

Israel

Enabling environment – policies and strategies to support the information society

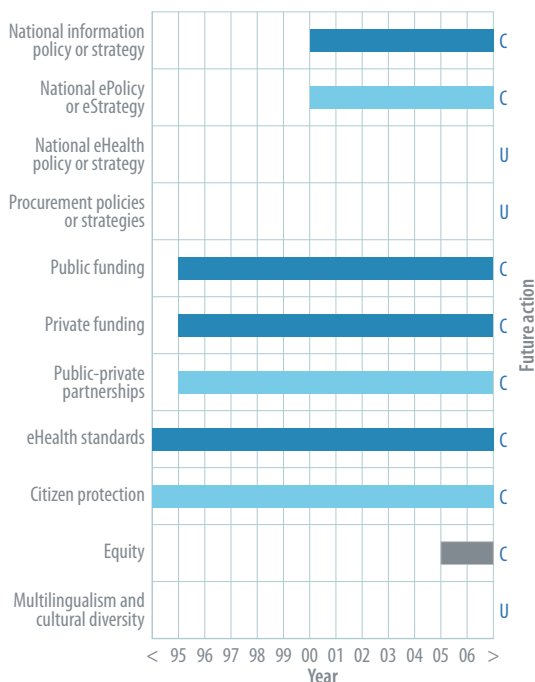


Figure 1. Enabling environment for ICT in the health sector: actions taken or planned within 2 years and their effectiveness rating

Israel reports that the majority of the listed actions to promote an enabling environment for information and communication technologies (ICT) in the health sector have been taken and are rated from moderately to very effective. They are likely to continue over the next two years. It highlights the computerized National Health Records (NHR) project that collect relevant patient data and information and makes it available to care providers. The system is designed to create a virtual health record for all Israeli citizens, connecting them to the health-care sector. Additionally, it will incorporate four health maintenance organizations (HMOs), the Israeli defense force, the Ministry of Health, the National Insurance Institute, and all public clinics and hospitals. The most effective action in building an enabling environment for the use of ICT in the health sector has been the initiation of the 'Ofek' project by Israel's largest HMO. Ofek is responsible for the integration of the medical information of all those insured in the HMO (3.7 million people). It is based on a unique software tool, which creates a patient record that can be observed by all care providers at any point of health care delivery. The most significant challenge in this field is the process of creating and maintaining the NHR. It is both a technical and medical informatics challenge, since the goal is to retrieve information from various sources and databases and transmit it to appropriate points of care, in a way that doesn't interfere with the consultation between the patient and the health service provider.

Infrastructure – access to information and communication technologies

ICT infrastructure development for the health sector is supported in Israel through a national plan for the development of ICT in health and through intersectoral and nongovernmental cooperation. Israel highlights other important contributing factors such as enhanced long-distance communication, data and information security and confidentiality, creation of central data repositories, development of relevant data storages, consolidation of servers and integration of standard eHealth tools. These actions were all introduced around 1995 and have been very effective. The development of the infrastructure components for the computerized NHR project is rated as the most effective action in building ICT infrastructure for the health sector to date.

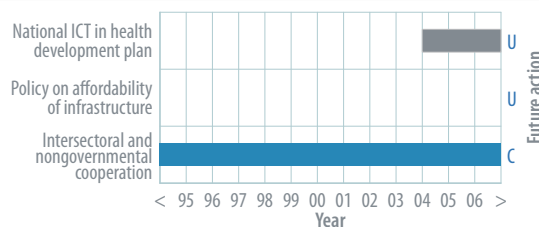


Figure 2. ICT infrastructure development for the health sector: actions taken or planned within 2 years and their effectiveness rating

Cultural and linguistic diversity, and cultural identity

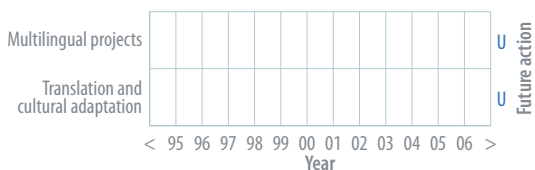


Figure 3. Electronic multicultural health content: actions taken or planned within 2 years and their effectiveness rating

Currently, none of the specified actions to promote the development of electronic multicultural health content have been implemented and a decision remains to be made as to which actions will be taken.

