

Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control (DIPC) Malawi

An initiative of digital.global

Scaling the Use of Digital Tools for Vaccination Planning, Deployment, and Monitoring

COUNTRY BACKGROUND AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Malawi has made significant strides in developing its digital health strategy, with relevant achievements such as the implementation of a national electronic medical record system, the roll-out of a national data center, and the establishment of a national health information system. These developments have been made possible through a range of activities, including the strengthening of the country's health information system architecture, the training of health workers in digital health skills, and the establishment of partnerships with various stakeholders to support the implementation and sustainability of digital health solutions. Despite the progress made, Malawi's digital health system still faces significant challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, limited funding, the need for more digital literacy among healthcare workers and the population in general, as well as better coordination of digital health investments to increase efficiency.

However, the country is committed to addressing these challenges by implementing initiatives such as expanding internet connectivity and investing in training for health workers to enhance the use of digital health tools, ultimately working towards a more effective and sustainable digital health system. In addition, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has developed the (Health Service Strategic Plan (HSSP) III with an implementation period from 2023 to 2030. The HSSP III adopts the health sector reforms including the implementation of the "One Plan, One Budget, One M&E" arrangement. This arrangement seeks to consolidate and harmonize implementation plans and investments in specific focus areas within the health sector, including Digital Health. Therefore, in this regard all Digital health stakeholders compile, share and consolidate their respective plans and budget, to feed into the "One plan, One Budget" framework.

DIPC IN MALAWI

Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control (DIPC) is funded by the German Federal ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented in Malawi through GIZ in collaboration with DigitalSquare/Path and the Government of Malawi. The project seeks to integrate

Project	Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control
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Partner	PATH - Digital Square
Counterpart	Ministry of Health Malawi
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digital solutions at scale to support pandemic control, with a focus on vaccine logistics. DIPC has four working packages designed to strengthen Malawi's digital health system while supporting the use of digital solutions in the vaccine logistics process:

- **Strengthening the Health System:** DIPC and Digital Square will be working closely with Malawi's Ministry of Health to accelerate the implementation of digital tools to support sustainable immunization systems in the country. This work will include the localization of the WHO SMART Guidelines for vaccine logistics.
- **Building Digital Solutions through an Immunization Product Suite:** Digital Square will develop an immunization product suite aligned with WHO's Digital Adaptation Kit (DAK) for immunization that combines several software solutions into a fully interoperable software

package that provides end to end support for vaccine delivery, with a particular focus on open-source global goods

- **Capacity-strengthening:** DIPC will provide training and support to digital health professionals by strengthening national and local skills necessary to effectively use these tools, and furthermore, enhance the success and sustainability of the digital solutions.
- **Evidence and Innovation:** Collaborating with different partners and rigorous academic and innovative approaches, there will be a continuous work to improve the initiative's implementation approach from a global perspective.

In conclusion, Malawi's digital health landscape is rapidly evolving, and the DIPC initiative implementation in Malawi provides a framework for scaling digital solutions to support pandemic control. As the project strengthens Malawi's digital health system, healthcare delivery and management will undoubtedly improve, providing much-needed relief to a nation facing several health challenges.

RELEVANT STATISTICS

Health

- Life expectancy at birth, total (years) 64 (2020)
- Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months) 90 (2021)
- Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49) 7.7 (2021)

Digital Development

- Individuals using the Internet (% of population) 10 (2019)
- Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people) 60 (2021)
- Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people) 0.07 (2021)

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DIPC is integrated in the following bilateral and regional projects

- Health systems strengthening with focus on reproductive health: Malawi Germany Health Program (MGHP)

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Our pages at www.bmz-digital.global/en/overview-of-initiatives/digital-innovation-in-pandemic-control-dipc/

DIPC in Malawi is part of the global programme of DIPC implemented in 5 countries worldwide, please find here the [general overview](#).

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