

## A GLOBAL GOOD FOR UHC AND USP

openIMIS is the first open source software that supports the management of social (health) protection schemes. It links beneficiary, provider and payer data. It is a powerful tool to strengthen strategic purchasing of health services and digital processing of health system data.

## SETTING

More and more countries are moving towards both Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Universal Social Protection (USP) for their populations.

Given the many stakeholders involved in health care and their interactions, health care systems are extremely complex, resulting in large amounts of data.

This complexity and density of information makes it challenging to design, manage and adjust system processes. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) have been extremely helpful in supporting these tasks. However, in the health sector, many ICT solutions have been developed in isolation, piloted and not scaled up.

Software solutions are often piloted within narrow geographical boundaries or address selected processes. As a result, many countries face challenges when trying to integrate and scale up these solutions to the wider contexts required for UHC. The lack of compatible formats and interfaces among ICT tools, or interoperability, inhibits the coherent and comprehensive flow of data and information, creating highly fragmented national eHealth systems.

## THE ORIGINS OF openIMIS

With support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) in 2012, the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Microinsurance Academy and Exact Software

### openIMIS is ...



free to download, customize and use. It is a global good.



adaptable, modular by design, compatible with different schemes and country needs.



interoperable with various formats and interfaces for data exchange (international standard protocols and codes).



Sustainable, driven by the openIMIS community and supported by the global openIMIS Initiative.

The openIMIS Initiative promotes global exchange and links global and local communities to the benefit of one another.

developed an Insurance Management Information System (IMIS) to operate community health funds (CHF) in several districts of Tanzania.

In 2014, a mutual health insurance scheme in Cameroon adapted the software. Since 2015, the German Development Cooperation (GDC) has been providing assistance to customize IMIS for Nepal's national health insurance scheme.

The software has grown organically and has demonstrated potential for easy adaptation to different types of health financing mechanisms needed for UHC.

In 2016, GDC and SDC invested jointly to make IMIS an open source application. The openIMIS source code is publicly available since 2018.

## openIMIS MODULES

openIMIS has a modular and adaptable design. The modules cover the following business processes:

- Enrolment and contribution collection
- Beneficiary verification
- Claims management
- Client feedback
- Data analytics and reports

openIMIS has a front-end interface that allows for quick registration procedures even in remote rural areas and can be used online and offline. The modules can be customized to specific country and organizational needs.

## openIMIS INTEROPERABILITY

openIMIS helps solve the data fragmentation puzzle. It interfaces with other IT tools in the health and social protection sector to connect data sources and users.

openIMIS uses international standard protocols and codes (e.g. diagnosis codes) and requires services from multiple standard health sector applications (DHIS2, medical records) and beyond (e.g. civil registries).

## openIMIS COMMUNITY

The openIMIS Community supports the sharing of knowledge both of the software itself and of its implementation by users. The community engages diverse expertise across disciplines and shares best practices. This promotes sustainability, capacity development and technical assistance to in-country specialists.

## openIMIS INITIATIVE

The openIMIS Initiative promotes the open source approach and aligns with the [Principles for Digital Development](#) and the [Digital Investment Principles](#).

The initiative is a collaborative mechanism. It proactively engages new members including donors, multilateral agencies, countries, as well as the private sector, civil society, foundations, global initiatives and networks.

The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) are the initial funders of the initiative. The initiative is coordinated by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

## INFORMATION SOURCES

Twitter: @openIMIS

openIMIS web

<https://www.openimis.org/>

openIMIS demo

<https://openimis.org/demo/>

openIMIS source code

<https://github.com/openimis>

openIMIS wiki

<https://openimis.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/OP/overview>

openIMIS ReadTheDocs

<https://openimis.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>