

HealthConnekt by UNICEF: Empowering Health Through Digital Connectivity



Overview

HealthConnekt is a pioneering initiative by UNICEF aimed at transforming global health services by creating equitable access to healthcare. It seeks to ensure that by 2030, every health service delivery point worldwide, particularly in lower-and-middle income countries (LMICs), has meaningful and sustainable internet connectivity. This initiative is crucial in bridging the digital divide in healthcare, making digital health services accessible and affordable for all, including marginalized and remote communities.

The Need for HealthConnekt

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the potential of digital health services to enhance reach and improve healthcare quality. However, most of the global population, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, faces barriers to accessing these services due to a lack of internet connectivity and reliable electricity. HealthConnekt addresses these challenges, aiming to eliminate the digital divide and ensuring that digital health tools benefit all populations.

Services and Goals

Recognizing the diverse needs across different regions, HealthConnekt will adopt a country-led approach, meticulously adapted to each local landscape. This ensures that the initiative is not just a global endeavor, but is finely tuned to address specific local challenges and requirements in improving digital health connectivity and infrastructure. As such, HealthConnekt is designed to:

- **Map Health Facilities:** Identify and analyze the connectivity and electrification needs of health facilities globally.
- **Assess National Internet Coverage:** Evaluate the availability and affordability of internet services at health facility locations.
- **Conduct Equity Analysis:** Link connectivity with healthcare access inequalities and develop sustainable investment plans and strategies.

- **Provide Technical Assistance:** Offer support in policy development, solution design, public finance administration, competitive procurement and contract management for connectivity solutions.
- **Foster Collaborative Partnerships:** Work alongside public-private sector partners to align and strengthen global efforts towards digital health.

Impact and Benefits

HealthConnekt aims to create a world where every health facility, regardless of location, has the digital infrastructure to provide comprehensive health services. This initiative will:

- Enhance the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of healthcare.
- Improve access to health services for marginalized communities.
- Build resilience in healthcare systems, particularly in pandemic preparedness.
- Promote equitable use of digital health resources.

Contact Us

HealthConnekt represents a significant step towards a future where digital health services are a universal reality. Through collaboration, innovation, and sustainable investment, UNICEF's HealthConnekt is set to transform the global health landscape, making quality healthcare accessible to every child and community around the world.

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