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# openIMIS

## Newsletter August 2023

**Dear readers,**

In this issue we can finally announce the launch of the openIMIS French website version. We give you a summary of the funder field trip to Nepal for you. This month's country update comes from Nigeria.

Do you already have topics you would like to see in the next newsletter? Let us know by sending an email to [contact@openIMIS.org](mailto:contact@openIMIS.org).

For now, we hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Your openIMIS coordination desk

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## **openIMIS.org is now also available in french language**

We are thrilled to announce a major development that's been in the works for some time now. The openIMIS website, your go-to platform for information, resources, and updates about the openIMIS initiative, is now available in French! This expansion is a significant step forward in our mission to make openIMIS accessible to an even wider global audience.

resources and information are easily accessible to individuals and organizations from all around the world. With the addition of the French version of the website, we aim to bridge language barriers and ensure that valuable insights and knowledge are available to French-speaking communities.

To access the newly launched French version of the openIMIS website, simply visit [www.openIMIS.org](http://www.openIMIS.org) and click on the language toggle in the top-right corner to switch between English and French. You'll find a wealth of information about openIMIS.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to making this expansion possible. This achievement reflects the dedication of the openIMIS community to promoting equitable and effective open-source tools in the health and social protection sector across the globe.

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## openIMIS Funder Group Field Trip to Nepal

In April 2023, representatives of the openIMIS Funder Group visited partner country Nepal to observe implementations, further discussion, and explore next steps for the openIMIS initiative.

In April 2023, Mr Alexander Schrade, Senior Policy Officer in the Division Health, Social Protection and Population Policy Division at BMZ, and Mr Olivier Praz, Senior Policy Advisor in the Global Programme Health at SDC, travelled to Nepal, where openIMIS has been used to manage the Nepal Health Insurance Board National Social Health Insurance since 2016.

### Understanding implementations in Nepal

A key objective of the visit was to observe and learn from the various openIMIS implementations in Nepal. Mr Schrade and Mr Praz met the Nepal Health Insurance Board (HIB), which implements the National Social Health Insurance Scheme, managed using openIMIS. Discussion encompassed the schemes' success—two million families, or six million people, are currently beneficiaries of the scheme—as well as addressing challenges, in particular improving

The Funders also had the opportunity to see the scheme in practise when they visited the health insurance district office and the Bakulahar-Ratnanagar Hospital in Chitwan district, southwestern Nepal. Here, they spoke to medical workers who use the software on a day-to-day basis, and talked to beneficiaries about their experiences with the scheme.

openIMIS is versatile and can be adapted for different uses, and in Nepal it is also used by the Social Security Fund (SSF) to manage the Employment Injury Insurance scheme for formal sector workers, as well as a scheme for migrant workers. Through meetings with the SSF, the funders' delegation was able to observe openIMIS serving a number of schemes simultaneously, and consider ways that openIMIS could be upgraded to cover diverse schemes. As Saurav Bhattarai, Component Lead at openIMIS, pointed out, learning from the use-cases means that 'the investments in Nepal will not only benefit SSF, but other openIMIS implementations globally as well.'

The funders subsequently visited the Goldstar shoe factory, a subscriber to the Employment Injury Insurance scheme, to meet with people benefiting from the scheme in their everyday lives.

### **Furthering discussion**

Another major objective of the funders' trip to Nepal was to engage in exchanges and discussions with other actors in social protection in the region. The delegation had an opportunity to meet colleagues from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to discuss ways to collaborate, support and promote digitalisation of social protection schemes in Nepal, with colleagues at the World Health Organization Nepal office to discuss the value of Digital Public Goods in health and social protection, and with the World Bank Health and Social protection team in Nepal for a conversation centred around the digitalisation of health financing in Nepal.

These individual meetings then culminated in a wider roundtable discussion with colleagues working in digital social protection in Nepal from the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, the Asian Development Bank, and UNICEF.

### **Cooperating into the future**

digital social protection. One key area identified was raising awareness of open-source systems as a good option for the management of social protection schemes. One suggested solution was running workshops and similar roundtable discussions, with content tailored to specific target groups, from policy level to IT specialists. Another solution was providing data on the efficiency gains and cost-analysis of openIMIS.

Another part of the roundtable discussion focused on digital social protection in Nepal. A key theme that emerged was the importance of coordination and cooperation between the multiple organizations working towards the same goal—that more and more benefit from social protection schemes. Digital systems such as openIMIS, designed with interoperability as a priority, are well-suited for integration and exchange of data across different initiatives, and therefore for working together across different organizations and initiatives.

Concluding the roundtable discussion, Mr Praz noted that ongoing social protection work in Nepal—involving each of the organizations present in different capacities—was a good example of donor-coordination; ‘We all have complimentary competences on the agenda, and abilities in implementing. We all need each other.’

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## The use of openIMIS in Nigeria

We are thrilled to bring you the latest updates on the implementation of openIMIS in Nigeria, a significant step towards revolutionizing healthcare access and administration in the country. openIMIS is used in the Kaduna State Contributory Health Scheme (KSCHS).

The KSCHS was formally established in February 2018 through Law No 7 of 2018, which seamlessly integrates with the Kaduna State Human Capital Development and Social Protection Strategy. At its core, the scheme aims to minimize out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, ultimately reducing poverty caused by overwhelming medical costs. The authority embarked on delivering healthcare services to enrollees in June 2020, marking a significant milestone

The impact of the KSCHS has been profound, with over 357,253 enrollees benefiting from primary and secondary healthcare services since its commencement in June 2020. The scheme's success is also attributed to the accreditation and empanelment of 412 healthcare facilities across the 23 local government areas of Kaduna State:

24 Public secondary healthcare providers

273 Public primary healthcare centers

19 Private secondary healthcare facilities

96 Private primary healthcare facilities

These facilities have been strategically distributed across Kaduna North, Kaduna Central, and Kaduna South zones to ensure comprehensive coverage and accessibility for all residents.

One of the highlights of this implementation has been the extension of the openIMIS system to encompass features that were not initially included in the platform. A key accomplishment has been the incorporation of preauthorization capabilities, streamlining the healthcare process even further. This enhancement allows for smoother coordination between healthcare providers, insurers, and beneficiaries, ensuring that essential medical services are provided promptly and without unnecessary administrative hurdles. At present, the implementation of openIMIS is undergoing rigorous testing to ensure that all components function flawlessly.

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