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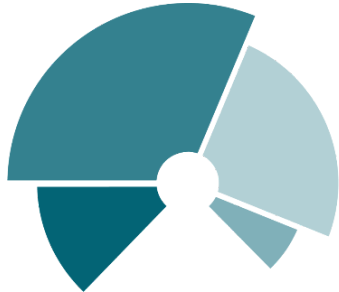
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openIMIS Newsletter February 2024

Dear readers,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our newsletter for the new year 2024! As we embrace the fresh opportunities that lie ahead, we are delighted to present you with valuable insights and updates covering January and February.

Here is a glimpse of what lies ahead in this newsletter:

- *Moldova Implementation on Voucher Scheme*
- *Cameroon UHC Implementation*
- *Reflection on the Global Digital Health Forum 2023*
- *Developers Workshop: CORE-MIS Integration*
- *Voices from Developers on Workshop*
- *Bhela Discussion: Through the Eyes of our Users*

Stay healthy, stay safe,
Your openIMIS Coordination Desk Team

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openIMIS Implementation for Voucher Scheme in Moldova

openIMIS will be implemented in the Republic of Moldova to support the government authorities in their efforts to tackle the undeclared work problem in the agricultural sector, and improve the social protection of day laborers. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, with the assistance of the International Labour Organization, and

technical support from SolDevelo, are working on structuralising the system and improving the labor conditions of Moldovan people.

The solution mostly relies on the Voucher Scheme that is designed to help regulate core labor standards regime. The system has been already integrated with the governmental MPass platform for authorisation purposes. Moreover, a mobile app has been developed in order to allow labor inspectors to quickly verify whether laborers have active vouchers assigned for the day. The newly developed system will be used by Moldovan employers and day laborers to increase the transparency and measurability of work, and reduce the possibility of fraud.

(This update has been provided by Anna Kwaśny from SolDevelo.)

More info: https://soldevelo.com/blog/openimis-in-moldova-tackling-the-undeclared-work-problem/

Cameroon UHC scheme: No UHC without Digitalisation – The Role of openIMIS

In January an article on the newly launched Cameroon Universal Health Coverage scheme was published on the web portal Healthy DEvelopments: *"Thinking and working politically to realise Universal Health Coverage: Insights from Cameroonian-German cooperation"*. The article describes the decade-long collaboration between the two countries and how Germany's multi-facetted contributions of German Development Cooperation helped to improve healthcare delivery. With digitalisation highlighted as one of the crucial factors to overcome fragmentation, the role and impact of openIMIS over time become visible - from streamlining data management to empowering communities with greater access.

The Ministry of Health in Cameroon is committed to ensuring some 25 million citizens have access to basic health services through the UHC Scheme and, by October 2023, almost two million people had already signed up.

Read more: [Thinking and working politically to realise Universal Health Coverage: Insights from Cameroonian-German cooperation – Healthy DEvelopments (bmz.de)](bmz.de)

You also find a presentation prepared on the same topic by Dragos Dobre, SwissTPH, under the next newsletter article.

Reflections on the Global Digital Health Forum 2023 – Closing a Remarkable Year in Style

Last year's Global Digital Health Conference (GDHF) in Washington DC marked the *grande finale* of the 2023 conference marathon of the Global Digital Health community. Being able to connect with fellow peers in person again after three years of COVID virtualisation proved to be a real energizer for a community that worked hard to contribute their share to combat the pandemic by providing the digital tools. While the pandemic has painfully highlighted once more how much the global public health sector is suffering from "inadequate information for the managerial process" (a recurring complaint since the 1980ties [WHO (1987)]), the 2023 GDHF provided an impressive overview of the work that was invested into Digital Health during the most recent pandemic.

It is not a co-incidence that the re-claimed human interoperability went hand in hand with advancements in interoperability of digital health systems: the interoperability standard FHIR dominated the discussions while WHO diligently presented the results of their work especially around the SMART guidelines – a methodology for countries to define and implement interoperable digital health infrastructures.

The openIMIS Initiative was able to prove its contribution to these efforts with two presentations (see links below): Sylvia Mwelu from the Kenyan Health Informatics Association (KeHIA) presented the work of the openIMIS Initiative itself while Dragos Dobre from Swiss TPH show-cased the openIMIS implementation example from Cameroon. Both presentations clearly illustrated the integral importance of a digital management system for health financing in the digital health ecosystem.

Summary article on GDHF 2023 by the organisers: [Global Digital Health Forum 2023: A changing tide for more localized digital health — Digital Square](#)

Presentation by Sylvia Mwelu / KeHIA: [Open-source tools as a foundation of global health infrastructure](#)

