

Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control (DIPC) Sierra Leone

An initiative of [digital.global](https://www.digital.global)

Implementing the country roadmap for digital health

COUNTRY BACKGROUND AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Sierra Leone's digital health landscape has been evolving rapidly in recent years, with the government prioritizing the development of a robust digital health infrastructure. The country's eHealth Strategy and National Health Management Information System (NHIMS) have been instrumental in shaping the digital health landscape. Sierra Leone has also made significant progress in expanding access to mobile phones and the internet, which has enabled the adoption of digital health solutions.

Despite these strengths, Sierra Leone's digital health system faces several challenges, including inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and limited human resource capacity. These challenges have made it difficult to scale up digital health solutions and fully integrate them into the healthcare system.

DIPC IN SIERRA LEONE

Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control (DIPC) is funded by the German Federal ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented in Sierra Leone through GIZ in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the government of Sierra Leone. The project seeks to integrate digital solutions at scale to support pandemic prevention and control, with a focus on vaccine logistics. In particular, DIPC in Sierra Leone aims to support:

- The development of a national digital health roadmap and the revision of the national strategic plan.
- And further strengthen vaccine logistics through
 - Supporting oversight and quality assurance through the implementation of effective vaccine management assessment (EVMA) and expanded programme on immunization (EPI) performance review meeting.
 - Review of immunization and logistics guidelines

Project	Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control
Funded through	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany.
Country	Sierra Leone
Partner	UNICEF
Counterpart	Directorate of Policy, Planning and Information (DPPI)
Total Duration	2022 to 2024



- Implement SMART guidelines for immunization use case
- DIPC is supporting the training and capacity building of Frontline healthcare workers and immunization focal persons (FPs) in 44 peripheral health units (PHUs) across four selected districts (Bonthe, Kailahun, Koinadugu, and Karene based on the primary health care (PHC) model). Additionally, it provides online training for digital logistics officers at district health management teams (DHMTs) in 16 districts on the use of electronic stock management tools for vaccine logistics.
- DIPC will provide ICT infrastructure provisions (computers, connectivity, and power devices)

DIPC in Sierra Leone also contributes to the global activities of DIPC, which include:

- **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
- **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, Sierra Leone's digital health landscape is rapidly evolving, and the DIPC initiative implementation in Sierra Leone provides a framework for scaling digital solutions to support pandemic control.

RELEVANT STATISTICS

Health

- Life expectancy at birth, total (years) 60(2020)
- Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months) 87(2021)
- Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49) 1.4 (2021)

Digital Development

- Individuals using the Internet (% of population) 18 (2020)
- Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people) 98(2021)
- Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people) No data available

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DIPC is integrated in the following bilateral and regional projects

- Health System Strengthening and Epidemic Prevention (HSSEP) in Sierra Leone

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

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

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