

PL 3

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES AND AI

| BACKGROUND

In the dynamic field of digital health and AI, strong governance, policy, and stewardship are essential for responsible and equitable implementation. Global frameworks promoting international collaboration and standardization are necessary, involving public and private sectors and civil society. A robust regulatory environment and effective data governance at the national level are crucial to protect data ownership, privacy, and sovereignty. These measures ensure the ethical and secure use of health data, mitigate risks, and build trust. Multilevel governance and collaboration will ensure that AI and digital health technologies contribute to improved health outcomes for all.

| OBJECTIVES

The main areas for further exploration under ST3 comprise global enabling ecosystem, national ecosystem, human capacity needs, and responsible use; cover the foundations for good governance, policy, and stewardship. digital technologies and AI for health should be 'people-centered' and inclusive. There is a critical need to ensure equitable access for all individuals, particularly for those who may be marginalized or vulnerable and face barriers related to gender, ethnicity, geographical location, socioeconomic status, native language, or internet connectivity. Even as advancements in technology may substantially improve healthcare delivery, they also pose significant risks to the exacerbation of health inequalities, weakening of data privacy, and environmental sustainability.



Panelist

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Rachel Lucas is a Senior Data Advisor at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where she provides strategic leadership and technical direction across the Global Health Bureau's extensive portfolio of internal data analytics, visualization, and digital curation products and services. In this capacity, she plays a pivotal role in advancing evidence-based decision-making and driving innovative solutions to support global health initiatives.

Dr. Lucas has led global health data analytics, data systems, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) operations and programs for over 20 years. Before serving as a Senior Data Advisor, she was the Chief of the Strategic Information, Evaluation, and Informatics (SIEI) Division within USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA), where she provided technical, policy, workforce, and strategic leadership to USAID's PEPFAR strategic information and data systems portfolios, supporting a division of more than 50 FTE, and 40+ USAID country and regional Missions. She also served as a Senior M&E Advisor in USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health (PRH) and worked as an HIV/AIDS Advisor for the American Red Cross.

Dr. Lucas holds a doctorate in Sociology/Demography from the University of Michigan and an undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Washington.