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Special panel: "The role of ICT for future pandemics"

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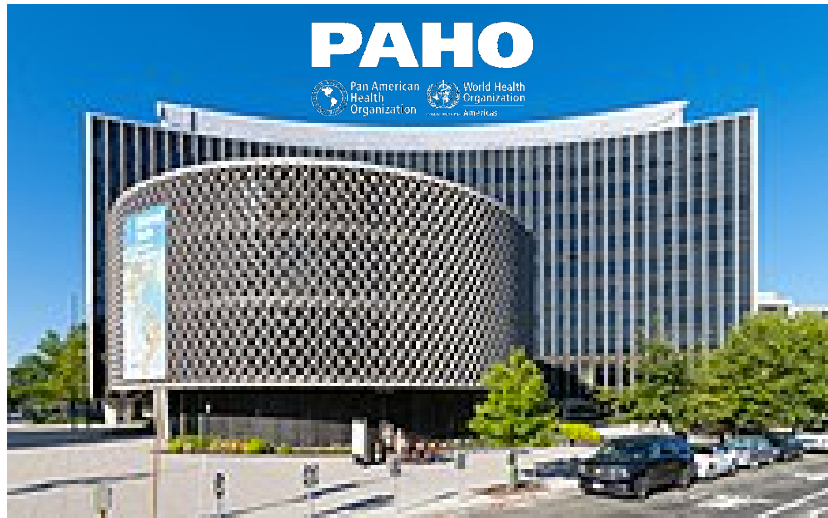
Special panel:

"The role of ICT for future pandemics"

Presentation:

Digital transformation in public health: A new paradigm for health systems strengthening and people-centered care in the post-covid19 era





In this presentation:

- The “COVID19” context, gaps and priorities
- Why now
- Our principles
- Strategic visioning model
- Leading factors for success?
- What should we do now ?
- What are our high level plans for 2021

What is known about the problem?

- In January 2020 nothing was known, not even the name.
- A little more is known in 10 months, but there is still uncertainty
- As there is no specific treatment or vaccine (yet), more importance has been given to non-pharmacological interventions to contain the contagion and manage the epidemic
- Asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic and children can transmit the virus
- More severe in older adults and people with NCDs
- 80% are "mild", 15% are hospitalized, 5% enter intensive care
- 10 to 15% of the population does not recover and continues with "long COVID"
- Lethality in infected between 0.3 and 0.6% (WHO)
- Lack of real-time critical data for rapid decisions
- Weakness in regulatory instruments and governance mechanisms on the use of digital technologies in health

Region of the Americas

28,591,241 cases

753,210 deaths

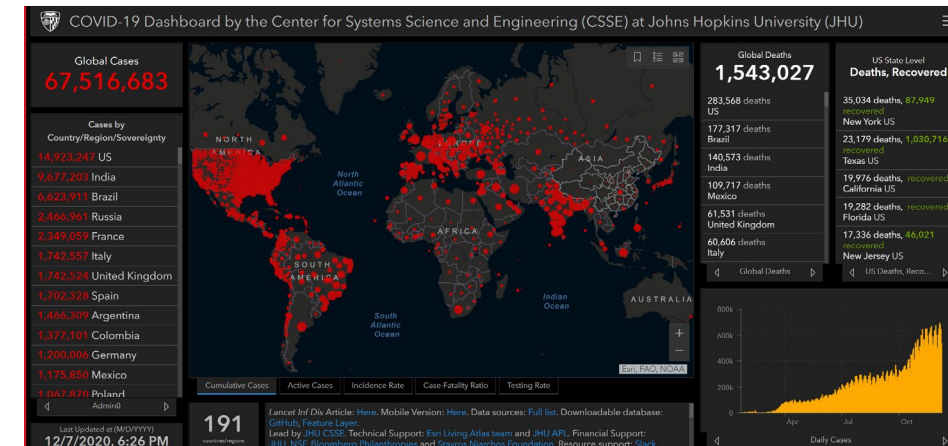
Global

66,657,499 cases

1,534,660 deaths

216

countries/areas/territories affected



Gaps and priorities

Gaps in legislation that is not primarily prepared for the following issues:

