



UiO : **Institute of Health and Society**  
University of Oslo

# Free access to Digital Health Information in Tanzania

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UiO : **Global Health**

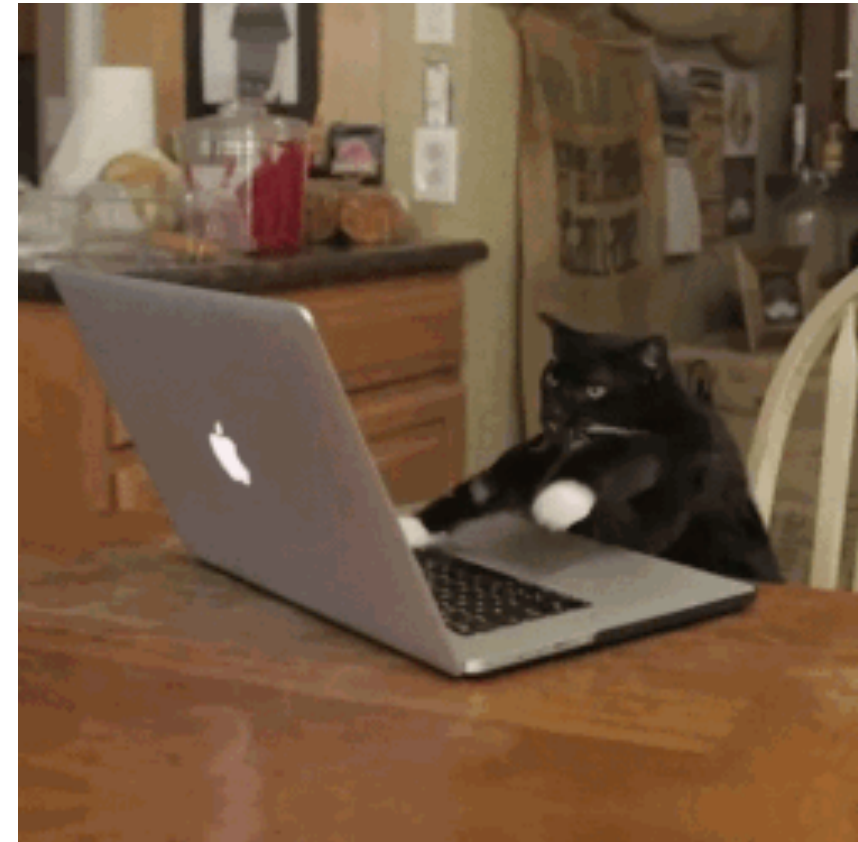


# *Digital health...* What the health?

- Several definitions
- *“The use of digital, mobile and wireless technologies to support the achievement of health objectives. Digital health describes the general use of **information and communications technologies** (ICT) for health and is inclusive of both **mHealth** and **eHealth**.”* WHO, 2016

