



# United States President's Malaria Initiative Digital Community Health Initiative January 2023 Newsletter

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Facilitators deliver initial training on the integrated Community Health Information System for the Santhe Cluster in Kasungu, Malawi (December 2022). Photo: Zac Jezman/Population Services International.

## Community Health Worker Training in Malawi



Supervision visit at Chintheche cluster in Nkhata Bay. Photo: Ofter Phiri/PSI

PMI's DCHI, led in Malawi by Digital Square's sub awardee Population Services International, provided implementation assistance to strengthen the Ministry of Health's (MOH's) malaria case management and to improve reporting at the community level.

The DCHI trained community health workers on the integrated Community Health Information System and integrated supportive supervision of the system in Kasungu and Nkhata Bay. The MOH conducted an initial training for 87 health surveillance assistants and supervisors in Kasungu to wrap up its activities.

## Community Health Assistant Program in Liberia

Liberia's National Community Health Assistant Program has matured to include an electronic Community-Based Information System (eCBIS). The Liberia MOH seeks to digitize community-level health information systems used by community health assistants and their community health services supervisors.

PMI's DCHI, led in Liberia by Digital Square's sub awardee Last Mile Health, supported this endeavor through financial and technical assistance on the design, development, and implementation of the eCBIS.

Last Mile Health also supported the MOH to develop an eCBIS concept note that set the overarching objectives of digitizing the MOH CBIS. This was presented by Last Mile Health to the MOH eCBIS unit leaders (M&E and Research, Information Communication and Technology (ICT), Community Health Services Division) and implementing partners.

## About this project

The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) launched its Digital Community Health Initiative (DCHI) with a vision to strengthen quality health delivery at the community level. Led by USAID and co-implemented with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this initiative aims to invest in the scale-up of digitally enabled community health platforms. DCHI is implemented by PATH's Digital Square initiative and its subawardees, including John Snow International, Last Mile Health, and Population Services International. Learn more about [Digital Square](#) and the [DCHI Initiative](#).

## Announcements

[Join the Community Health Impact Coalition \(CHIC\)](#) on February 16, 2023 to count down the top 10 findings from nearly five years of rounding up the latest and greatest community health research. <https://chwimpact.org/>

3rd International Community Health Worker Symposium (CHW2023), to be held in Monrovia, Liberia 22 March to 24 March 2023 – [call for abstracts is open](#).

## Inside this issue

- Upcoming priorities
- Recent milestones
- Highlights from Malawi and Liberia
- Spotlight on Burkina Faso
- Personal and professional team highlights



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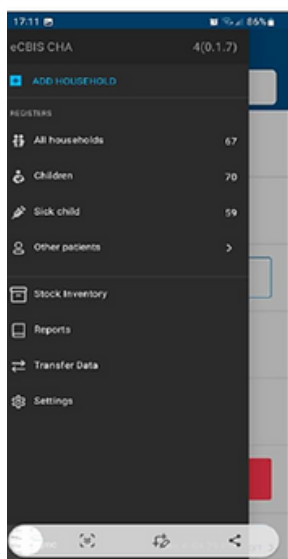
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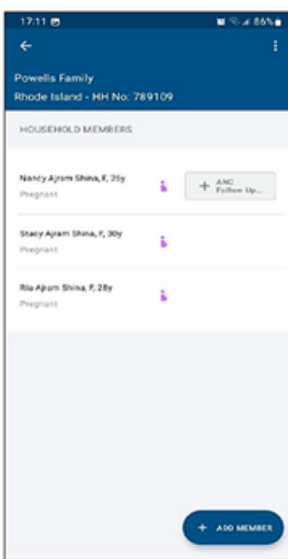
In Liberia, the National Community Health Assistant Program, comprised of the MOH and its implementing partners, reviewed a harmonized approach to the eCBIS, which is a digital tool built on the global good, [Ona](#). eCBIS examples frames below.



eCBIS app menu



Household registry - list of all household managed by CHA



Household summary - list of members for a given household, with shortcut to next task

### Recent milestones

- [Zambia country profile](#) published on the Digital Square website.
- PMI approved Kenya and Burma work plans.
- Malawi and Liberia have finalized Phase 3 implementation.
- PMI DCHI year 7 implementation plan submitted to USAID in January.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, PSI supported the MOH to establish a technical working group, co-led by the Direction de l'Informatique et de l'Information Sanitaire (Directorate of Informatics and Health Information) (DIIS), Programme National de Lutte Contre le Paludisme (National Malaria Control Program) (PNLP), and Direction de la Santé Communautaire (Community Health Directorate) (DSC), that will oversee the drafting of the National Digital Community Health Strategic Plan and act as a coordinating body for its implementation.
- To understand the current situation of people, processes, and technologies involved in the digital health environment, Digital Square supported a landscape assessment in Sierra Leone.

### Upcoming priorities

- In Uganda, Digital Square is supporting the MOH to document the Implementation Plan for the Health Information & Digital Health Strategy 2020/21–2024/25, which is in the final stages.
- In Ghana, Digital Square is transitioning the implementation of activities from Population Services International to John Snow, Inc. (JSI). JSI will support the National Malaria Control Program to complete the development of an interoperability layer for its malaria apps.
- Thailand finalized Phase 3 implementation, and the team is working on a Phase 4 work plan. The main activity proposed for Phase 4 is for Digital Square to conduct additional research and perform small-scale testing of a global good, Reveal, at the community level in Mae Hong Son Province at the request of the MOH's Division of Vector Borne Diseases.
- Digital Square is building an interactive dashboard based on Tableau to launch by March 2023.



