

Terms of reference

## DTH-Lab Fellowship Programme 2025

Designing digital health solutions with and for young people

### Introduction

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The DTH-Lab is a global consortium of partners working to drive value-based and youth-centred digital transformations of health at global and country levels.

The DTH-Lab's fellowship programme offers students and early career professionals from low and middle-income countries opportunities to support a specific area of the Lab's research or analysis. An important aim of the fellowship programme is to contribute to building the capacity of future health leaders to shape policy and governance issues related to the digital transformations of health.

### About the project

Digital first health systems must be co-designed and governed by young people in order to be responsive to their health needs and prevent health inequalities from widening. However, few digital initiatives allow young people to meaningfully shape their health futures and co-design digital first health systems that address their health priorities such as mental health and sexual and reproductive health (SRH). This project will review research on digital mental health and SRH interventions to increase understanding of how responsive current digital health solutions are to young people's health priorities and to what extent young people are involved in the development of interventions. The final deliverable will be a report including case studies and recommendations for effective digital mental health and SRH interventions that can form part of digital first health systems.

### About the fellowship

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The duration of this fellowship will be from **April to December 2025**. The fellowship will be in the form of a consultancy; fellows will receive a stipend in the amount of **up to 1,800 USD** for an engagement of up to **30 days of work** and the completed milestones. This research will be exclusively desk-based.

Fellows will be supervised by the DTH-Lab's Policy and Research Coordinator with additional guidance from other team members as required. Fellows will work remotely according to their preferred schedule and location. Available support from DTH-Lab team includes:

- An induction and regular virtual meetings with the supervisor.
- Provision of background materials and contacts for interviews, etc.
- Regular input and feedback on their work.
- Opportunities for the fellow to discuss his/her research with experienced DTH-Lab partners and build their professional networks.

- Opportunities for the fellow to promote and present their work following publication.

## Research questions

1. What evidence exists on the impact and limitations of digital solutions in mental health care and SHR care for young people?
2. What are some promising examples of digital health solutions that respond to young people's priorities for digital first health systems?
3. How can lessons from existing digital health solutions be applied to strengthen digital first health systems for young people?

## Proposed timeline and deliverables

Work phase	Deliverable	Approx number of days
1. <b>Refine terms of reference for the project</b> With support from your supervisor and other DTH-Lab advisors you will have the opportunity to design your project.	Updated terms of reference for the project including methodology and timeline.	2
2. <b>Background research</b> Conduct a literature review/scoping exercise to gather relevant background information for your project.	Findings documented and shared with supervisor.	8
3. <b>Data collection, analysis phase</b> Gather additional data and case studies through further desk-based research, virtual interviews, etc. Analyse your findings.	Findings documented and shared with supervisor.	10
4. <b>Draft paper</b> Write up your research using a provided template for formatting and referencing. Develop recommendations based on your findings.	Draft paper submitted for review.	5
5. <b>Finalize paper</b> Incorporate feedback from reviewers and finalize your paper.	Final paper submitted.	5
	<i>Total days</i>	30

## Expressions of interest

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**Fellowship opportunities are available for students or early career researchers aged 30 or under and based in a low or middle-income country.**

The ideal research fellow must possess the following:

1. **Educational background:** Fellows must be affiliated with an academic or research institution, either as a student or researcher. A degree in the field of study, or prior experience of working on the topic, is an advantage.
2. **Research skills:** Fellows need to possess strong research skills, including the ability to design research assignments, collect and analyze data, and draw conclusions from their findings. They may have expertise in specific research methodologies, techniques, or tools relevant to their field.
3. **Communication skills:** Fellows must have effective communication skills, as they need to be able to communicate their research findings through written publications, presentations and discussions with colleagues. They should be able to convey complex ideas in a clear and accessible manner to diverse audiences.
4. **Time management and organizational skills:** Fellows need to be able to manage their time effectively and meet agreed deadlines. They must be self-motivated and able to work autonomously.

### To apply

To apply for a position, please follow the instructions on our [Current Opportunities webpage](#). The deadline for applications is 23:59 CET on Sunday 23rd March 2025.

Applications will only be considered if they include the following material:

- Curriculum Vitae / Resume including date of birth, where you are located and details of two referees.
- A short cover letter (maximum of 2 pages) outlining your relevant skills and experience and a summary of how you would approach this work.

DTH-Lab welcomes applications from individuals of all backgrounds. Interviews will be held during the week beginning 7th April.

Due to the expected volume of submissions, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Interested candidates can request further background information on DTH-Lab and its existing work on this topic by writing to [team@dthlab.org](mailto:team@dthlab.org).