



I-DAIR

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I-DAIR launches Global Research Map (GRM) for digital health and AI.

The first GRM report provides insights into the R&D landscape and the maturity of national digital health strategies using big data and an innovative methodology.

November 24, 2021, Geneva. Today, a year after the start of its incubation phase, I-DAIR celebrates the release of the [report](#) from its first PathFinders project: the [Global Research Map \(GRM\)](#).

I-DAIR's Digital Health and AI Global Research Map is an interactive tool designed to provide awareness of the global, regional and national landscapes of digital health and AI research and innovation. Its objectives are to enhance visibility and understanding of current research and investment trends, identify gaps, and foster multi-stakeholders collaboration on AI and digital health to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG.3).

The GRM, like I-DAIR, is founded on the need for greater equity in the research and development of emerging technologies in critical areas such as health. The first of its kind, this tool uses a new methodology and a novel approach to analysing data embodying an objective approach to the evaluation of National Digital Health Strategies (NDHS). It strives to meaningfully uncover disparities while staying off a hierarchical mindset in order to highlight the varied potential of different countries in pursuing research and development of digital technologies.

Using the GRM, users can not only highlight general trends in digital health research and innovation, but also get a deeper dive into regional and national dynamics at play. For example, at first glance, the distribution of patents between LMIC countries and HIC countries appears equitable, with respectively 13,843 and 13,591 patents in total for each group. However, a deeper look discloses that the great majority of all the LMIC countries' patents are filed by, not only a single region, (countries from Central and East Asian, with a total of 12,984 patents) but almost by a single country: China, which represents by itself 76% of patents from LMICs and nearly 38% of patents filed worldwide. Comparatively the total number of patents filed in the Africa and MENA regions represent a mere 0.21% of global patents.

Thus, by moving away from the ranking rationale and by enabling deep-dive into regional and national conditions, the GRM is able to provide a fair and personalized roadmap for countries to develop their national vision for digital health by identifying best practices for shaping strategies amongst comparable country groups gathered into clusters. Recommendations are thus made in accordance with the regional and country profile and can actually be put into practice as pertinent and actionable suggestions.

A report will be published annually, providing updates on the interplay between strategy and R&D outcomes with a view to help shape and guide national and regional roadmaps towards the digital transformation of health systems and the accomplishment of UHC per frameworks adopted at the World Health Organization (WHO).

Currently the GRM includes a first collection of 23 NDHS in its database. I-DAIR is looking to expand the project and include additional countries in the future and is, thus, inviting all countries interested in the collection of a clear and annually updated picture of the state of their present and prospective development in digital health to join the initiative.

As part of their work in advocating for the equitable use of AI and digital technology, and supporting innovative programs and research, Fondation Botnar has actively supported I-DAIR since the launch of the incubation phase at the Global Health Centre of Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, where I-DAIR is currently being hosted. The Wellcome Trust is now also supporting I-DAIR's growth and R&D agenda in view of I-DAIR's official launch planned for 2022. These organizations have significantly enabled the establishment and growth of I-DAIR, particularly the development of the GRM, as they believe that digital technology and research can improve healthcare and health issues globally.

“At Fondation Botnar, we believe that digital technology and research have the potential to improve healthcare globally. We're proud to have supported I-DAIR in developing this unique tool that will provide vital insights into the global, regional and national landscapes of AI and digital health research and innovation. The GRM's unique approach will allow us to better harness these technologies to improve the health and wellbeing of people around the world.” – Aline Cossy-Gantner, Chief Learning Officer, Fondation Botnar.

For additional information or request, we invite you to connect with us at contact@i-dair.org.

[Fondation Botnar](#) is a Swiss-based foundation that champions the use of AI and digital technology to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in growing urban environments.

The [Wellcome Trust](#) supports science to solve the urgent health challenges facing everyone. They support discovery research into life, health and wellbeing, and are taking on three worldwide health challenges: mental health, global heating and infectious diseases.

The [Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies](#) is a research institution that provides a better understanding of the shifting power balance in global health governance. The mission of the centre is to broaden the understanding of global health, build capacity for decision-makers, contribute to setting agendas in global health and foster inclusive partnerships.

The [International Digital Health & Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative \(I-DAIR\)](#) is a project to co-create, with a diverse range of stakeholders from the public, private, and academic sectors, a new international platform for the inclusive, impactful and responsible R&D of digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) for health.