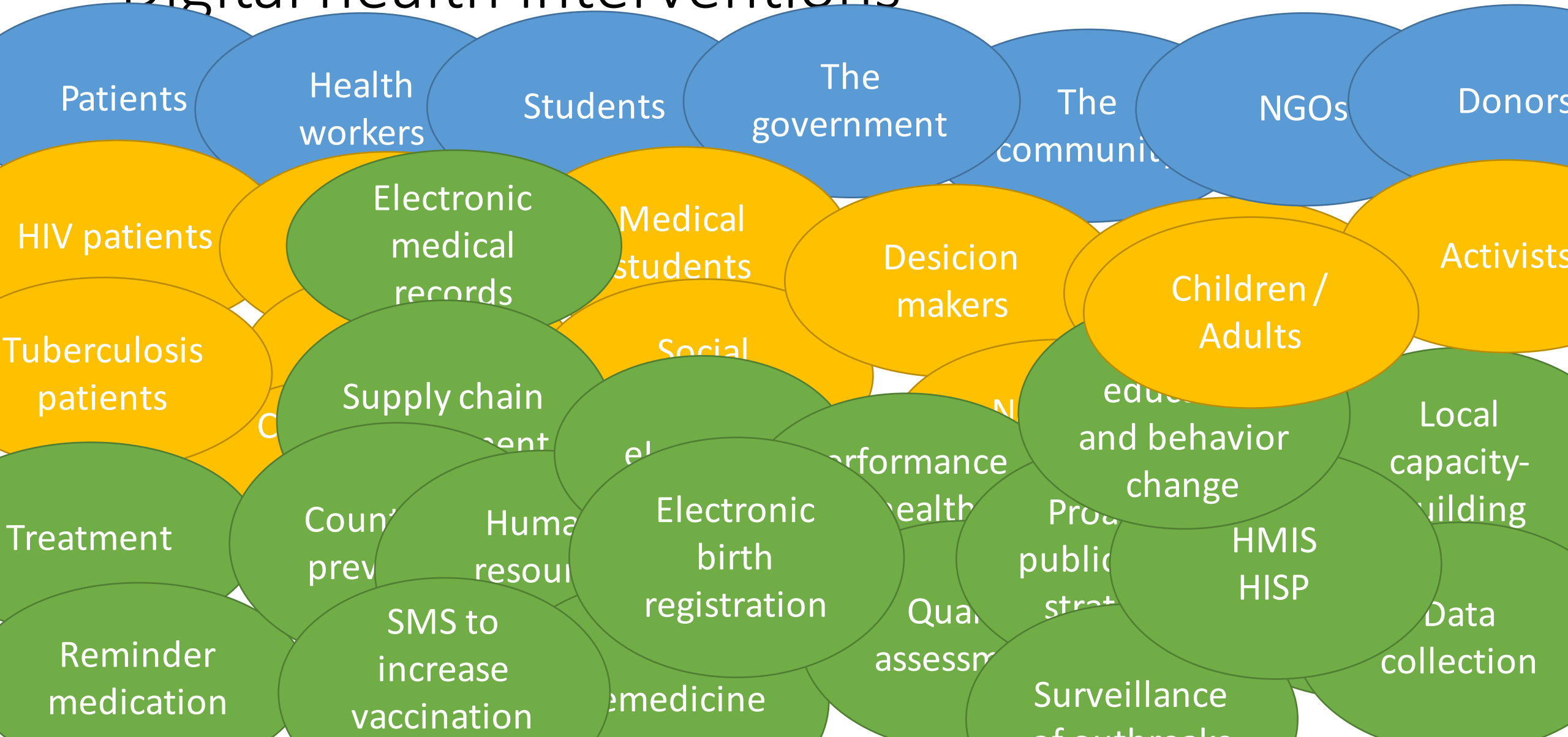


# Digital health interventions worldwide





# Digital health interventions



Patients

Health workers

Students

The government

The community

NGOs

Donors

HIV patients

Electronic medical records

Medical students

Decision makers

Children / Adults

Activists

Tuberculosis patients

Supply chain

Social

Local capacity-building

Treatment

Counselling

Human resources

Electronic birth registration

Health performance

Productive public strategies

HMIS  
HISP

Data collection

Reminder medication

SMS to increase vaccination

e-medicine

Quality assessment

Surveillance of outbreaks

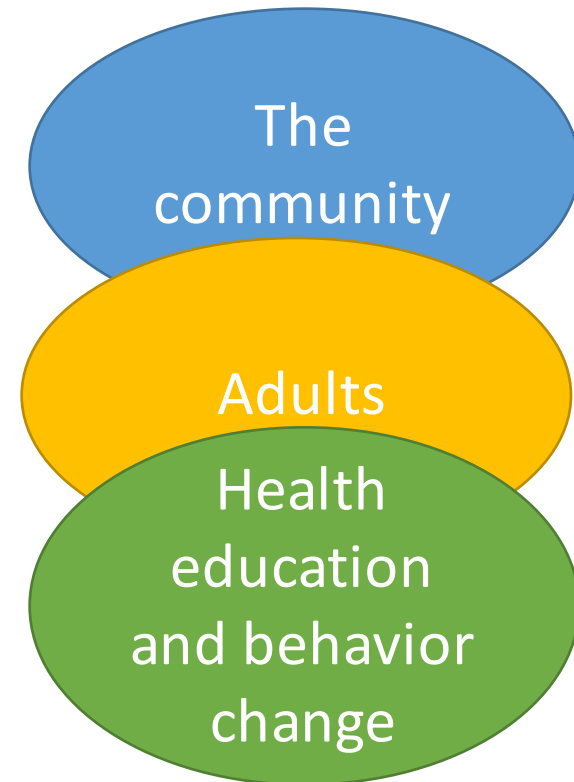
# The Non-discriminating access for Digital Inclusion (Digi.BasicInternet.no) project

