Understanding people's COVID-19 needs at scale using AI and informing policy-making - lessons learned

Organized by: World Health Organization, Epi-Win Team
Important premise

The better data, information, technologies and knowledge we have, the smarter the response will be.

Member States, Secretariat & the people
Main goal

To support countries and institutions unite and collaborate virtually

It is critical to engage (in) and understand the “social dialogue”
Big data analytics & AI for Public Health

Current activities

- Speech recognition (radio)
- UN Global Pulse
- COVID-19 Simulator
- Big Data Macroscope
- IDB Lab (David-19)
- Specific projects

"Artemisia" AI for the evaluation of Mammographic Density

T-Rx - Automatic classification of chest radiographs

HOSPITAL ITALIANO de Buenos Aires

ILLINOIS Center for Health Informatics

Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health, PAHO/WHO
The key question is “how to support countries with all of this?”
Artificial Intelligence Framework for Public Health – AI4PH

A people centered and ethically grounded AI model for improving Public Health in the Americas

This Framework in Artificial Intelligence for Public Health (AI4PH), is based on International Human rights Principles, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Health Organization (WHO) values of equity, excellence, solidarity, respect and integrity and in compliance with PAHO’s commitment to provide technical cooperation to its member countries to strengthen health systems and respond to emergencies and disasters.

Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health
Office of the Assistant Director, PAHO/WHO
Some benefits of big data analytics & AI for Public Health

- Capture reliable and disaggregated critical data
- Reduce the infodemic
- Share what is necessary
- Planning (AI for predictive modeling) without leaving anyone behind
- Timely access to disaggregated data, so no one is left behind
- Identification and monitoring of at-risk populations, cases, and contacts
- Surveillance and prevention
- Predict, act and recover

Critical **needed** data, information and knowledge
Challenges

- 35 out of 100 homes do not have a computer
- 31.7 out of 100 homes do not have internet access at home
- In Haiti 82% of its population do not have internet access, equivalent to 9 million people without connectivity.
- A country like Argentina has only 48% of its population with “smart phones”. And most of the options offered by "teleconsultations" requires that kind of phone. The same occurs in Brazil with 80 million inhabitants without smart phones or Mexico with 52 million.
“By far, the greatest danger of Artificial Intelligence is that people conclude too early that they understand it”

Eliezer Yudkowsky
Thanks!

Marcelo D’Agostino
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