

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Digital Health Strategy & Roadmap
▪ TC Number:	TT-T1139
▪ Team Leader/Members:	HO-A-SHU, IAN (SCL/SPH) Team Leader; NELSON, JENNIFER A (SCL/SPH) Alternate Team Leader; DOMINIQUE AFOON (SCL/SPH); GUERRA, MARTHA M. (SCL/SPH); ACEVEDO CALLE, DANIELA (LEG/SGO); LOPEZ ARAGON, CARMEN CAROLINA (VPC/FMP)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	26 Jan 2023
▪ Beneficiary:	Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$250,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	36 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/SPH - Social Protection & Health
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CCB/CTT - Ctry Off Trinidad & Tobago
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	Yes
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality; Productivity and innovation; Institutional capacity and rule of law; Environmental sustainability; Gender equality; Diversity

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The general objective of the TC is: (i) to support the design of a Digital Health Strategy and Roadmap based on the IDB Digital Health Architecture Model, which when operationalized, will improve the quality, efficiency and equity of health services across all sectors in Trinidad & Tobago; (ii) to support adoption and adaptation of regional (Latin America and the Caribbean) approaches and best practices for digital transformation of the health sector, related to the design and implementation of electronic health records, telehealth and implementation of international standards for interoperability in health in Trinidad & Tobago; and (iii) document lessons learned from the local context. The promise of digital health transformation for Trinidad & Tobago. Digital transformation (DT) of the health sector refers to how technologies change the sector's rules of engagement, ways of working and interacting, and mindset. DT presents an opportunity to leverage technology's transformative power to address fundamental flaws and move the region's healthcare systems toward a new reality. The COVID-19 pandemic has evidenced the importance of digital health to increase access and quality of health services and to help countries move towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The project is framed on the IDB "digital house" concept or Digital Health Architecture Model which is used throughout the region by the IDB Group to help develop digital health roadmaps and transformation strategy. The digital house shows the actions and products needed to build a solid DT and is built on six key dimensions: governance, people and culture, informed health policy and practice, infrastructure, infostructure, and applications and digital services for the sector.

- 2.2 Recognising the need for a transformed digital ecosystem, the Government of Trinidad & Tobago, (GoRTT) established the Ministry of Digital Transformation, (MDT), with a focus on developing and advancing the National ICT Plan, the country's digital agenda which declares a bold vision of a future, transformed through ICT. Some of its priorities in the health sector include: (i) the use of digital tools to capture and share data for clinical care (including connectivity); (ii) the expansion of telehealth services; (iii) the implementation of interoperability between healthcare services, laboratories, and pharmacies; (iv) providing support services such as electronic prescription; and (v) providing an ecosystem for Digital Health innovation. The IDB Country Strategy with Trinidad & Tobago (2021- 2025) aims to support the implementation of the country's digital transformation agenda to achieve more sustainable and inclusive growth and focuses on one main area: digitalization to support economic transformation. It also pursues three strategic objectives: (i) improving the business environment to enable digital transformation; (ii) expanding the use of digital tools for improving educational outcomes and digital skills; (iii) and enhancing the delivery of services. An IDB (2021) Sector Framework Document on Health indicates that as much as 77% of the population of Trinidad & Tobago uses the Internet and there are currently 103 mobile telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. The current state of connectivity indicates the consumer response and infrastructure capacity for digital health advancement are viable for transformative efforts. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AkjyyFqoNO-htBIZYKYxqpE7jctk1Esb/view?usp=share_link.
- 2.3 Currently, Trinidad & Tobago lacks a health information system that could contribute to the delivery of integrated quality care to the population, including continuity of care amongst different levels (e.g., health centers and hospitals). It also lacks a telehealth system that could improve access to health specialists and diagnostic exams and help mitigate some of the challenges related to health human resources in the country, and it could also contribute to reduce medical errors and improve quality of care. A digital health ecosystem will help bridge the digital divide in the health sector and address the need for system change to improve the health service in the country. To address the above referenced challenges, the GoRTT has requested IDB's assistance to finance operation "Digital Health Strategy & Roadmap" (TT-T1139), with the objective of expanding access and improving quality of care.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Digital Health assessments.** This component will fund assessments of the current state of EHR readiness and current EHR initiatives, telemedicine services, telehealth infrastructure and connectivity, and key Digital Health domains. The main result will be an informed diagnosis of current state of Digital Health in Trinidad & Tobago to inform a roadmap for transformation.
- 3.2 **Component II: Technical support and Capacity Building.** This component will fund institutional strengthening activities including: (i) preparation of a digital agenda and roadmap to guide investments in digital health; and (ii) technical assistance and/or training(s) to strengthen technical, institutional, and operational capacities within the RHAs and the MOH. The main result of this component is the improved human capital for digital health and interoperability.
- 3.3 **Component III: Knowledge exchange and sharing.** This component will fund publications, knowledge exchange and information sharing events/workshops with key DH stakeholders throughout LAC.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Digital Health assessments	US\$120,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$120,000.00
Technical support and Capacity Building	US\$100,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$100,000.00
Knowledge exchange and sharing	US\$30,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$30,000.00
Total	US\$250,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$250,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 Based on a request from the GoRTT, the executing agency of this TC will be the IDB, through SCL/SPH. The Bank will be executing this TC given the high level of complexity and technical expertise required to prepare the terms of reference of the studies and assessments involved, as well as to supervise their implementation. SCL/SPH has specialists in digital health and extensive experience in the implementation of similar processes in the region, which will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and lessons learned to this operation. The Bank will hire external experts on the subjects, as required, to ensure the timely and efficient execution of resources as per project needs. In addition to this, the Bank's execution will facilitate coordination among the different subnational governments' institutions responsible for Digital Transformation in Health.
- 5.2 Monitoring of the progress and quality of the activities financed by this TC will be carried out directly by the IDB, through the Social Protection and Health Division (SCL/SPH). The TC team leader will be responsible for supervising and monitoring the appropriate execution of the project, with support from the operations consultant based in the country office. The Bank's institutional systems will be used to support this process. Regarding the monitoring and evaluation of this TC, the Bank's technical team will produce an annual report on the execution and results of the TC. Supervision activities will be both in person—including through missions—and remotely, by means of teleconference and electronic communications. Any associated costs will be funded by SCL/SPH. The Bank's systems will be used for the periodic monitoring of the indicators in the results matrix, as well as for all required reporting.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 For the TC to achieve its objectives, there is a clear need for robust coordination among various administrative and technical departments within the MoH as well as other key stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Digital Transformation, in charge of expanding internet connectivity in the country, and the Regional Health Authorities, responsible for service provision and health infrastructure. Insufficient levels of coordination could lead to delays in execution as well as sub-optimal decisions. To mitigate these risks, the TC will promote the conduction of regular meetings amongst project's stakeholders to review the TC's implementation plan, to discuss technical aspects related to the interventions, to ensure the quality of decisions, and to identify – and mitigate – any potential execution-related challenges.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".