- Funding from The Norwegian research council and The Norwegian ministry for foreign affairs (15 M NOK)
- Project runs from Jan 2017 – Jan 2020
- 11 partners from Tanzania, DR Congo, Rwanda, Serbia, Germany, France, Spain and Norway
- Multidisciplinary approach - IT and health research
  - Focus: Free access to information for all (*InfoInternet*)



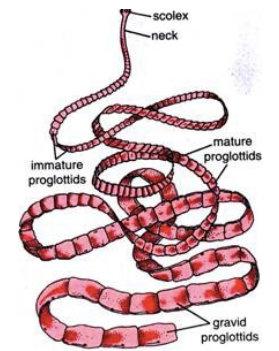
# Free access to health information in Tanzania – A Digital Health Education Intervention

- Developing appropriate health messages within:
  - HIV / AIDS
  - Tuberculosis
  - One-Health diseases, *Taenia solium* (neuro)cysticercosis / taeniosis (TSCT)
  - Anthrax
- Synergies with CYSTINET-Africa
- Providing access to free digital health information
  - Local health facilities with InfoInternet

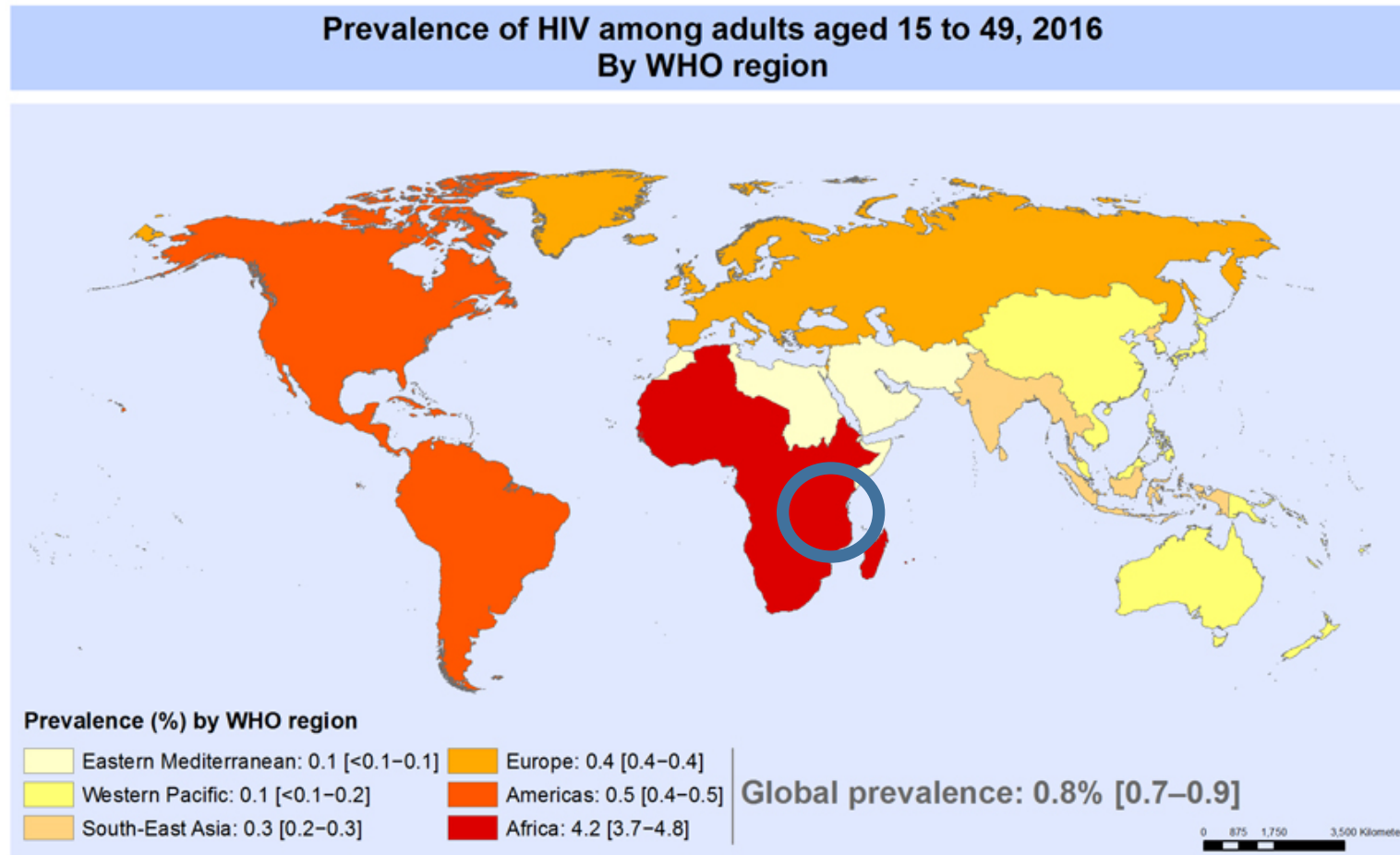


# HIV/AIDS, TB and TSCT

- HIV / AIDS
  - 36.7 million // 35 million
- TB
  - **10.4 million** new TB cases in 2015
  - Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide and the leading killer of HIV-positive people. (WHO 2017)
- TSCT
  - In humans, the most frequently preventable cause of epilepsy in sub-Saharan Africa (30% of people with epilepsy in endemic countries)

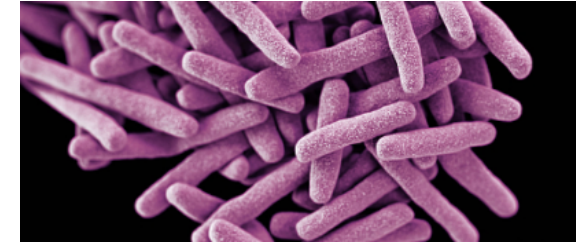
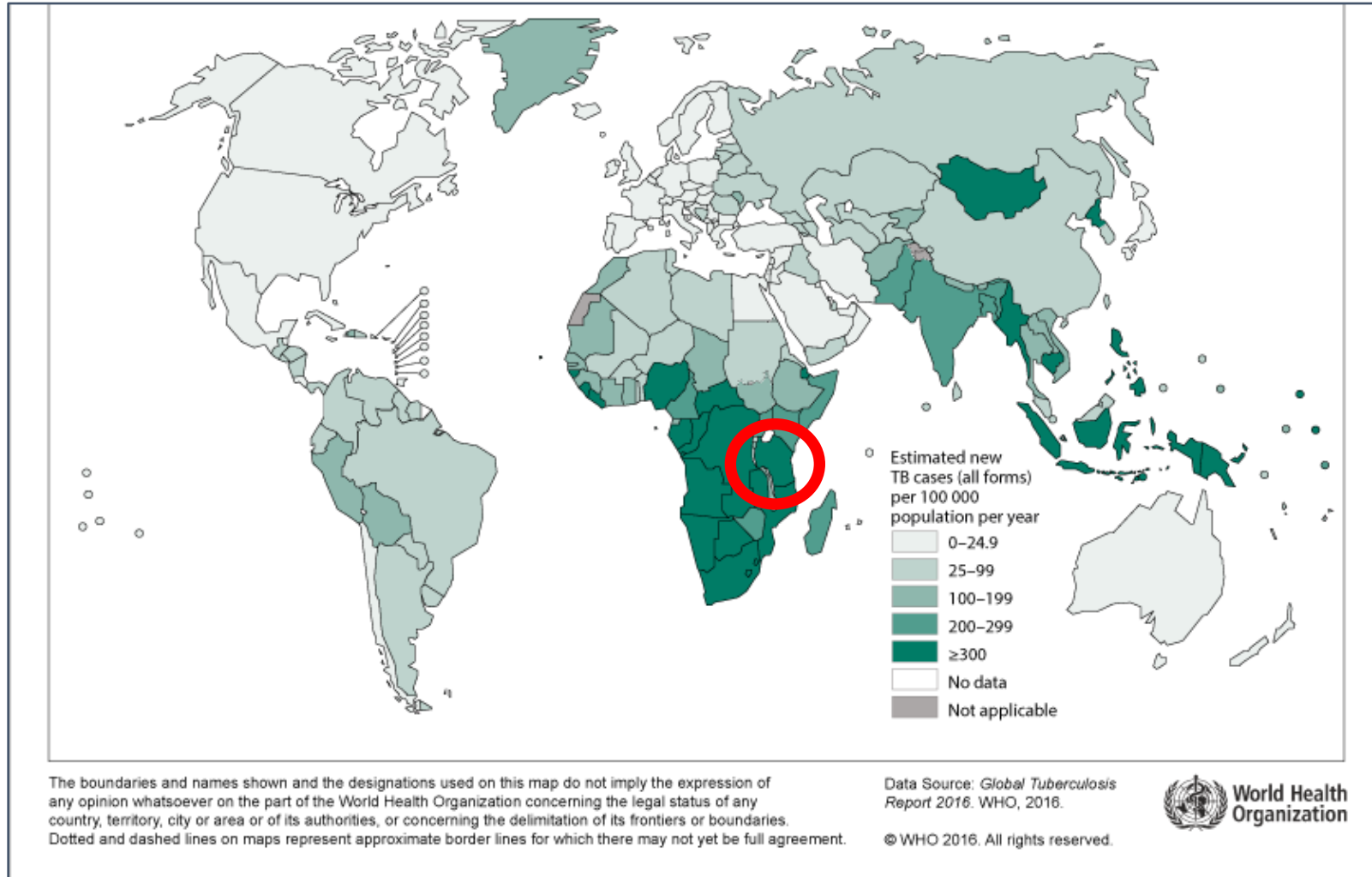


