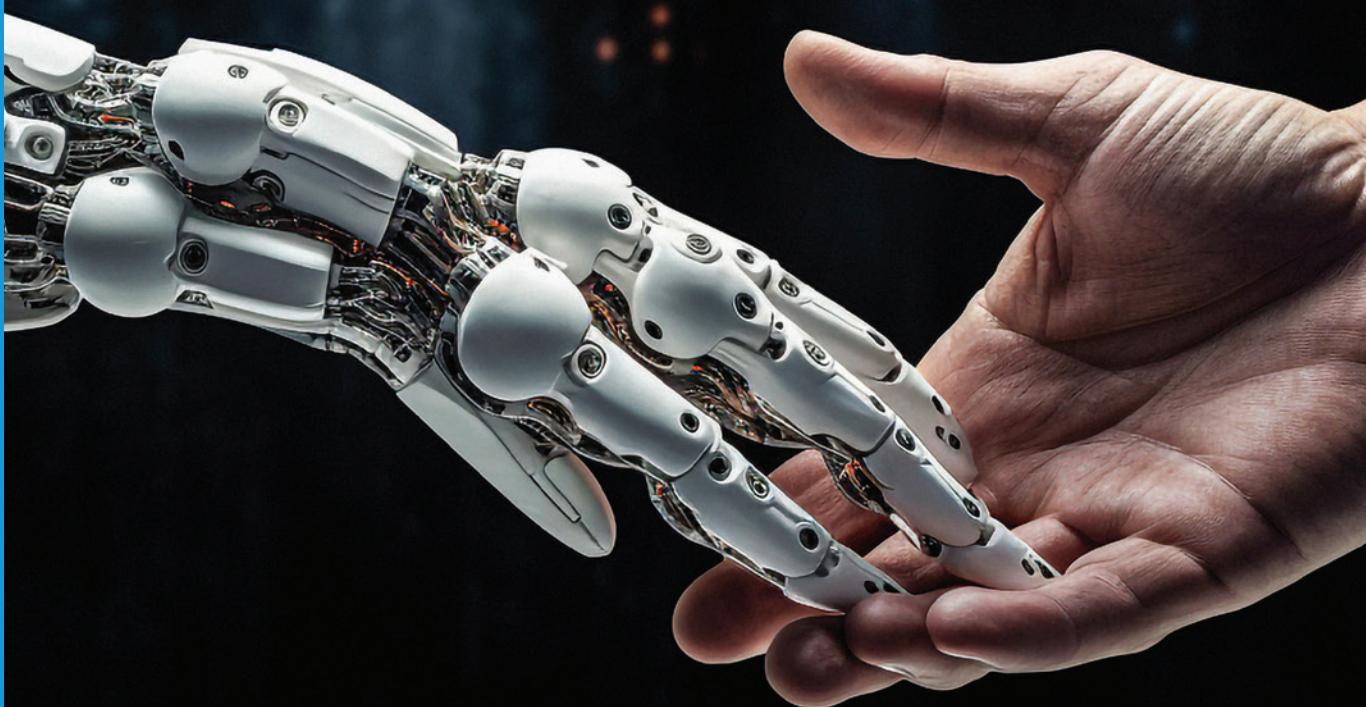


Artificial Intelligence for Health

Supporting countries to deploy
responsible AI technologies to
accelerate equitable health for all



Cover photo: "Handshake of robot hand and human hand generative AI"
by Freepik

Overview

At the World Health Organization (WHO), we support the science-based adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for health. Our overarching goal is to ensure that AI advancements contribute to global health in a way that is safe, ethical and equitable, with appropriate governance and regulation.

We recognize the immense potential of AI to revolutionize health and address pressing challenges, such as skilled workforce gaps and resource limitations. However, as technology progresses rapidly, regulatory frameworks often struggle to keep pace with these developments, and adequate capacity to implement AI effectively lags behind.

In response, WHO is actively engaged in guiding its Member States by developing guidance on governance, ethical standards and regulations to address emerging opportunities and challenges, mitigate risks, safeguard public health, and foster trust in the use of AI for health. Our mission is to assist countries in deploying AI technologies to deliver people-centered, equitable and sustainable health systems.

WHO's Approach

WHO's strategic 'AI for health' (AI4H) approach centers around three pillars, which are:



Standards,
governance,
policies, and
guidance on
evidence-based
AI4H

ENABLE



Pooled
investments
& a global
community
of experts

FACILITATE



Sustainable
models of AI
programs
implementation
at the country
level

IMPLEMENT

Key activities

- We develop standards, policies, and guidance to guide countries on safe and ethical use of AI in health.
- We enable countries to establish safe and equitable AI ecosystems in health.
- We facilitate knowledge sharing by delivering workshops and briefings to support implementation of AI ecosystems.
- We collaborate with experts and stakeholders on key health and crosscutting topics to facilitate AI in health (such as the Policy to Action Group and Regulatory Considerations on AI for Health group, the use of AI in sexual and reproductive health and research)
- We support the deployment of sustainable AI programmes in-country.
- We offer tools to guide decision-makers in considering the benefits and risks of adopting AI.
- We deliver courses on AI tailored for policymakers, health-workers, and developers.

What can we do for countries?

Technical assistance on integrating AI technologies into their healthcare systems.

Courses and workshops

to enhance understanding and capacity, building on our experience of training people from over 100 countries.

Knowledge-sharing networks

to support collaboration and action.

Standards and guidance on areas such as ethical considerations, regulatory frameworks, and best practices to help countries produce policies and strategies.

Implementation support

for AI policies and ecosystems to ensure the successful integration of AI for improving health.

Support for national policies, governance, and building regulatory capacity to align with responsible and effective AI practices.

Contact us at ai@who.int to find out more about how we can work together

Call to action

There are many ways countries, donors and partners can support WHO's work on harnessing AI for Health, including:

- to join the Global Initiative on AI for Health;
- to back WHO's efforts in setting standards for AI;
- to invest in national AI policies; and
- to strengthen regulatory capacity for responsible AI deployment.

“ *AI is already playing a role in diagnosis and clinical care, drug development, disease surveillance, outbreak response, and health systems management ... The future of healthcare is digital, and we must do what we can to promote universal access to these innovations and prevent them from becoming another driver for inequity.”*

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
WHO Director-General

WHO guidance documents



Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health: Guidance on large multi-modal models

18 January 2024

This guidance has more than 51,000 downloads, as of May 2024.



Regulatory considerations on artificial intelligence for health

19 October 2023

This publication has over 30,000 downloads, as of May 2024.



Generating evidence for artificial intelligence based medical devices: A framework for training validation and evaluation

17 November 2021



Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health: WHO guidance: Executive summary

28 June 2021



Benefits and risks of using artificial intelligence for pharmaceutical development and delivery

March 2024



The role of artificial intelligence in sexual and reproductive health and rights

March 2024



Course: Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence for Health