

Have you heard about a Digital Public Good...

Implemented in Health Sectors in over
130 countries

Benefitting over 3.5 Billion population

Been around since 1994

A strong community that build country
ownership & works closely with ministries

Pamod Amarakoon
HISP Centre, University of Oslo

DHIS2 & HISP

Local capacity, digital public infrastructure, and country impact **in Africa**



LOCAL
CAPACITY



DIGITAL PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE



INTEROPERABILITY
& STANDARDS



DIGITAL ID &
TRUST



DATA FOR
IMPACT



DHIS2: Open-source software for data-driven decisions



- Recognized as a **Digital Public Good** with global scale
- **Open source**, entirely free of licensing fees
- **Generic** and fully configurable
- **Extensible & interoperable:** Supporting local development & innovation
- **Global footprint:** used by 130+ countries at national scale
- **In-country ownership** of software system and data
- **Community-driven** software roadmap



Enabling local response at global scale

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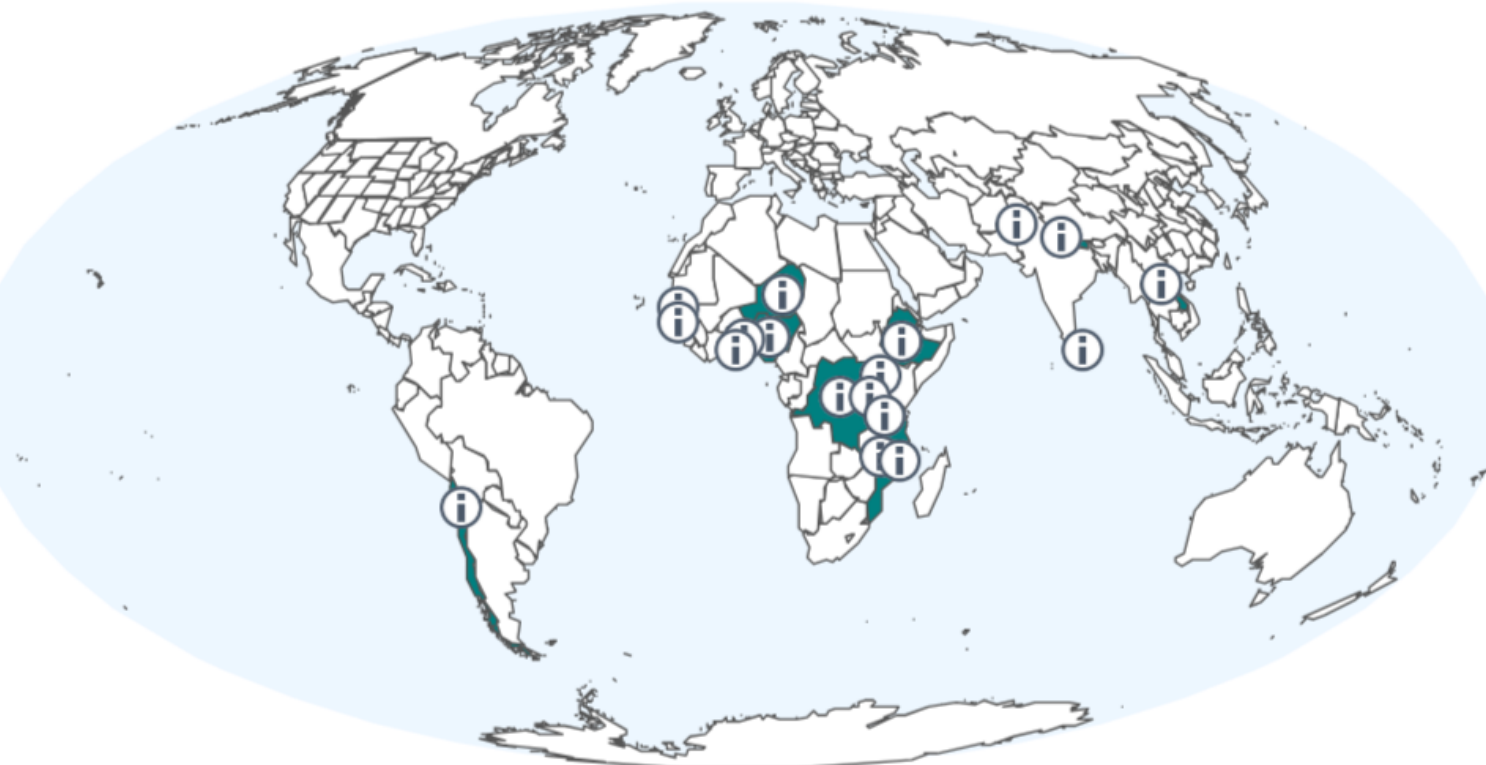
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● **Systems using climate data: 17**

