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Inception workshop openHIMIS

Inception phase on a joint initiative towards the development of an open source Health Insurance Management Information System (openHIMIS)

Frankfurt a.M., Germany, 4th – 6th July 2016

The following summary of the Inception Workshop from 4th to 6th of July 2016 is derived out of the discussions during the workshop and is not binding in a legal sense.

Day 1, 04.07.2016

Discussions and presentations on the first day served the overarching objective to contextualize the initiative towards an open source MIS for health insurance. A focus lay on the need and timeliness of the project in the light of the UHC paradigm.

The aims of the workshop were discussed and participants' expectations captured. Following introductory presentations on the broader topic area, the status of IMIS, particularly as implemented in Nepal, and experiences with other MIS in India, Kenya, the Philippines and Togo were discussed.

OpenHIMIS and the envisaged role of GIZ:
- GIZ focuses on three main areas, namely impetus and strategic direction, coordination and stakeholder management as well as capacity development.

IMIS past, present and future:
- Swiss TPH proposes unifying the system and to release a single unified robust system which can operationalize already now the "community of practice" and also be a solution for others wanting to take up the application if they are satisfied with the current technology choice, while Swiss TPH works on the design and implementation of the OpenHIMIS version

Experiences with MIS in the partner countries:
- The experiences in with MIS in India, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines and Togo vary strongly according to the specific contexts. Thus, the expressed needs towards openHIMIS differ, suggesting a modular design of the future solution.

Day 2, 05.07.2016

The second day focused on discussions around process flows and a SWOT analysis of IMIS.

World Café:
- All work flows underlining the different processes should be customisable according to the context-specific processes of different countries.

SWOT analysis of an IMIS core as a universal solution (due to the summarizing character of this paper only a few representative aspects will be mentioned):
- *Strengths:*
  - o Flexibility and development according to local requirements
  - o Ability to control fraud

- *Weaknesses:*
  - o Potential limitations of some current design components; need for employability on a total open source stack
- *Opportunities:*
  - o IMIS as a tool for analysis and reporting as well as for bundling resources
  - o Introduction of standardised procedures
- *Threats:*
  - o With increasing scope and functionality of the system, implementation and maintenance are becoming more challenging

Day 3, 06.07.2016

The aim of the last day of the workshop was to agree on next steps, to reach a joint understanding of the stakeholder map and to outline the key components of a road map.

Stakeholder map (proposed during the workshop and currently discussed by the inviting party):
- GIZ is pushing forward the road map
- The following stakeholders will provide result oriented comments, additions and advise:
  - o SDC, Swiss TPH, Thoughtworks, Nepal, Tanzania, JLN, University of Oslo
- The countries Kenya, Philippines, and Togo, will be consulted.
- Informed: Development banks and open source development experts (e.g. from respective networks).

Subject of further discussion, especially regarding the immediate future of IMIS:
- How much of the existent architecture of the IMIS system should remain?
- Unification of IMIS to a master version and development of this version to openHIMIS
- Modular design of IMIS

Towards a road map design:
- A pre-governance structure is desired in order to achieve a governance structure.
- The road map is supposed to set a framework and to clarify the following phases, while focusing on the lessons learned from the experiences with MIS.
- Will be developed on the basis of the discussions and inputs during the workshop.