- Data privacy management in mobile applications
- Management of personal data of medical consultations on personal telephones of health personnel
- Implementation of Telemedicine, mainly for possible malpractice claims

Gaps in the governance of information systems on these issues:

- **Data availability** (registry and management) outdated processes
- Standards that ensure the interoperability of databases and applications
- The information systems are not yet ready to manage the infodemic (Excess data and information, bad or good)

Connectivity gaps:

- More than 200 million people disconnected in the Americas

Health workers skills gaps:

- Health workers are unprepared for this fully interconnected world

Knowledge gaps / organizational culture

- The ministries of health are lagging behind to enter the digital transformation of governments
- Ministries of health lag behind in open data movements
- Lack of understanding of innovative solutions such as Artificial Intelligence and Predictive modeling for Public Health planning.

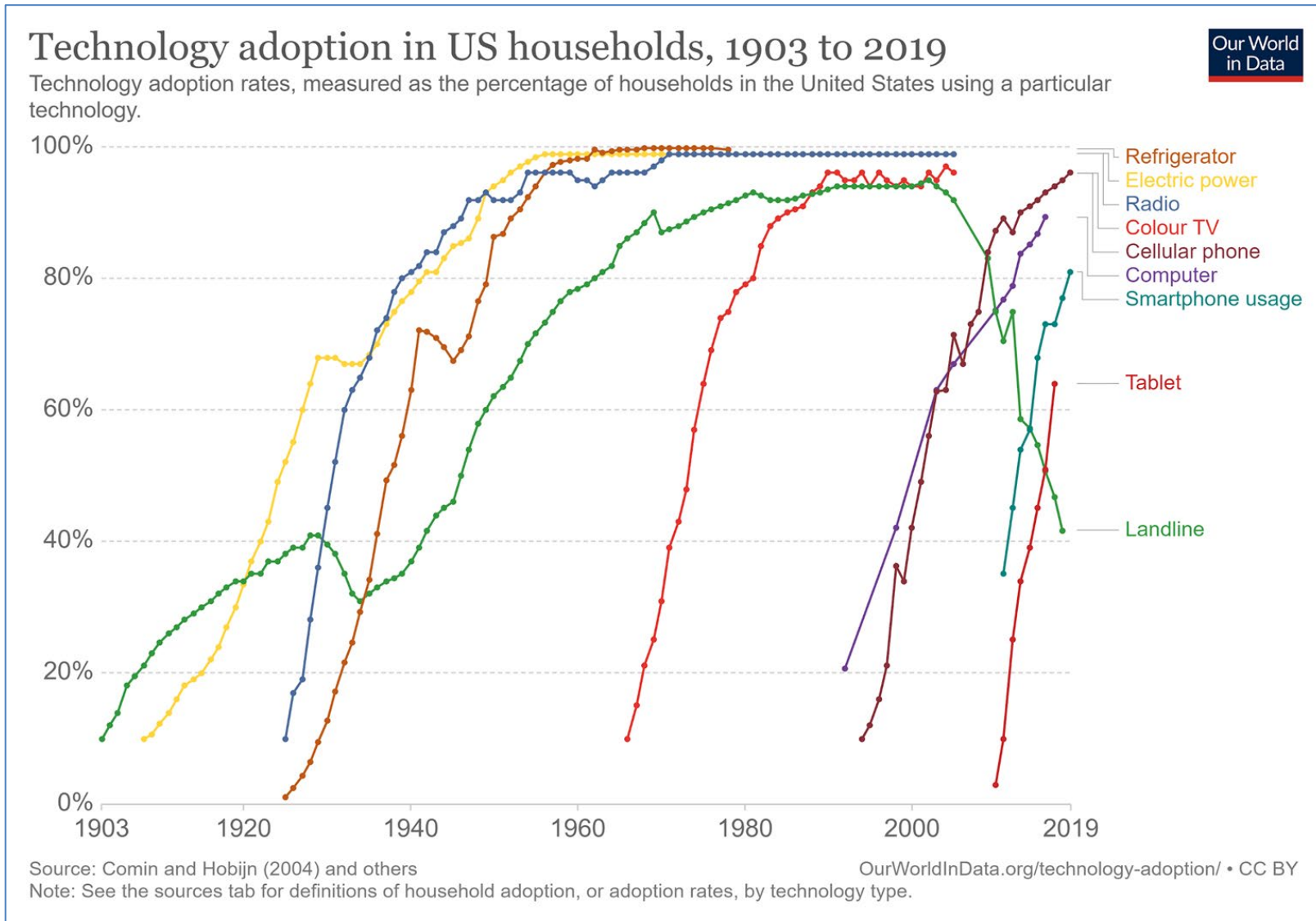
Important context for leaving no one behind (digital divide)