Chile ⓘ

Dem. Rep. Congo ⓘ

Ethiopia ⓘ

Ghana ⓘ

Guinea Bissau ⓘ

Laos ⓘ

Malawi ⓘ

Mozambique ⓘ

Nepal ⓘ

Niger ⓘ

Nigeria ⓘ

Rwanda ⓘ

Senegal ⓘ

Sri Lanka ⓘ

Tanzania ⓘ

Togo ⓘ

Uganda ⓘ



Global Usage and Impact

National HMIS

75

Countries use DHIS2 as national HMIS

3.3 billion

Population served by DHIS2 HMIS systems

130 +

Countries where NGOs & the UN use DHIS2

75%

of LMICs use DHIS2 as national HMIS

DHIS2 Mobile

70,000

Monthly active community health workers

535,000

Total downloads

500,000

Cumulative unique users

37

Countries

Tracker

200 Million +

Individuals' records stored across surveillance and disease registers

*DHIS2 touches **40%** of the world's population*

DHIS2 in Africa: Rapid COVID-19 Adaptation at Scale



Africa successes, with a West Africa lens



Strong West & Central Africa momentum



~55
countries

used DHIS2 for COVID-19 surveillance in 2020



25
countries

already had DHIS2-based national surveillance before COVID-19



23
countries

supported by HISP West & Central Africa



Existing DHIS2 base



Rapid configuration



National dashboards



Actionable decision-making



Why West Africa stood out

- Built on routine HMIS and surveillance foundations
- Regional capacity through HISP WCA, DHIS2 Academies, and peer learning
- Experience from prior outbreaks supported faster adaptation



Regional success

WAHO regional DHIS2 platform aggregates public-health data from all 15 ECOWAS countries.

Supports visibility on HIV, malaria, nutrition and broader public-health status.



COVID-19 showed that existing digital public infrastructure could be repurposed quickly — without starting from scratch.



West Africa: Proof of Local Capacity

HISP WCA experience and a practical COVID-19 adaptation model



23 countries

HISP WCA has grown from its first DHIS2 implementation in Sierra Leone (2007) to support 23 countries in the region.



Local ownership

Systems in countries such as Sierra Leone and CAR are run by local teams; Mali continued reporting despite security challenges.



Trusted partner

HISP groups proved their value during COVID-19 through rapid response, sharing, and long-term support to ministries.



COVID showed that HISP groups were there and responding to key demands — helping governments and society as a whole.

Edem Kossi, HISP WCA interview, 2024



How local capacity translated into rapid COVID-19 adaptation



Mini-case: Sierra Leone

- First HISP WCA-supported DHIS2 country (2007)
- COVID-era DHIS2 adaptation built on long-term local capacity
- Illustrates how participatory design and national ownership support resilience



The key lesson: open platforms scale best when they are backed by strong local institutions, local skills, and regional collaboration.



