

Digital Health Readiness in Asia Pacific

Is Asia prepared for the next pandemic?

Digital Health Landscape in Asia Pacific

COVID-19 has galvanised health systems across the globe to change the way they operate. At the forefront of this change is how digital tools can be leveraged to provide enhanced, personalised care for patients.

The HIMSS Insights: APAC Digital Health Trendbarometer Report 2021¹ provides some key findings for the APAC region.



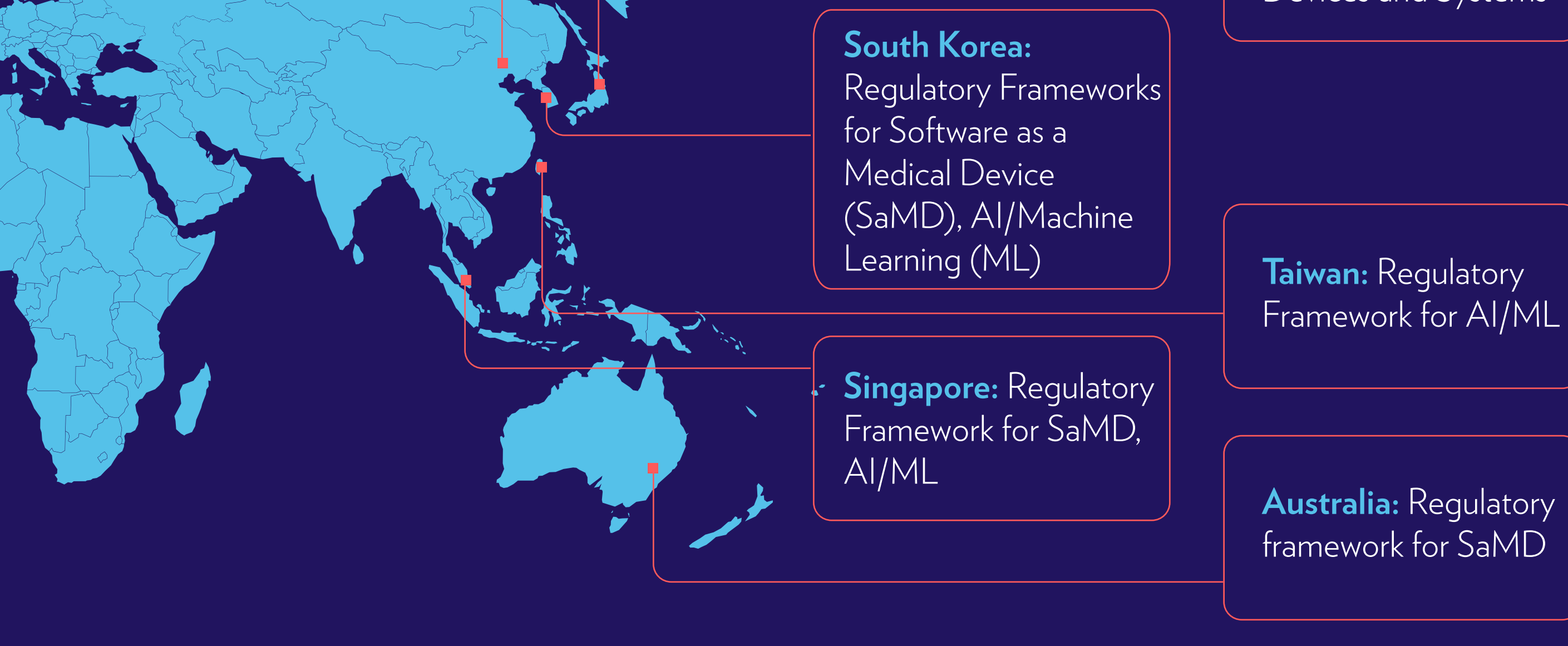
Fit For Purpose Regulatory Policies

The current regulations do not fit the fast-paced innovation that characterises software and digital health solutions. We must reimagine our regulatory approach to accommodate the shorter timelines and iterative nature of software development.

Development of tailored, risk-based software regulatory frameworks will enable greater access to software innovation, better use of limited regulatory resources, and ultimately drive us to the next generation of personalised healthcare with more informed health decisions and improved patient outcomes.

In addition, regulatory convergence across APAC will ensure greater consistency and predictability in regulatory review processes. This is essential to deliver safe, effective and innovative digital health solutions swiftly to patients and healthcare professionals².