# Prevalence HIV, 2016

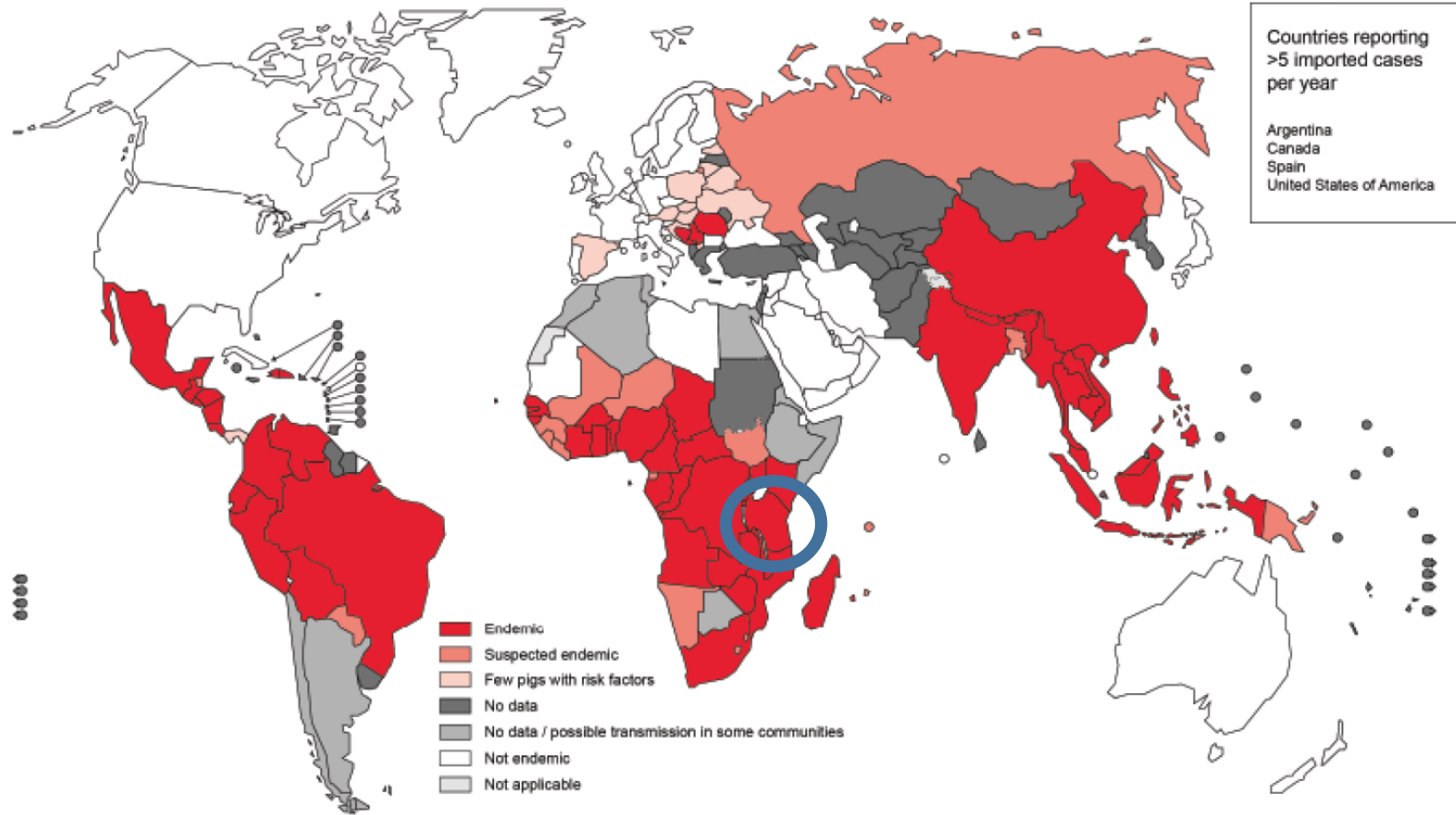




# Estimated Tuberculosis incidence rates, 