HISP Network: local expertise, global collaboration

Africa



Asia & Middle East



Americas



Europe



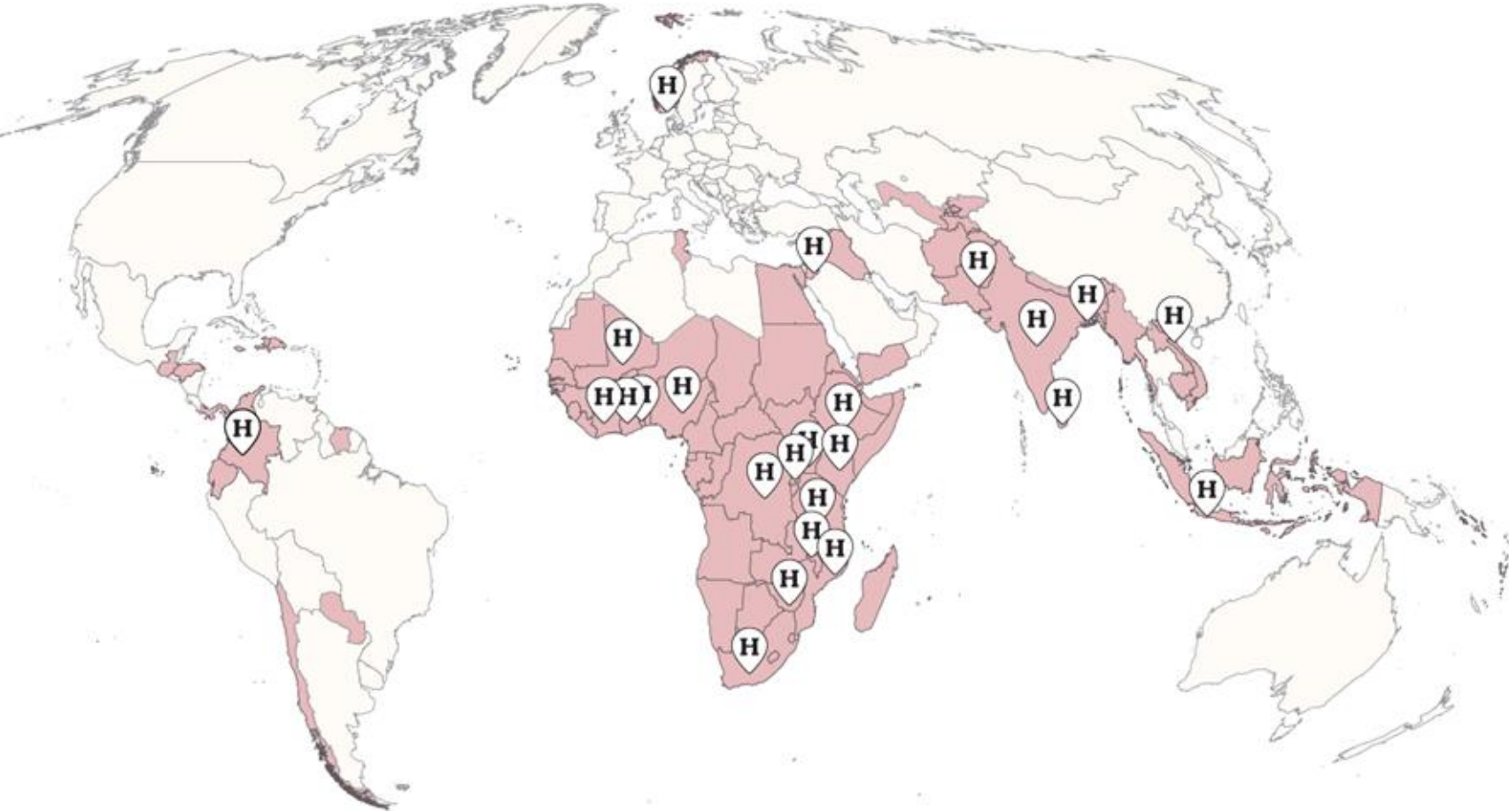
Local HISP Groups: Independent support for information system design, implementation, and maintenance.