Country indicators	Population (000s)	6 475	OECD country	No	Main telephone lines*	43.72
	GDP per capita (Int \$)	21 482	World Bank category	1	Internet users*	46.63
	Total health expenditure (% of GDP)	8.9	ICT Diffusion Index	0.5764	Mobile phone subscribers*	105.25

Content – access to information and knowledge

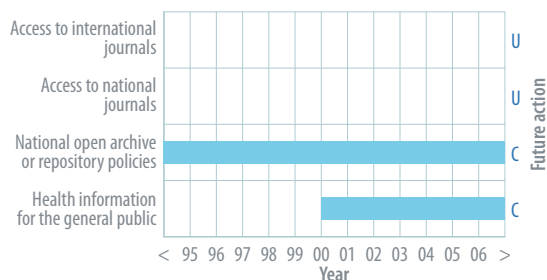


Figure 4. Online access to health content: actions taken or planned within 2 years and their effectiveness rating

Online access to health content has been provided in Israel through a digital national open archive for scientific research and the availability of electronic health information for the general public. These have both been moderately effective and will be continued over the next few years. Medical laboratory results have been available electronically since 2000 to patients and physicians, as has information concerning general health issues and that on the topic of health promotion. Patients with chronic diseases receive relevant medical information online from the HMO's digital repositories. NHR and Ofek are noted as the most effective actions taken to promote access to electronic health content.

Capacity – human resources knowledge and skills

ICT capacity in Israel has been built through the use of undergraduate and postgraduate training in ICT. These courses have been offered as part of university curricula for health sciences students since 1985 and are rated as moderately effective. A series of special non-academic courses, designated for different sectors of the Israeli health care system, regarding the principles and use of medical informatics have also been offered since 1985.

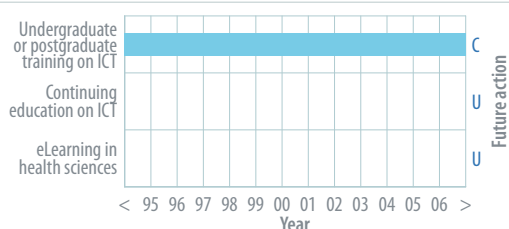


Figure 5. ICT capacity in the health sector: actions taken or planned within 2 years and their effectiveness rating

eHealth tools and eHealth services

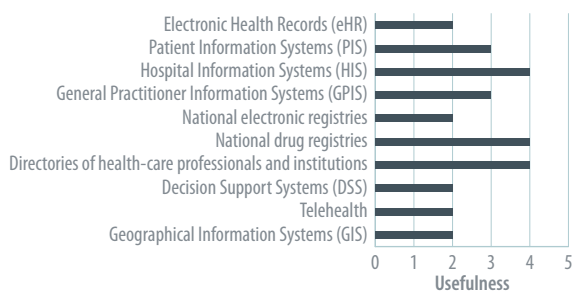


Figure 6. Preferred generic eHealth tools to be provided by WHO



Figure 7. Preferred eHealth services to be provided by WHO

Hospital Information Systems (HIS), national drug registries, and directories of health-care professionals and institutions are rated as very useful if the World Health Organization could offer these as generic prototypes for adaptation. Advice on national needs assessments for eHealth, advice on methods for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of eHealth services, advice on eHealth norms and standards, and information on effective/best eHealth practices are considered as very useful eHealth services.

Legend	Effectiveness	Future action	Usefulness
	Extremely effective	C To be continued	5 Extremely useful
Very effective	RC To be reviewed & continued	4 Very useful	
Moderately effective	S To be started	3 Moderately useful	
Slightly effective	P To be stopped	2 Slightly useful	
Not effective	U Undecided	1 Not useful	
Unknown effectiveness	O No data / No action	0 No data	
Start date unknown			
No data			

* per 100 inhabitants