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## SPOTLIGHT ON BURKINA FASO

Digital Square has been supporting Burkina Faso's MOH to digitize community health since 2021 and recently assisted the official launch of the m-Health in November 2022 in Kombissiri City. The MOH and its partners selected this app based on CommCare, and used the [Collaborative Requirements Development Methodology](#) process and results, which helped define workflows and requirements.



Alain Kabore, Digital Square's Burkina Faso team lead, with Burkina Faso Minister of Health, Dr. Robert Kargougou, celebrating the m-Health launch.

Digital Square supported the MOH to validate the m-health baseline assessment report as part of a community health digitization implementation.

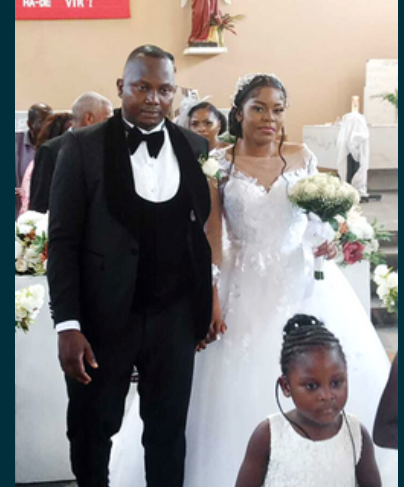
The PMI DCHI project sponsored a five-day workshop in November and December 2022 to develop three deliverables upon the assessment findings:

1. A validated version of the m-health baseline assessment report. Key content delivered as part of the workshop included outlining the features of m-health based on the [Global Fund data science catalytic fund framework \(DSCF\)](#). The assessment identified shortcomings in governance (existence of policies, regulations and procedures, strategies, coordination, and

supervision), financing (resource mobilization, allocation, and contribution of private sector), technology (applications and IT systems), communications (private sector involvement, capacity building and infrastructures), and data flows (data, timeliness and completeness, quality, and data use for decision making).

2. The operationalization plan based on assessment recommendations, which includes activities to close the gaps highlighted throughout the four pillars of the framework. PMI DCHI is committed to providing technical assistance to implement these activities that are critical for an enabling environment.

## Staff highlights



Congratulations to José Chaúque, Digital Community Health Advisor in Mozambique, and his wife, Tiana, who recently got married. Digital Square wishes you both a lifetime of love and happiness!



Congratulation to Emily Carnahan, Senior Manager, Learning and Impact, and her husband, Chris, who recently tied the knot. Digital Square wishes you both a lifetime of love and happiness!



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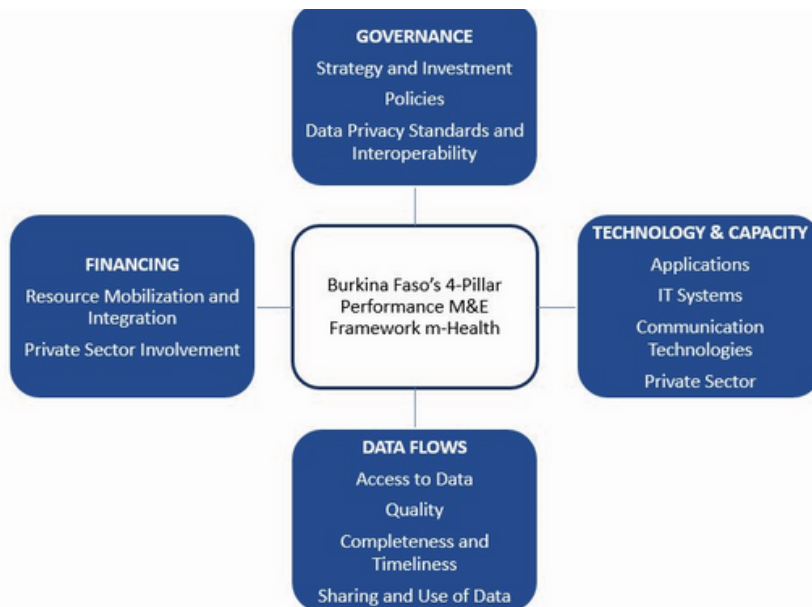
## SPOTLIGHT ON BURKINA FASO

3. A community health digitization Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework with a four-pillar performance indicator utilizing the Global Fund data science catalytic fund framework to:

- Track progress and ensure that all political, strategic, and operations aspects with gaps are addressed to ensure sustainable implementation of m-health.
- Measure the extent to which CHW is providing services using the m-health application.
- Assess the impact of using an m-health application to provide care on selected outcomes, for which the MoH developed additional outcome indicators. An M&E framework was developed based on the DSCF and has 4 pillars.



Burkina Faso's Minister of Health, Dr. Robert Kargougou, launching the community health worker app (m-Health) through an official speech.



For more information on DCHI Burkina Faso, please reach out to Alain Kabore, Regional Technical Advisor at [akabore@path.org](mailto:akabore@path.org).

## Staff highlights



Dr. Adrienne Brown, Digital Square's HIS Consultant in Rwanda, attended the International Conference on Public Health in Africa in Kigali, Rwanda, from December 13-15, 2023.

Her favorite highlights were the eHealth Summit sessions and the discussions with innovative partners.

She added that the poster sessions were robust and had so many health-focused artifacts. She also conveyed that it was great to hear from so many global leaders as well.

For more information, contact:

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