2015



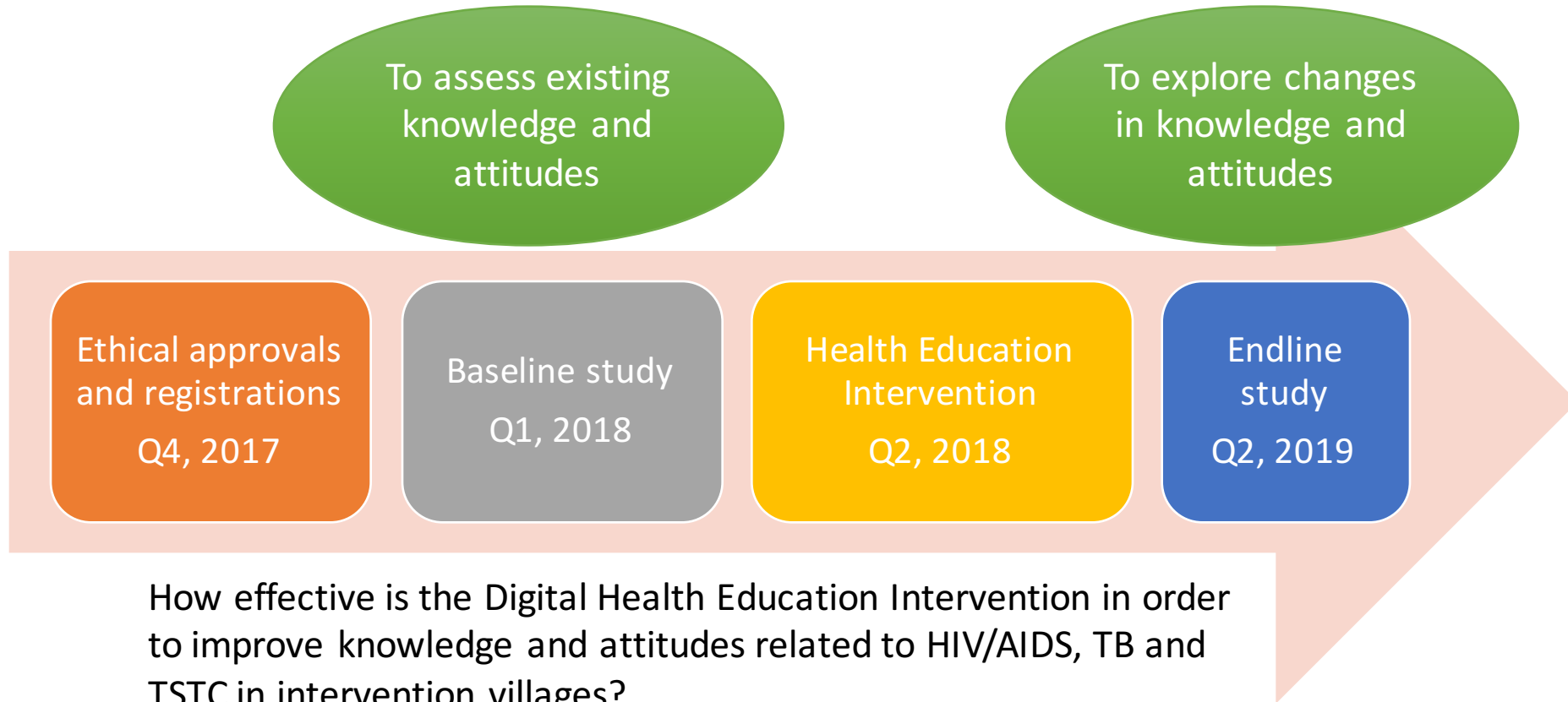
# Distribution of *Taenia solium* infection worldwide, 2015



