track regional priority patient indicators, optimise data sharing, promote use of health research to support health policies and further health agenda

The Path Forward

Strategic Plan
Q1–Q3 2018

Costing
Q2–Q3 2018

Resource Mobilisation
Q3-Q4 2018

Initiative Launch and Execution
Q1 2019

The Digital REACH Initiative

(The Digital Regional East African Community Health Initiative)

Organisation Formation and Management

Health Programmes

Drive the design and use of solutions to improve healthcare for East Africans

East Africa Open Science Cloud for Health (EAOSCH)	Regional Health Services Implementations	Digital Regional East Africa Data (READ) Health	EAC Regional Health Observatory (RHO)	Telemedicine Networks for East African Tertiary (NEAT) Healthcare Services
	East African Academy for Community Health (EAACH)	Knowledge Management and Peer Learning	Regional Technical Assistance for Digital Health	Implementations Using Transformational Technologies

Supportive Regional Enabling Infrastructure and Environment

Infrastructure

Create the technical global goods that support all other workstreams and provide regional tech support

Services and Applications

Identify and support the development of reusable and interoperable software services and applications built for regional and national use

Leadership and Advocacy

Advocate, socialise, lay the groundwork, remove political obstacles, and garner political support for implementations

Strategy and Investment

Negotiate with external actors on behalf of the region to realise economies of scale and greater efficiencies

Legislation, Policy, and Compliance

Develop the policies and guidelines needed, and work to gain their adoption across Partner States

Workforce

Build health worker professional capacity across the region to facilitate human resource sharing and improve care

Standards and Interoperability

Identify and develop common guidelines, standards, and protocols to lay the foundation for an effective regional digital health ecosystem