Despite great progress in medical science, technology and research & development in recent years, many people still lack access to essential health services and the burden of disease remains high. The worst may be behind us with respect to COVID-19, however, the pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of health systems and also tested their resilience and preparedness to achieve health for all as envisioned in SDG-3 that aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

In above context, digital technologies offer a unique opportunity to transform healthcare delivery better suited to meet the challenges and improve related outcomes. Digitally enabled health systems can improve access to healthcare by helping to overcome geographical barriers, reducing costs, and increasing efficiency. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in accelerated adoption of digital health technologies, transforming the way healthcare is delivered and managed. Telemedicine, mobile health (mHealth) electronic health records (EHRs), artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are improving the outreach, providing efficient service delivery and enabling quick diagnosis and better decision making in health systems.

In recent years, COMSATS has organized events surrounding the themes related to development and effective utilization of digital health technologies, especially in its member states in South Asian and African regions. These events provided an opportunity for the participants to learn from each other’s experiences and also discover points of collaboration with international organizations and experts in the field of digital health.

As a continuation of the aforementioned activities, and to observe the World Health Day (7th April), a webinar will be organized by COMSATS with special focus on Middle Eastern and Central Asian member states. Hosted from COMSATS secretariat, the event would be organized virtually on 11th April 2023 at 11 am Pakistan time (+5 GMT).