- 35 out of 100 homes do not have a computer
- 31.7 out of 100 homes do not have internet access at home
- In Haiti 82% of its population do not have internet access, equivalent to 9 million people without connectivity.
- A country like Argentina has **only 48%** of its population with “smart phones”. And most of the options offered by "teleconsultations" requires that kind of phone. The same occurs in Brazil with **80 million** inhabitants without smart phones or Mexico with **52 million**.

Source:

<https://www.internetworldstats.com/stats2.htm>

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>

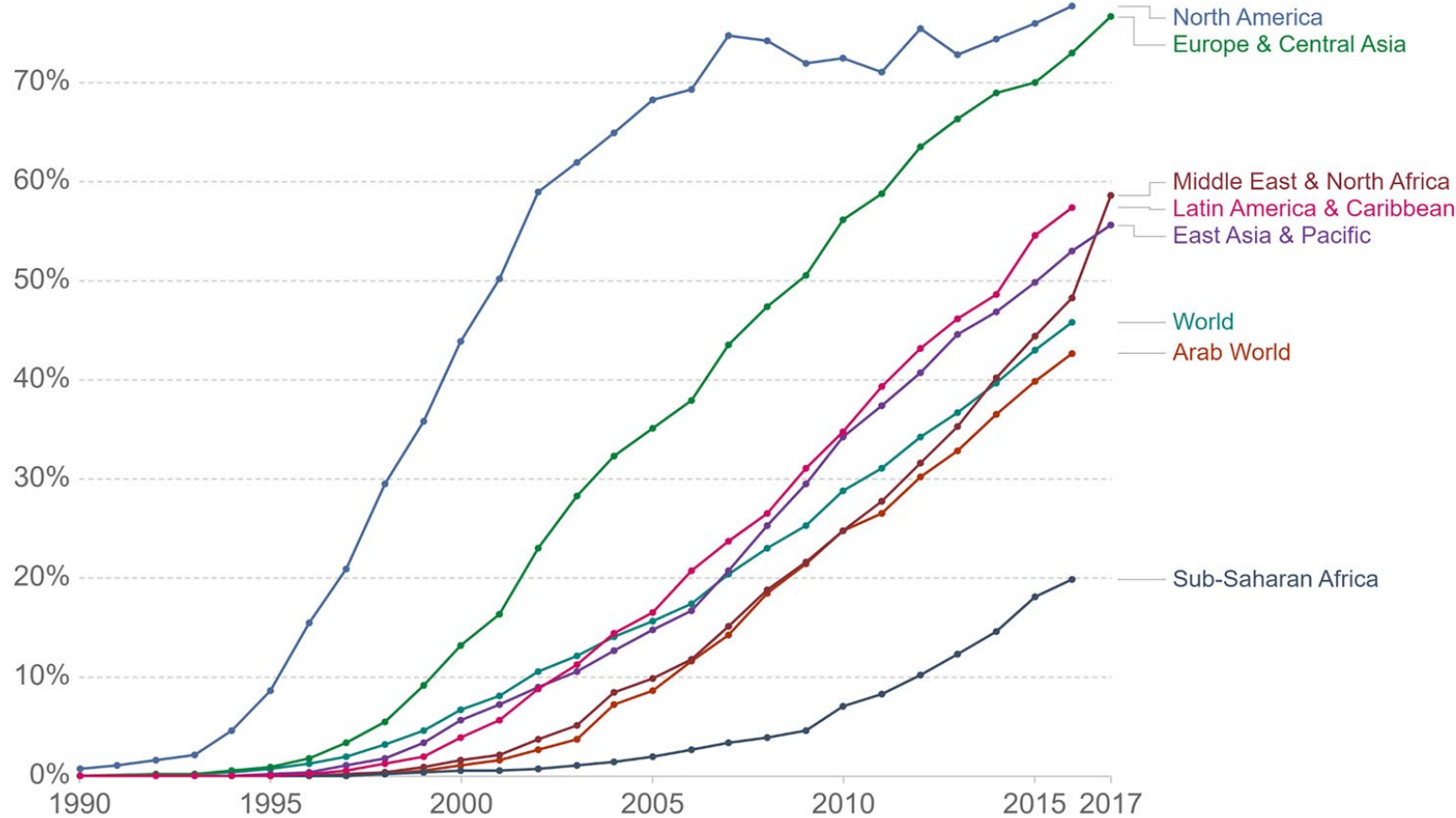


We are at a unique moment of technology adoption

Share of the population using the Internet, 1990 to 2017

All individuals who have used the Internet in the last 3 months are counted as Internet users. The Internet can be used via a computer, mobile phone, personal digital assistant, games machine, digital TV etc.

Our World
in Data



Source: World Bank

OurWorldInData.org/technology-adoption/ • CC BY

We are at a unique moment to connect the disconnected with a people centered health approach

Source: PAHO's Resilient Health Systems Report

Why now?

Millions of people around the world are **quarantined or in physical isolation**, with border closings and restrictions in travel, Information Technologies (IT) have become the main means of interaction and communication.

Suddenly, **Digital Health** and related concepts have begun to appear in every conversation related to the Health Systems' response to the pandemic.

And despite being longstanding concepts, the current situation **has elevated them to the forefront** of all discussions and decision-making about the pandemic response

A global vision is already there: UN Secretary-General **Roadmap for Digital Cooperation**

Public Health in the age of Digital Interdependence

1

Achieving universal connectivity for the health sector by 2030

5

Ensuring the protection of human rights within digital health

2

Promoting digital health public goods (DPHG) to create a more equitable world

6

Supporting global cooperation on artificial intelligence and any emerging technology

3

Ensuring digital health inclusion for all, including the most vulnerable

7

Promoting trust and information security in the public health digital environment