# Pilot installation: "Africa@Kjeller"



# Timeline





# Prospective evaluation of digital health education

- Pre and post intervention to explore knowledge and attitudes, via questionnaires
- Study area: Mtera, Izazi and Selela, in addition to 3 control villages
- Sample size: +/- 2000 people to be followed up
- 3 research assistants from Sokoine / NIMR
- 12-15 days in each villages





# Expected publications

- Digital Health Education Interventions in the global south: A systematic review
- Digital Health Education Interventions for improving knowledge and attitudes on HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis – A longitudinal study in Tanzania
- Digital Health Education Interventions for improving knowledge and attitudes on *Taenia solium* (Neuro)cysticercosis and Taeniasis – A longitudinal study in Tanzania



# Why is this project important?

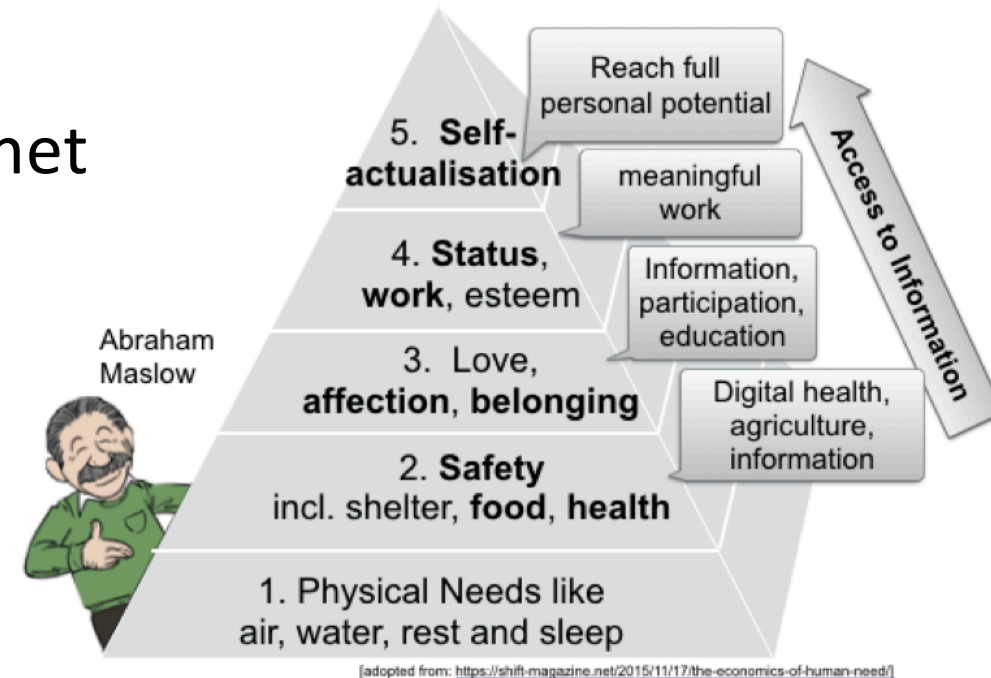
- 4 billion people not connected to the internet
- Digital inclusion is the key for sustainable development
- Digital health related to SDGs

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**





# Thank you Digi partners



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# Important issues

- How to facilitate digital health education in the global south?
- How to measure the impact of a digital health education intervention?
- How to separate good quality digital health interventions from poor quality?
- IT-perspective:
  - Digital Health as catalyst for the Digital society
  - Digital Data knowledge for digital health?

