United States President's Malaria Initiative
Digital Community Health Initiative
May Newsletter

Burkina Faso Ministère de la Santé et de l'Hygiène Publique (Ministry of Health) representatives and its stakeholders at the workshop. Photo: Digital Square

Burkina Faso's Ministry of Health kicked off the Enterprise Architecture Development to Sustain Community Health

Burkina Faso's Ministère de la Santé et de l'Hygiène Publique (Ministry of Health [MOH]) is developing a CommCare-based application, mHealth 2.0, intended for use by community health workers to support them to deliver community services (e.g., malaria, maternal and child health). To support this effort, Digital Square is assisting Burkina Faso's MOH to develop an Enterprise Architecture (EA) that will serve as the vision for creating a sustainable digital community health system. The EA involves the identification of business architecture, data flows, analysis to understand the country environment, the key actors' needs, and the various stakeholders' perspectives.

This kick-off launched with a five-day framing workshop held in Bobo-Dioulasso, which brought together relevant stakeholders from the MOH and its implementing partners (e.g., Living Goods, Cooper/Smith, Country Health Information Systems and Data Use).

This initial workshop set the stage for creating a vision and plan to establish a sustainable electronic community health environment in Burkina Faso. Every month, various activities such as meetings, trainings, and workshops will take place to enhance the capacity of the MOH and develop the community health EA. Digital Square's technical assistance for the launch included introducing the Open Group Architecture Framework (TOGAF)

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.

Inside this issue

- Spotlight on Angola, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, and Senegal.
- Personal and team event highlights.

Developing a Framework to Assess Digital Tools in Madagascar

Lanja (DEPSI/(National Cyberhealth Security Service), Jessica Jaovany (PSI Consultant), Dr Mijoro (Chef de service DEPSI/SONC et son équipe technique : Andry, Miora, Jean, Fetra, Andry Rabemanantsoa (PSI Director-Monitoring Evaluation Research Learning). Photo: PSI

"I think this is an interesting and useful tool for the Ministry of Health insofar as it allows the ministry to have an evaluation framework to assess the relevance and added value of digital health initiatives at the community level and, therefore, to improve the health of the Malagasy population."

FANOR JOSEPH, SENIOR ROUTINE HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS (RHIS) RESIDENT ADVISOR, PMI MEASURE MALARIA, JSI

In Madagascar, the MOH is working to align digital tools with community health needs to improve digital health initiatives and ensure they align with existing digital health policies. To support this effort, the PMI DCHI project is supporting the Directorate of Studies, Planning, and Information Systems (DEPSI) to develop a framework to assess the suitability of community-level digital health tools proposed by partners for introduction or scale-up.

PSI carried out a desk review and key informant interviews and worked with the MOH to identify which criteria are most important to assess community-level digital tools. PSI and DEPSI then developed a draft framework, including 27 indicators divided into four categories: relevance and effectiveness, connectivity and infrastructure, resources, and training and support.

Each indicator is assessed using a five-point scoring rubric to indicate how well the proposed tool aligns with local needs and priorities. The results can be used to identify potential limitations of a tool, approve or deny project proposals, or work with partners to better align proposed tools with needs.

In April, PSI organized a workshop in Antananarivo with 29 stakeholders from the MOH and partner organizations to review and provide feedback on the draft framework. Participants underlined the importance of weighting certain indicators, such as those related to relevance and effectiveness, to ensure the framework's scoring aligns with expectations.

In June, PSI will support DEPSI to incorporate stakeholders' feedback on the framework's content and scoring rubric. The framework will then be validated in a workshop by the end of June 2023.

Category	Indicators	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Relevance and effectiveness	To what extent are the tool's functions aligned with the MOH's strategy and/or strategic priorities?	There is insufficient information available on the tool's functionalities to assess alignment with the MOH's strategic priorities.	The tool's main features are not aligned with any of the priorities listed in the MOH's current strategies or with the priorities listed by the MOH's directorates/programmes.	The tool's functionalities are partially aligned with at least some of the priorities defined by the MOH and/or specific departments/ programs.	The tool's functionalities are fully aligned with at least some of the priorities defined by the MOH and/or specific departments/ programs.	The tool's functionalities will support the main strategic planning priorities of the MOH.
Relevance and effectiveness	To what extent is the geographic coverage of the tool aligned with national priorities?	No clear roll-out plan available for specific regions/districts/ communes where the tool will be introduced.	The tool will only be introduced in regions/districts/ communes that are not considered relevant or a priority by the government	The tool will be introduced in 50% of priority regions/districts/comm unes.	The tool will be introduced in 75% of priority regions/districts/ communes	The tool will be introduced in all priority regions/districts/ communes where the government deems it appropriate.

Sample of two draft indicators from framework assessing suitability of community-level digital health tools

Annoucement

Global Goods Guidebook Version 4.0 Launched: We are pleased to share Version 4.0 of the Global Goods Guidebook, which was published on May 25, 2023. The guidebook catalogs the existing Digital Square–approved global goods, defines the product attributes of each global good, and provides personas to explain how to best leverage the guidebook to provide direction in selecting global goods to support a health project.

