



openIMIS

Newsletter May 2022

There has been a lot going on in the openIMIS community in the last few weeks. In this newsletter, we will put the important information in order for you. The first openIMIS Steering Group Meeting of the year took place, the Toumai community published a journal, and we launched the first openIMIS e-learning course. In addition, we offer first-hand information on the openIMIS implementations in Tanzania, Zanzibar, Cameroon and Nepal.

First e-learning course about openIMIS

The openIMIS Initiative launched the [first e-learning course about openIMIS](#) on socialprotection.org. The self-paced course on the open-source software will allow you to learn more about the features of openIMIS. Furthermore, the webinar provides you with successful implementations. The course consists of 4 modules.



Introduction to openIMIS

a self-paced e-learning course

Module 1: The Basics

Module 2: openIMIS and the national eHealth landscape

Module 3: *openIMIS Use Cases*

Module 4: *Sustainability & the role of the openIMIS Community*

After completion of all modules and the self-assessment, you will be able to acquire knowledge on openIMIS and understand how it can contribute to countries' digital health ecosystems. Moreover, you get to know how openIMIS can support strategies to increase access to UHC and USP.

To join the course, you can create a free account on socialprotection.org in just a few minutes. You can pause the self-paced course at any time and continue it at another time.



The Toumaï community publishes journal about the use of openIMIS

We proudly present our next publication about openIMIS. The journal “Implementing openIMIS: Experiences from the Toumaï community in 2021” brings together articles exploring key subjects for those considering, or already using, the openIMIS software, including:

- Implementation processes,
- Risk management considerations,
- The potential for interoperability with parallel platforms,
- and avenues for financing. They are drawn from the knowledge and experiences of openIMIS users, known collectively as the Toumaï community

Toumaï means ‘hope of life’ in several languages used across Central Africa. It is often given as a name to newborn babies in the desert areas of Chad and Niger to bring good luck in periods of extreme heat. As the name given to the openIMIS community of users, it represents the group’s ambition to promote universal access to healthcare coverage through this newly formed technology.

You can read the whole journal here: [giz2022-0215en-implementing-open-imis.pdf](#)

PechaKucha presentations on the implementation of openIMIS in four countries

Presenting openIMIS implementations in a few minutes seems to be impossible. But our community proved the opposite. In a PechaKucha format, Eric Darchis from Bluesquare shows us how the DHIS integration works in Cameroon. Hiren Soni from SwissTPH gives insights about how cash transfers can be managed with openIMIS in health insurance schemes in Tanzania.

Jonja Bwakea from PharmAccess describes in her presentation the role of interoperability in promoting the use of data to transform health financing strategies in Zanzibar. Nirmal Dhakal from GIZ Nepal provides us with information about the interoperability of openIMIS in Nepal.

You can watch the presentations by clicking the links below:

[openIMIS PechaKucha Presentation by Swiss TPH - YouTube](#)

[openIMIS PechaKucha Presentation by PharmAccess - YouTube](#)

[openIMIS PechaKucha Presentation by GIZ Nepal - YouTube](#)

[openIMIS PechaKucha Presentation by Bluesquare - YouTube](#)

Review: First Steering Group Meeting 2022 has taken place

On 27th April 2022, the openIMIS Steering Group Meeting took place virtually. It was attended by experts, users, implementers, donors, and software developers from around the world.

In welcoming remarks, Erika Placella, Head of Global Programme Health Division for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Alexander Schrade, Senior Policy Officer, Social Protection for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) emphasized the high importance of openIMIS for achieving universal health coverage. Jean Brice Tetka, Technical Advisor, openIMIS Coordination Desk for Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), delivered an overview of openIMIS use-cases and implementing countries. This was followed by the four PechaKucha presentations on the implementations in Tanzania, Zanzibar, Nepal and Cameroon.

In the second part of the meeting, Olivier Praz, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Programme Health, SDC, facilitated a discussion regarding the relationship

between Open-source software like openIMIS and private local businesses—those based in countries where openIMIS is or has the potential to be implemented. The meeting ended with a warm invitation to meeting participants from Mr. Bhattarai to join the new openIMIS Stakeholders Committee. The committee will be part of the governance structure of openIMIS and be formed of stakeholders who may not fit into the existing committee categories, with the intention of diversifying and expanding the voices involved in the development of openIMIS.



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