U.S. President's Malaria Initiative Digital Community Health Initiative

eCHIS modules group discussion during a Ministry of Health retreat in Kalangala Island, Uganda.
Photo: Digital Square/Alex Ariho.

Digital Square Supports Uganda Ministry of Health's Plan for Digital Health Strategic Implementation and Validation of eCHIS Guidelines

The Republic of Uganda Ministry of Health (MOH) is committed to scaling up the use of digital tools and data within the health system, including community health programs. Based on the recommendation in the country profile, Digital Square is supporting the MOH to:

- Develop a national implementation plan for the Health Information and Digital Health Strategic Plan 2020/21–2025/25, which includes community health initiatives.
- Validate the guidelines for implementation of community health information systems.

Digital Square conducted a validation workshop for the implementation of the electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) guidelines in January 2023, which await approval by the MOH's top management. These guidelines will ensure that MOH community health programs are supported by a reliable and effective digital system.

The Ugandan government approved the use of the eCHIS application to capture and report data for community health initiatives. Digital Square and UNICEF supported the MOH to develop an investment roadmap for the Health Information and Digital Health Strategy 2020/21–2024/25, which is pending approval from the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Department of Health Information.

Rollout of the eCHIS application and electronic medical records systems at various health care levels are among the key priorities of the MOH's Health Information and Digital Health Strategic Plan.

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 care delivery at the community level. Led by the United States Agency for International Development (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 Inc., Last Mile Health, and Population Services International. Learn more about Digital Square and the DCHI Initiative.

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Digital Community Health Initiative

Newsletter

Issue 2

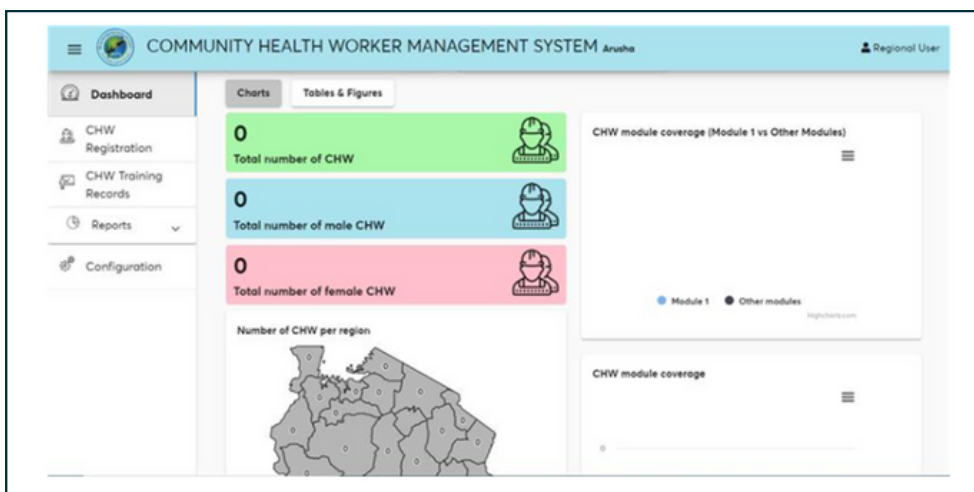FEBRUARY 2023 | @DIGITALSQR | PMICORE@PATH.ORG

Community-Owned Resource Persons (CORPs) System in Tanzania

Community-owned resource persons (CORPs) in Tanzania are trained to provide basic health education, promote healthy behaviors, and provide basic curative services for malaria, such as administering antimalarial drugs and distributing bed nets to community members. CORPs have been successful in reducing the burden of malaria in Tanzania, particularly in rural areas where access to health facilities is limited.

In December 2022, the Digital Square team successfully finalized the development of the CORPs module, which is built on DHIS2. To showcase the potential of this new tool, the team created a beta version that was then shared with various stakeholders, including implementing partners and the Ministry of Health (MOH). The team also coordinated with the MOH to conduct user acceptance testing of the modules, reviewing the developed components against the initial requirements.

With the team's diligent efforts and the support of key stakeholders, Digital Square is confident the CORPs system will soon be fully embraced by the MOH and its implementing partners, and will make a significant contribution to improving the health outcomes of communities in need.

Announcements

The Global Digital Health Index and Maturity Model (GDHI) is seeking to populate data from as many countries as possible as part of the GDHI Version 2.0 launch, planned for May 2023.

Upcoming priorities

- In Côte d'Ivoire, Population Services International will support the Directorate of Community Health to validate digital health priorities in a workshop in March 2023, which will inform the upcoming Community Digital Health Strategic Plan.
- Also in March, Digital Square will participate in the Thailand Malaria Operational Plans, which will allow cross-partner engagement and inform FY24 priorities and budget.

Staff highlights

Abby Minor, a Digital Square Program Officer, traveled to India in January, where she participated in a traditional pre-wedding Mehndi ceremony in Hyderabad. (Mehndi refers to the ceremony/drawing and paste mixture; henna is the plant used for dying.)

Drafting a Digital Health Roadmap in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone's Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) is committed to improving health outcomes through the use of innovative digital health technologies. To this end, the MOHS, under the leadership of the Directorate of Policy, Planning, and Information (DPPI), has set out to align the digital health priorities of all key stakeholders involved in this effort.

To support this goal, PMI's DCHI, led in Sierra Leone by Digital Square's sub-awardee Population Services International, is working with the DPPI and UNICEF to develop a digital health implementation roadmap across health programs.

Through close collaboration among the MOHS, DPPI, DCHI, UNICEF, and other stakeholders, the roadmap will help to maximize the impact of digital health technologies on the country's health outcomes, ensuring a coordinated approach and avoiding duplication of efforts. The launch of the comprehensive digital health implementation roadmap was marked by a two-day workshop held in Bo City on January 26 and 27.

The event brought together more than 80 participants, including representatives from the MOHS, Ministry of Information and Communication, Ministry of Energy, USAID, and other key stakeholders from both the government and implementing partners.

Participants developed a shared vision for the roadmap process, inaugurated a Digital Health Committee of Practice, and prepared a draft outline for the roadmap. They also discussed key gaps in the digital health landscape and proposed possible solutions to incorporate into the roadmap.

Technical working group subcommittees were created to provide guidance on governance; strategy and investment; the health workforce; services and applications; and information and communication technology infrastructure, standards, and interoperability. In March and April, stakeholders will work on drafting and validating the roadmap in two additional workshops.

The research and publication specialist who doubles as the eHealth Hub coordinator, Mr. Eddie Foday from the MOHS Directorate of Policy, Planning, and Information in Sierra Leone, introduces the workshop goals to stakeholders. Photo: Population Services International.

New hires

We are pleased to announce the recent hiring of Wah Wah Thaw, Program Manager, who will oversee the implementation of PMI DCHI Phase 4 activities in Burma.

We are excited to introduce Benjamin Niyitegeka, who began as a PATH Digital Health Systems Analyst (consultant) on February 13 in Rwanda. Benjamin is pictured above (middle), along with Sylvere Mugumya (Deputy Director of Digital Health, MOH Rwanda) on the right and Dr. Adrienne T. Brown (PATH health information system consultant) on the left.

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