Presentation by Dragos Dobre / Swiss TPH: [Implementing UHC through Open Source Tools: A Cameroonian Use Case](#)
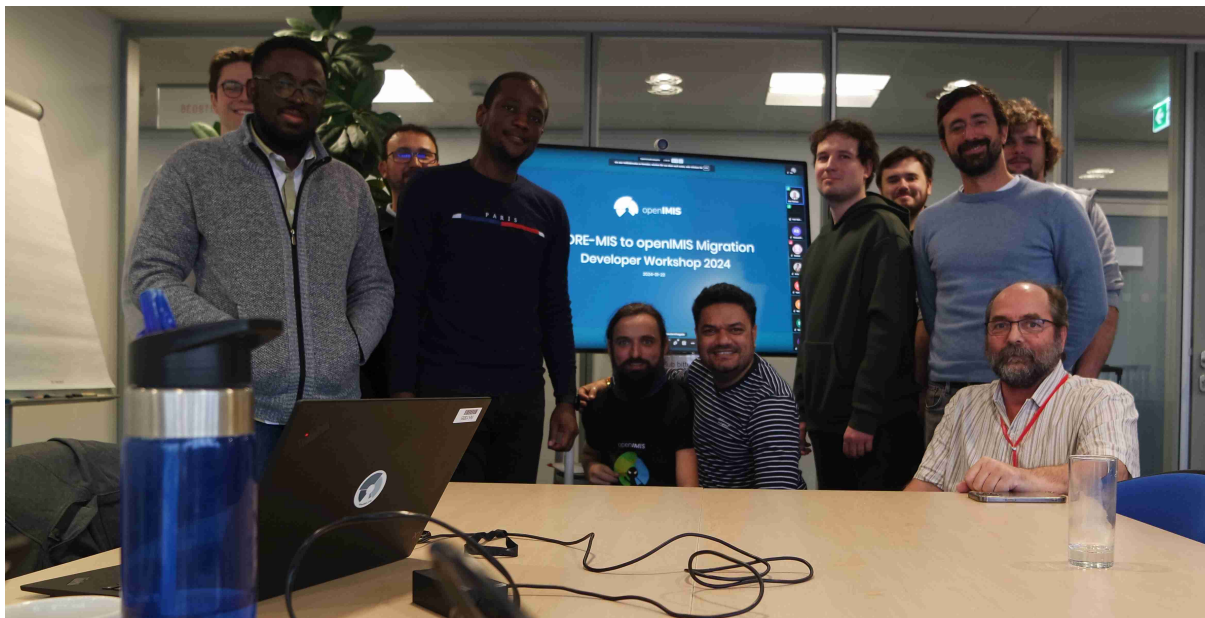
[openIMIS Developers' Workshop in Jan 2024: CORE-MIS Migration Project – Starting a Promising New Year at Full Speed](#)

The openIMIS Developers' Community has successfully started into the new year with an intensive hackathon-style developers' workshop with twelve participants from the World Bank, SolDevelo, Swiss TPH and GIZ. The workshop aimed at

aligning business requirements and timelines among the team members. Although the project context is highly challenging with regards to the complexity of the technical frameworks on one hand and the urgent need for certain functionalities on the field on the other hand, the group was able to produce a good mix of results.

Consensus was reached about the overall priorities, the short-term roadmap for the next openIMIS release was drafted, a few functionalities were prototyped in code and we even managed to get some test-installations up and running. Since the workshop integrated the usual virtual room of the developers committee, it was also possible to integrate remote developers – helping the World Bank team in Sao Tome with their pilot implementation in real-time.

Read more: Documentation on the Developers Workshop

Voices from the Participants of the Developers Workshop

Artur Lebiedzińsk / Project Manager, SolDevelo: Recently, we attended a workshop in Eschborn, focusing primarily on openIMIS matters, specifically CORE-MIS Integration. The workshops proved highly productive as we strategically divided tasks among attendees to maximize benefits. We delved into general openIMIS topics, exploring how to use individual tables for system-wide modules. Simultaneously, we extensively discussed CORE-MIS requirements, enhancing our understanding of dependencies between functionalities, which is crucial for development progress.

In addition, we participated in a hackathon proposed by The World Bank colleagues. This provided a valuable experience, allowing us to witness the prototype of

Uploading Individuals through CSV files and the finalized openSearch integration. Beyond the professional aspects, the workshop offered a chance for in-person meetings, fostering stronger connections and providing an opportunity to spend time together.

Damian Borowiecki / Developer, SolDevelo: The recent workshop we attended, centered on the integration between openIMIS and CORE-MIS, brought significant value to our team. The core discussions focused on the next steps in development, setting clear expectations for the upcoming release, and revisiting the requirements for social protection. A standout feature was the hackathon, where we prototyped solutions that could significantly enhance our system's functionality. We left with a unified vision, ready to tackle our projects with renewed vigor and a clearer direction. The workshop served as an exemplary demonstration of how face-to-face collaboration can bring new energy to the community.

Andrea Martin / CORE-MIS, Consultant World Bank: The team appreciated the opportunity to join this developers' workshop in Eschborn, bringing together experts to collaboratively work on the advancement of the CORE-MIS migration and to explore enhancements for the openIMIS tool. It was good to meet face-to-face and focus on this important initiative.

Bhela Discussion: Through the eyes of our users (28 Feb 2024)

How can we best present to our users what openIMIS has to offer? Which solutions are they (the users) looking for - and how can we communicate to them - as succinctly and clearly as possible - that we have it?

These are some of the questions we are currently working on with two communication specialists. They would be keen to hear your, the implementers', perspective: What are your clients looking for and how do you get them interested in the solutions openIMIS can offer?

Join our upcoming Bhela call to share your perspective and what you have learnt about this in your interactions with users.

Co-ordinates

Date: 28.02.2024

Time: 10.00 AM Central European Time (CET)

Room: *Jitsi Meet* (*https://meet.jit.si/openIMISImplementers*)

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