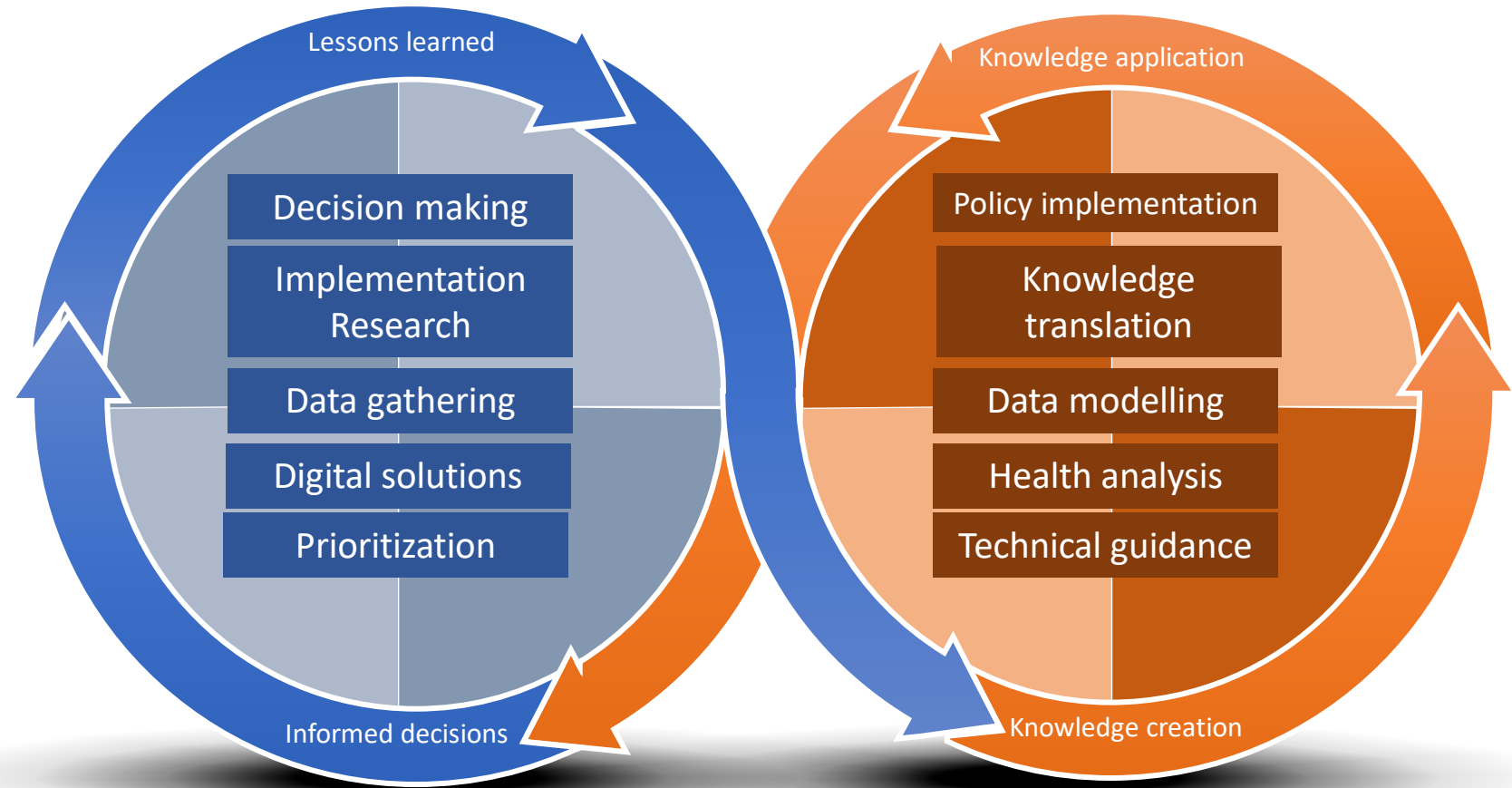
4

Strengthening information systems and digital health capacity-building

8

Building a more effective public health architecture for digital cooperation

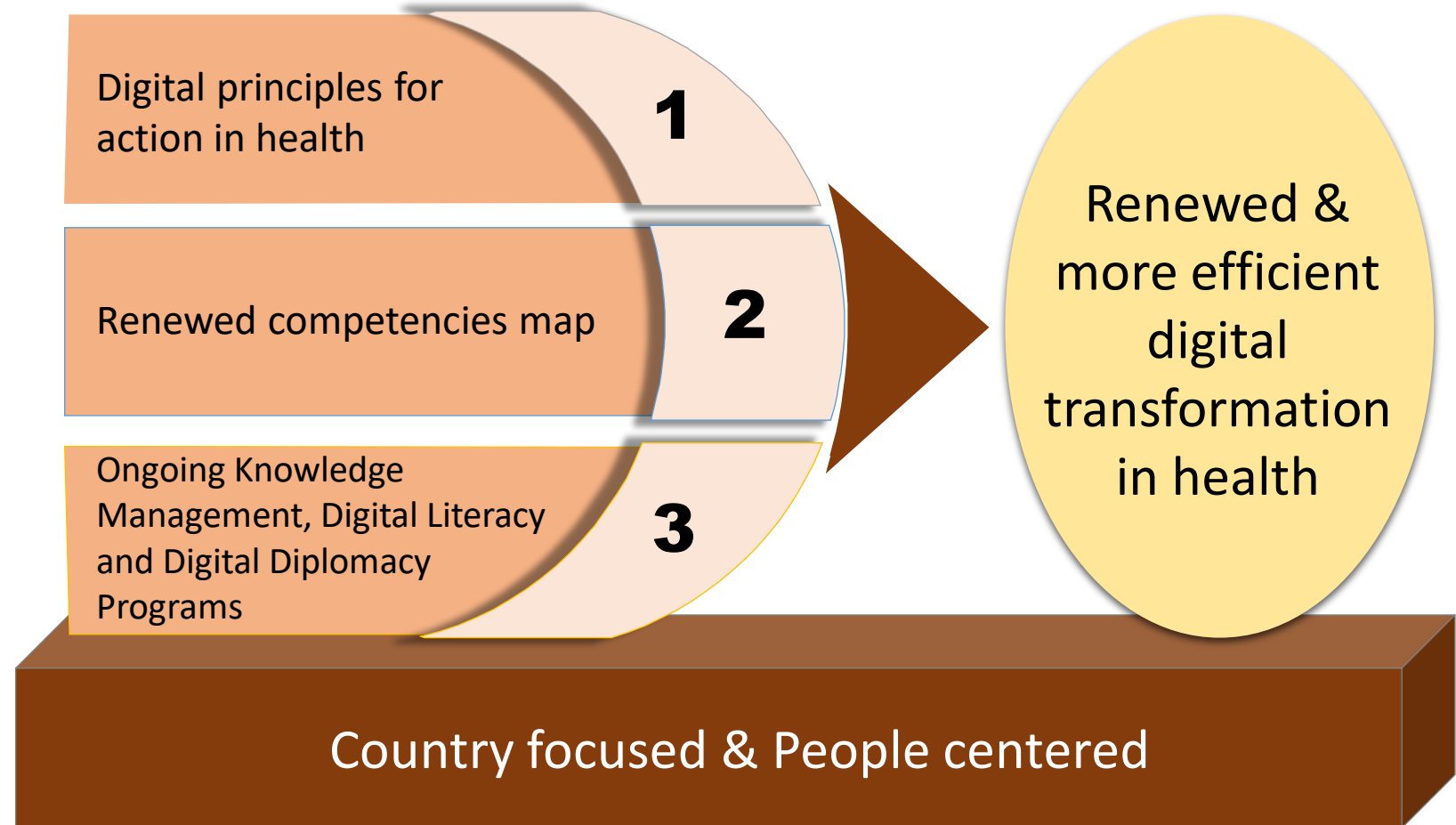
Strategic Visioning Model



Policy and
decision makers

Operational
Programs

What are the leading factors for success?



What should we do now ?

- Move from the **evolution** of technologies **to the revolution** of “users” of technologies
- **Join countries** in their ongoing processes of digital transformation of governments
- Support the ministries of health to **position themselves** in these movements that respond to national policies and priorities
- **Accelerate our response** by adopting a new framework for technical cooperation, including reengineering of processes, standards, skills and technological infrastructure
- Position PAHO as the **leading agency in the Americas** for implementing the UN Roadmap for Digital Cooperation **customized for Health**
- **Collaborate and co-create** with other UN Agencies, allies and partners

What are our high level plans for 2021

- Roadmap for the **digital transformation** of the health sector in the Americas

Stronger & more resilient people-centered health systems and services

- Policy direction on **Data Science** in public health using **artificial intelligence** and other emerging technologies

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Thank you!

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