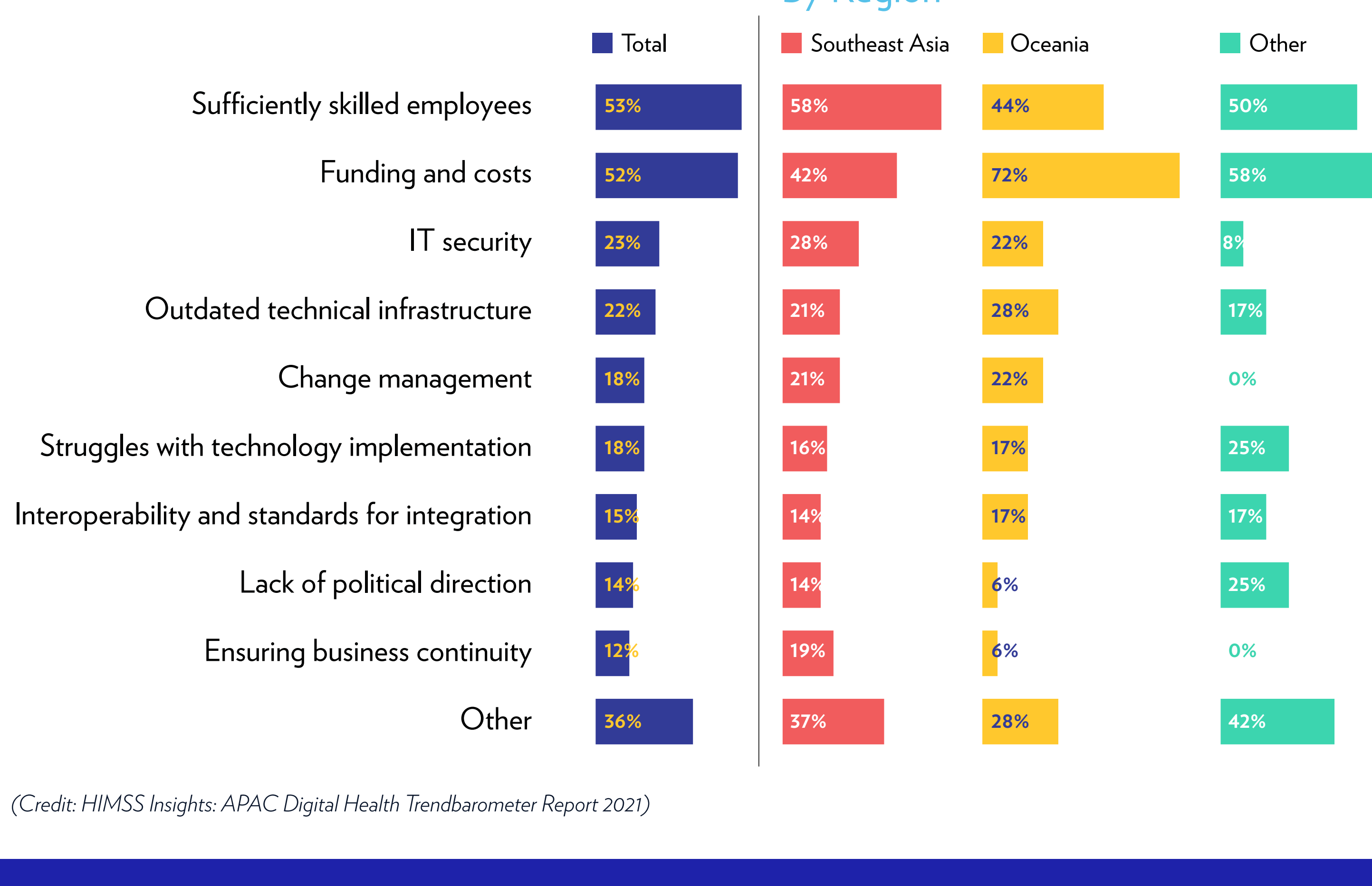
Current Digital Health Regulation in APAC



Health systems will grapple with maintaining digital acceleration as countries begin their recovery journeys. As the arrival of COVID-19 has taught us, digital health policy readiness at a national level demands urgent attention as future pandemic readiness is assessed.

Challenges to Adoption

Having a skilled workforce to use digital tools took the lead as one of the biggest challenges, followed by funding and costs involved with workforce development and adoption of digital health technologies.



(Credit: HIMSS Insights: APAC Digital Health Trendbarometer Report 2021)

Pandemic-Driven Benefits

While the pandemic placed a significant strain on health systems worldwide, it is also important to highlight the boons it brought as a result.



Countries will need to look at the challenges and risks associated with digital technologies, and consider their infrastructure and regulatory environment when assessing their digital readiness.

