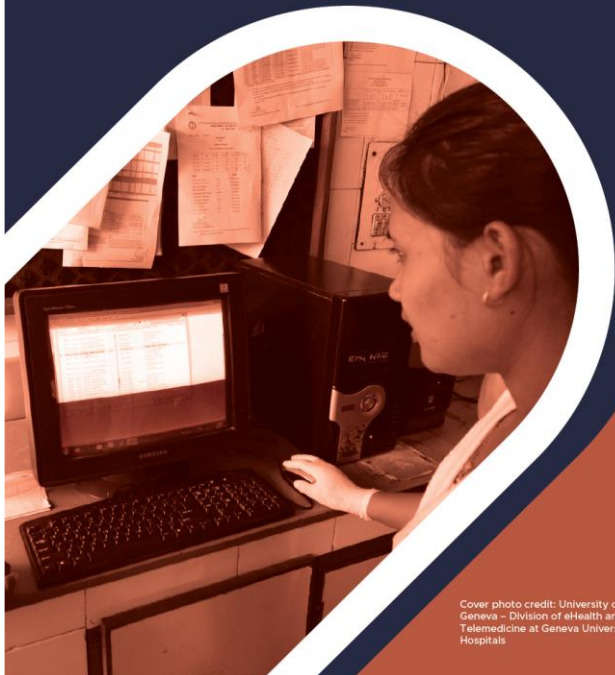


Regional workshop
on **strengthening
telemedicine**

7–9 February 2023
New Delhi, India



Cover photo credit: University of Geneva – Division of eHealth and Telemedicine at Geneva University Hospitals

An overview of the workshop objectives, key outcomes, agenda, overall process, organizational and administrative information.

Amani Siyam
(Regional advisor (HIS), WHO SEARO)

On behalf of the WHO Digital Health and Innovation Department and the WHO Office for the South-East Asia Region, we welcome you to this technical workshop on

Strengthening telemedicine implementation in the WHO South-East Asia (SEA) Region.

In recent years, countries in the SEA Region have shown considerable progress in the implementation of digital health initiatives and in particular Telemedicine services to facilitate the delivery of quality and cost-effective health services to all as an integral step forward towards achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Working through various partnerships, WHO projected the fundamental importance of harnessing the power of digital health tools in the [Global strategy on digital health 2020–2025](#), endorsed by the 73rd WHA in 2020.

The Global strategy promotes the appropriate and sustainable adoption of digital health technologies within the context of national health strategies and priorities.

Telemedicine is an integral component of the **Global strategy strategic objective 4**

“advocate people-centered health system that are enabled by digital health such as telemedicine for strengthening service delivery. “

Today's workshop constitutes **an introspective time point** for the SEA Region countries:

- To assess the current implementations of telemedicine technologies and respective results among the Member States of the SEA Region and to share lessons learnt particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic response
- To identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities in telemedicine that can hinder or facilitate progress towards UHC and the health-related SDGs
- To outline country-specific road maps or action plans aimed at strengthening telemedicine implementations, as a strategic, technical and operational support from WHO and partners to Member States of the SE Asia Region.

Today's workshop is a re-orientation on WHO collaborative multi-partner efforts for TLM

- The Global strategy on digital health (2020-2025)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- The WHO Collaborating Centre (University of Geneva)
- The World Trade Organization (WTO)
- The consolidated telemedicine implementation guide
- Digital Implementation Investment Guide (DIIG) *integrating digital interventions into health programmes*
- Digital Health Planning National Systems (DHPNS)
- Case studies from RAFT network, RMNCH, NCD and Mental Health
- Market analysis for telemedicine – how to strategically develop/ implement and purchase telemedicine services
- Telehealth REACH in SEAR countries

The primary outcome this workshop is *to support each country to develop a roadmap or action plan that can strengthen telemedicine implementations in the short- and medium-term.*

The workshop offers time and space for dialogue, exchange of knowledge, good practices and lessons learnt to address critical questions around:

- (i) The key telemedicine programme implementations and priorities in each country.
- (ii) The current and foreseeable challenges and risks.
- (iii) The key opportunities for telemedicine in improving service deliver.
- (iv) Consolidating and prioritizing requests for support and investments from WHO and global health development partners?

Thank you and handing over to my colleague **Tarun Jain** to give you some administrative information