

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	PARAGUAY/CSC - Southern Cone
▪ TC Name:	Support for Digital Transformation in Health
▪ TC Number:	PR-T1352
▪ Team Leader/Members:	MAC ARTHUR, IAN WILLIAM (SCL/SPH) Team Leader; NELSON, JENNIFER A (SCL/SPH); ROCIO ACOSTA (CSC/CPR); AVILA, KRYSIA A (LEG/SGO); GUERRA, MARTHA M. (SCL/SPH)
▪ Taxonomy:	Operational Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	Program to Strengthen Integrated and Comprehensive Health Services Networks based on Primary Health Care – PR-L1167
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	06 Oct 2023
▪ Beneficiary:	Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (PR-MSPBS-MINISTERIO DE SALUD PUBLICA Y BIENESTAR SOCIAL)
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$200,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	36 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/SPH - Social Protection & Health
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CSC/CPR - Country Office Paraguay
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	Yes
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality; Productivity and innovation ; Institutional capacity and rule of law

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to provide technical assistance in the continued review and implementation of the roadmap for digital transformation in the health sector in Paraguay. The TC will support the following activities: (i) consolidation and scale up of data interoperability activities in the health sector; and (ii) systematization and communication of key efforts regarding digital transformation in health and updating and maintenance of the digital health roadmap.
- 2.2 The main result of Component I is a greater level of preparedness for making patient data available from different information systems. The results of Component II actions include greater awareness and commitment regarding digital transformation in health deriving from written and audiovisual materials on successful experiences and renewed agreement on the path forward because of the revised roadmap.
- 2.3 For several years the IDB has been supporting Paraguay's efforts regarding digital transformation (DT) in the health sector. The centerpiece of this strategy is the "roadmap for digital transformation," which the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MPHSW) approved in 2019. It presents the projects, processes, actions, and products for DT, organized in four components (governance and management, infrastructure, infostructure, and process components and health information) and encompassing an initial implementation period of six years. A cross-cutting area relates to "organizational" needs that require activities to improve implementation (for example, change management, training, team composition, etc.). The roadmap also identifies sources of financing for the different items of DT in health, including budget resources and

donations from cooperating agencies. The inputs for the roadmap derived mainly from the 'Future State' workshops and the interviews and meetings held by the IDB team, which subsequently prepared the corresponding document.

- 2.4 Paraguay has made significant progress regarding the implementation of the roadmap with IDB collaboration. With resources of approximately US\$9 million from the Digital Agenda Support Program (loan 4650/OC-PR), it installed connectivity and the Health Information System (HIS) software in 110 health facilities (60 hospitals and 50 Family Health Units), and it recently allocated an additional US\$4.5 million to finance this initiative in another 105 Family Health Units. The HIS allows for streamlining and improvement of the quality of health care provision, collects data in real time, permits pharmacy stock monitoring, and records the clinical history of each patient, among other benefits. This loan will also support consultancies to help define the IT governance framework for the MPHSW and normative structure for digital health. Finally, with funds from BIDLab (US\$150,000), the IDB hired a firm to develop, and pilot test an interoperability platform at the National Cancer Institute (INCAN) that integrated files from the HIS and the ambulatory care system (SAA) using a single viewer, seeking to improve continuity and quality of care for patients. To build on these successful experiences and advance along the DT roadmap, the MPHSW has requested TC from the IDB to finance strategic activities.
- 2.5 This TC is consistent with the Second Update of the Institutional Strategy (AB-3190-2) and is aligned with the following strategic priorities: (i) Social Inclusion and Equality, by supporting the improvement of the access and quality of public health and healthcare services; and (ii) Institutional Capacity and Rule of Law, by improving administrative processes and services and strengthening institutional frameworks for digital transformation of the health sector. It is also aligned with the strategic objective of "improving the coverage and quality of social services" of the Country Strategy of the IDB Group with Paraguay 2019-2023 (GN-2958). TC activities will complement and facilitate investments made in digital transformation in health through the IDB loans 4650/OC-PR Digital Agenda Support Program and 4872/OC-PR Program to Strengthen Integrated and Comprehensive Health Services Networks Based on Primary Health Care. Specifically, the project will allow for enhanced utility of the HIS, to be financed with resources from loan 4872/OC-PR, through its efforts to achieve greater data interoperability.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Strengthening of data interoperability in health.** This component will fund (i) the review, consensus-building process, and approval of the system's business and data privacy and security architecture; (ii) support to the interoperability platform through the development of guides (including data model) and collaborative connectivity efforts (connectathons); and (iii) access to the most extensive structured clinical vocabulary tool for use with electronic health records (SNOMED--Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terms).
- 3.2 **Component II: Promotion of digital health transformation agenda and roadmap maintenance.** This component will provide resources to fund (i) assessment (case-study style) and information-sharing about strategic DT efforts, including improving connectivity in rural areas, scaling up with HIS, and design and deployment of the digital hospital concept at the National Cancer Institute (INCAN), the first interoperability platform in the health sector; and (ii) the updating and monitoring of the digital health transformation roadmap.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Strengthening of data interoperability in health	US\$120,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$120,000.00
Promotion of digital health transformation agenda and roadmap maintenance	US\$80,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$80,000.00
Total	US\$200,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$200,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The executing agency of this TC will be the IDB, through the Social Protection and Health Division (SCL/SPH), at the request of the Government of Paraguay. SCL/SPH has digital health specialists and a dedicated team with technical knowledge and extensive experience in the region, which will facilitate the preparation of terms of reference of the studies and assessments involved, as well as their implementation, the transfer of knowledge and lessons learned to this operation. Additionally, the IDB will facilitate coordination among the different actors involved in the digital transformation in health, especially the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communication (MITIC), which financed HIS deployment in 110 health facilities.
- 5.2 Monitoring of the progress and quality of the activities financed by this TC will be carried out directly by the IDB, through (SCL/SPH). The TC team leader will be responsible for supervising and monitoring the appropriate execution of the project. The project's technical team will produce an annual report on the execution and results of the TC. The IDB systems will be used for the periodic monitoring of the project indicators, as well as for all required reporting.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 Considering the numerous actors involved in the digital health transformation, there is a risk that a lack of coordination could lead to delays in execution as well as sub-optimal decisions. Therefore, there is a need to ensure regular interaction among various administrative and technical departments within the MPHWS as well as other key stakeholders, such as the MITIC. The TC will promote regular meetings amongst project's stakeholders to review the TC's implementation plan, discuss technical aspects related to the interventions, ensure the quality of decisions, and to identify and mitigate potential challenges.

VII. Environmental and Social Aspects

- 7.1 This TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).