ACCELERATE TO THE DIGITAL STATE — d-HEALTH

Elevating Healthcare- Roadmap to Digital Health

d-Health Digital Health (d-Health) is a broad term, and refers to the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) in providing healthcare.

Digital health is still in its infancy in Pakistan. Many pilots are not followed by full-scale implementation due to a lack of sustainable financing, high risks for individual stakeholders and long time-to-market for commercial solutions. d-Health can help to reduce inefficiencies in healthcare delivery, improve access, reduce costs, increase quality, and make health services more accessible and effective.

Stop: Key Challenges

Low Prioritization

Government spending in last 10 years has been approx. 0.6-0.8% of the GDP, low by any standard

Lack of Access

Wide gap between supply and demand of medical facilities for the population at large; the doctor-to-patient ratio being 1 doctor for 997 patients in Pakistan

Urban Rural Disparity

Young doctors unwilling to serve in rural areas, Distances of medical facilities are typically greater in rural areas than in urban areas

Continue: d-Health Initiatives

d-Health is an important initiative under eKranti in the Digital India Program. A separate d-Health division in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) was established.

100 remote municipalities throughout Greece are connected to Athens Medical Center through Vodaphone Telemedicine Program. Residents of 100 remote municipalities can get treatment by experts in Athens Medical Center.

eVaccs is a vaccination project rolled out by the Government of Punjab and KPK, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health and WHO. Agha Khan Hospital, Sehat Kahani, Oladoc, RingaDoctor are few examples from the eHealth private sector. However, scale is missing.

Accelerate: Next Steps

1 Leadership and Governance- Government to lead

2 Comprehensive d-Health Strategy and a dedicated department

3 Telehealth facilities in Basic Health Units

4 Enhance Public Private & Private-Private Partnerships