Version 4.0 includes 36 software global goods approved from the Notice G0 cycle. In addition to showcasing the attributes of global goods, the Guidebook contains information on related topics that are critical for digital health practitioners to understand, such as the importance of open standards and interoperability, how to ensure data-privacy and security in digital health, and definitions of Digital Square's Global Good Maturity Models.

Staff Highlights

Happy 40th birthday to Dr. James Soki, PATH Strategic Partnerships Fellow, Kenya! He celebrated his birthday with family and friends.

Building the Health Enterprise Architecture for Community Health Senegal

In Senegal, Digital Square is supporting the Ministry of Health and Social Action (MSAS) to sustain the digitization of community health by developing an enabling environment and robust governance structure. In that regard, Digital Square is continuing the Health Enterprise Architecture (HEA) efforts focusing on community health. The HEA framework aims to establish a blueprint for community health in the country by utilizing existing and future registries, following interoperability standards, and using current and upcoming point-of-service components.

On May 24 and 25, Digital Square engaged with the MSAS to support the HEA capacity evaluation. Participants did a deep dive into the current landscape of community health

digitization, examining the key actors involved (e.g., health care providers, technology vendors, data managers, and other relevant stakeholders). By comprehensively analyzing their roles, responsibilities, and interdependencies, Digital Square and the MOH aimed to identify potential gaps or inefficiencies within the existing system.

The evaluation process laid the groundwork for the MOH's digital health strategy, enabling the development and implementation of innovative digital solutions to drive progress and transformation within the Senegalese health care system.

Staff Highlights

World Malaria Day 2023 Celebration by PATH Myanmar Malaria Team

The malaria team of the PATH Myanmar country program organized a commemoration for World Malaria Day 2023. Dr. Khin Zarli Aye, the Director of Infectious Diseases, delivered an opening speech highlighting the current status of malaria in Myanmar and the importance of malaria surveillance and digital tools provided by the PATH Myanmar team.

Dr. Wah Wah Thaw, the Malaria Program Manager, then discussed the PATH Myanmar country program's efforts in eliminating malaria in the country. The event also included a fun activity called Mosquito Hunt led by Dr. Day Naing Aung, Senior Technical Officer, Malaria Surveillance, where attendees actively participated in catching mosquitoes! Staff members who caught the highest number of mosquitoes during the activity were rewarded with small presents.

Representatives from The Angola Ministry of Health, donors, implementing partners, and other stakeholders. Photo: PSI

Promoting the integration of community health data into DHIS2 in Angola

In Angola, the PMI DCHI project is working with the MOH (known as MINSA) to develop a costed roadmap to improve the integration of community health data into Angola's health information system, DHIS2. From May 8 to 10, the National Malaria Control Program and the National Directorate of Public Health co-hosted a workshop with more than 70 representatives from relevant stakeholders, including MINSA departments, the Social Support Fund, the Armed Forces, private-sector firms, national and international nongovernmental organizations, donor organizations, and international bodies.

The workshop provided the opportunity for people working on community health in different health areas to meet and discuss shared challenges, learn from each other's experiences, and start a discussion on how to move forward on integrating community health data into DHIS2.

Community health data currently are collected through multiple systems (e.g., Kobo Collect, Community Health System [SIS-C] for Malaria/Nutrition) managed by different MINSA health programs. Participants learned about the varied systems as well as advantages and disadvantages of different models for integrating data within DHIS2.

While integrating community data into DHIS2 is a priority, a key remaining question is whether to maintain different systems and promote greater interoperability with DHIS2 or promote a more harmonized data model across health areas. During the workshop, participants agreed that regardless of the specific model selected, certain characteristics should be prioritized: simplicity, sustainability, security, accessibility, integration, and suitability for decision-making.

The preliminary roadmap developed during the workshop outlines the activities and timelines for integrating current systems with DHIS2. A technical committee with representatives from different health areas was also established to make a final decision in coming months on which model MINSA will support to integrate community data into DHIS2, after which the roadmap will be updated and finalized.

Project Highlight

In Kenya, Digital Square engaged Vihiga County leadership in a sensitization meeting on May 2 to assess Vihiga County's readiness for the implementation of the electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS). This digital tool aims to address health service delivery and data management gaps at the community level to improve community health services. Outcomes from this meeting showed that the county has made considerable progress in readiness for eCHIS implementation. However, participants diagnosed gaps in the categories of leadership and governance, health financing, service delivery and infrastructure, and human resource capacity.

Digital Square also conducted a five-day training-of-trainers (TOT) from May 2 to May 7, in which ten national trainers participated. The trainers included county and subcounty coordinators (e.g., pharmacy coordinator, information and communication technology coordinator) and five Community Health Assistants.

Vihiga CHMT (County Health Management Team), CHAs (Community Health Assistants), Ministry of Health trainers

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