Digitally enabled health systems that address the needs of young people: Policy levers for youth health in urban areas

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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATIONS FOR HEALTH LAB
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Introduction

~75% of Europe's population lives in urban areas, rising to nearly **81% by 2050**.

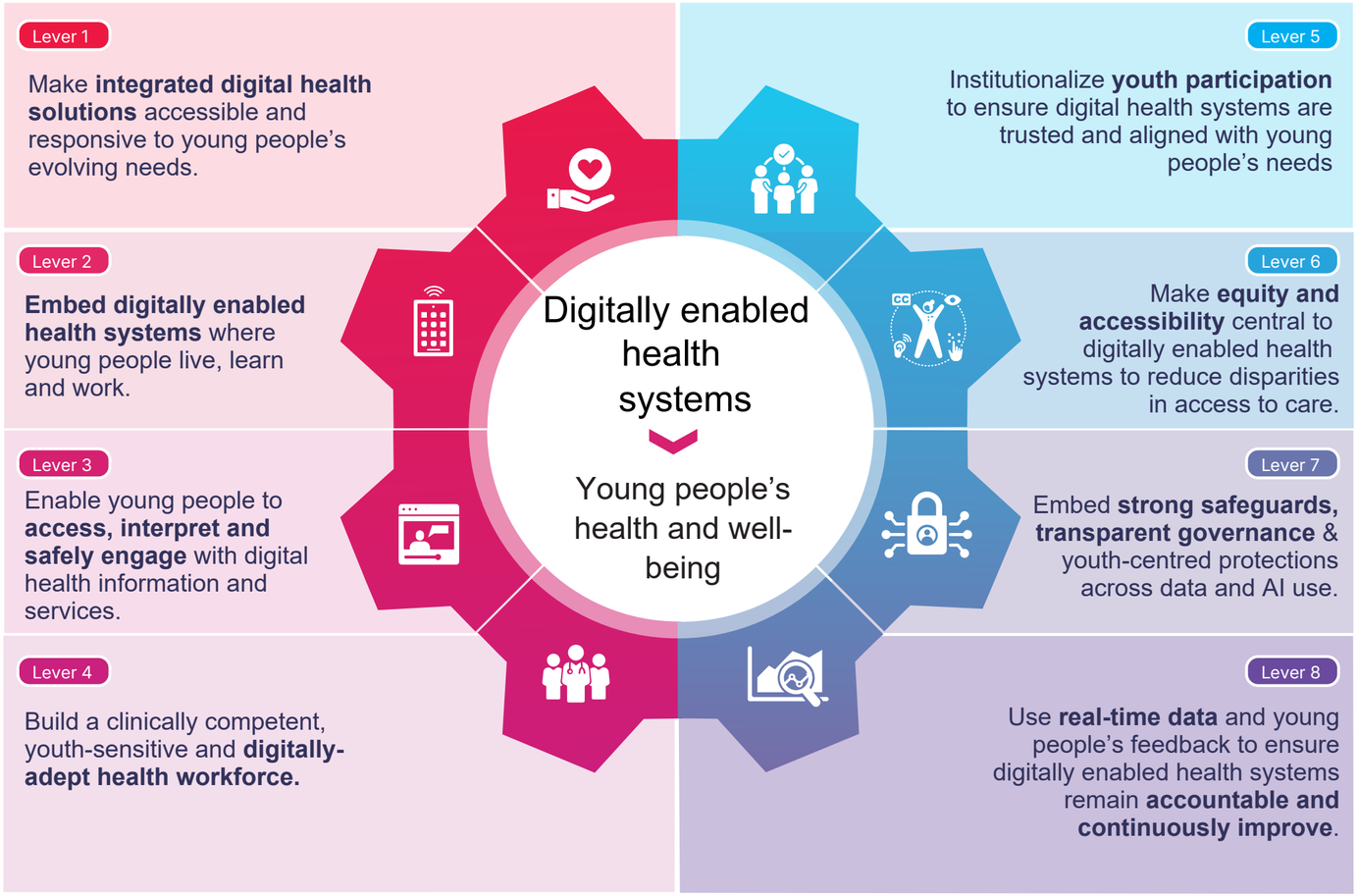
Young people face urban health risks, from chronic and infectious diseases to injuries, heat and air pollution (WHO, Urban Health).

Living near services does not guarantee access: structural barriers and inequalities within cities leave many young people underserved (Fortin et al., 2023).

In 2018, **WHO Member States recognized digital health as a tool for stronger health systems** (WHA71). As these systems evolve, young people's needs must be built in from the start.

DTH-Lab's **Framework for digitally enabled health systems that address the needs of young people** offers an opportunity to connect services, extend access and enabe more responsive use of data – identifying eight policy levers for embedding young people's priorities as systems are designed and strengthened.

Eight policy levers for embedding young people's priorities in digitally enabled health systems



Key actions

Digitally enabled health systems will shape how current and future generations get care. Action is required from multiple groups.

- **Governments (incl. urban governments)** should bring youth-friendly integrated digital health services into places where young people live, learn and work, with strong safeguards for data and AI.
- **Funders** should invest in equitable systems that learn from real-time data and youth feedback.
- **Health professionals and educators** should build a youth-sensitive, digitally confident workforce and help young people use digital health safely.
- **Youth-led and civil society organizations** should advocate for formal youth roles in governance.

Scan to access the Framework for digitally enabled health systems
https://tr.ee/8UmgUk