Acceleration of Adoption and Government Initiatives

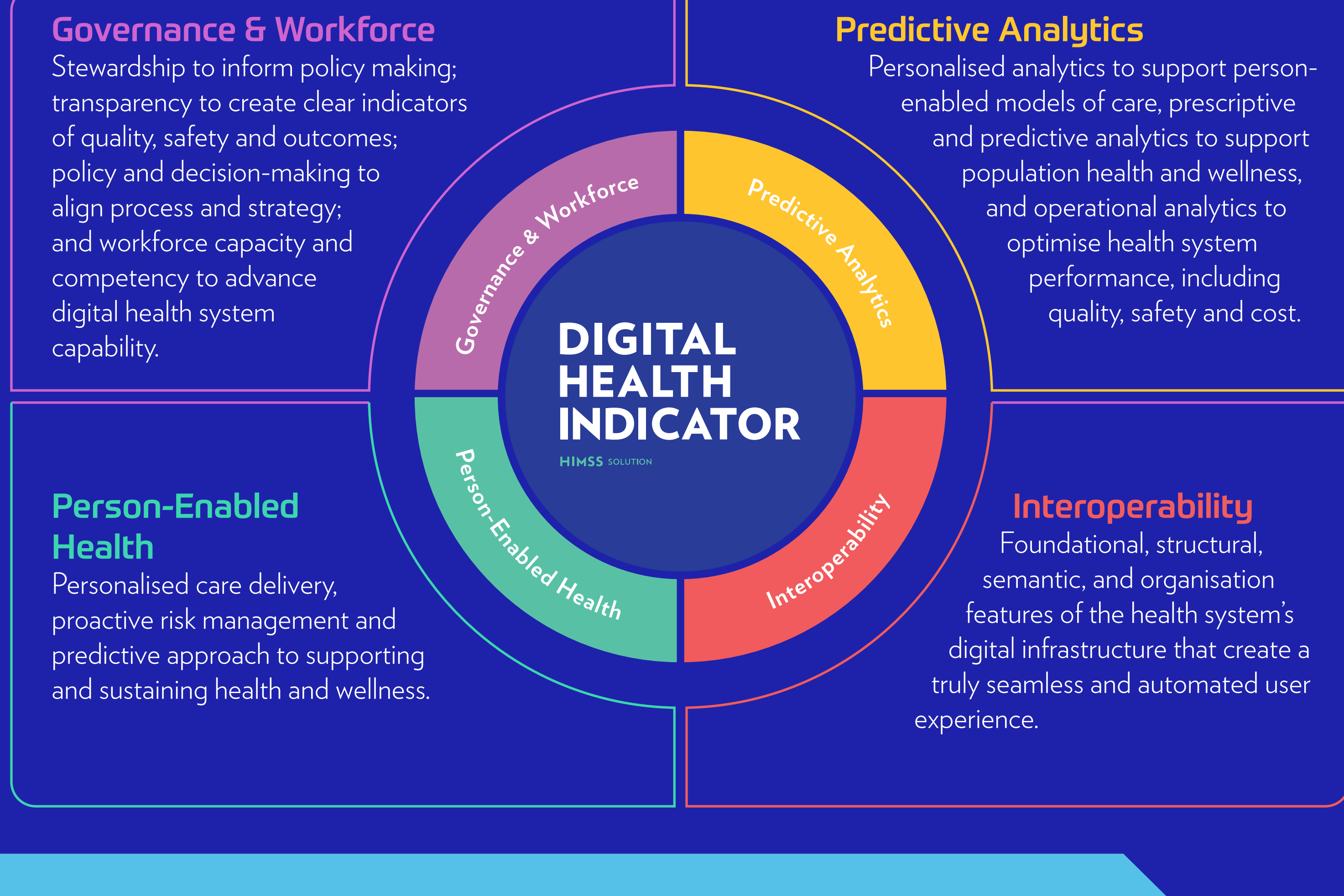
The pandemic has accelerated the adoption of technology and pushed governments across the Asia Pacific region to implement various initiatives to enhance accessibility of healthcare.



Measuring Progress towards Digital Health

Health systems need to accelerate and strengthen their capacity and resilience to stay prepared for the next pandemic. HIMSS introduced the Digital Health Indicator (DHI) to assess the strengths and key assets of digital health, demonstrated by health systems, and identify areas less well developed that could be strengthened to advance digital health.

DHI measures the four dimensions of digital health:



To deliver digitally-enabled care, health systems must foster an environment that integrates predictive analytics into care delivery by transforming data into knowledge and sharing insights to inform policy decisions and support patient treatment. This will give patients more control over their health and often set personal health and wellness goals in a meaningful way.

This infographic was prepared by HIMSS in partnership with Roche.



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