Continental HISP Hubs (Africa & Asia): Regional consortiums of HISP groups managing multi-country projects.

HISP UiO: Global coordinator for the HISP network, DHIS2 development, and multi-region projects.



What do HISPs do?

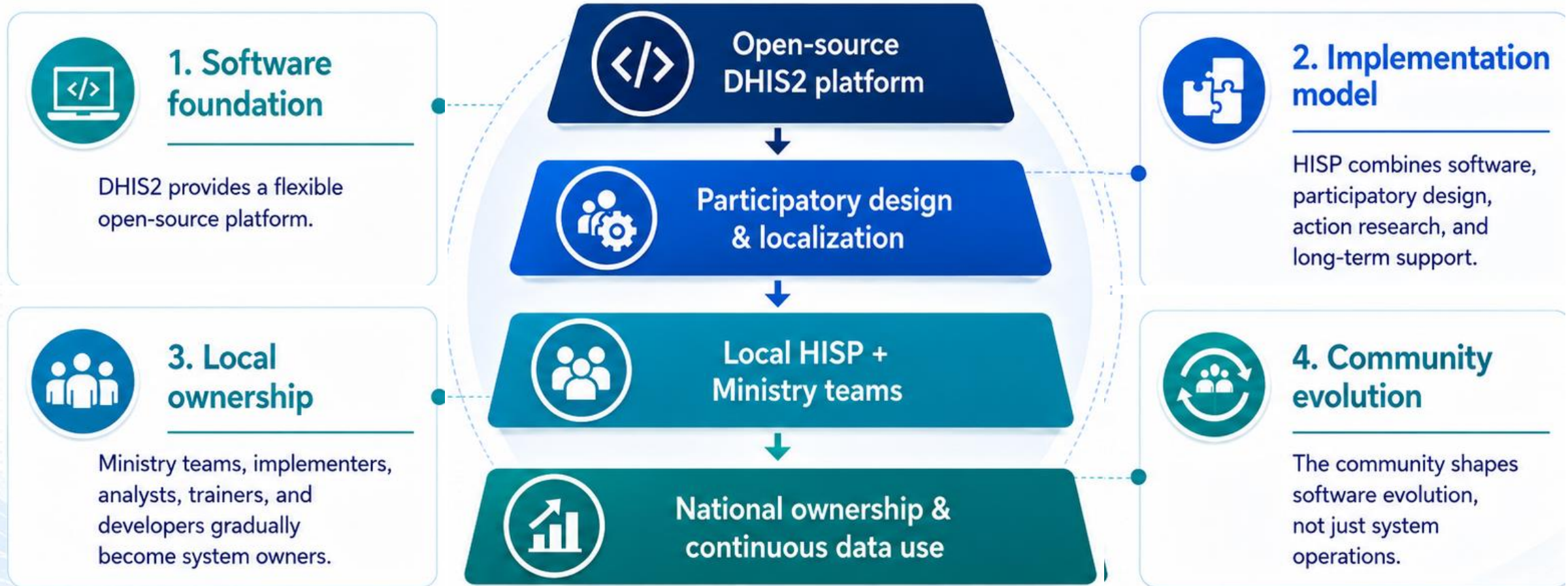


- Expert DHIS2 skills + Other DPGs
- Decades of experience supporting digitalization
- Long-term partnerships with local governments
- University Collaborations
- Regional and in-country capacity building
- Closeness to the field and the user
- Global sharing based on local solutions
- Endorsed and funded by global partners
- Guided by shared values & mission supporting SDGs



The HISP Community Model: More Than Software

How DHIS2 becomes a locally owned information system



DHIS2 scales as an ecosystem: *software + institutions + skills + community.*



How the HISP Model Builds Capacity

From users to implementers, trainers, and regional experts



Proof points

- HISP WCA's first DHIS2 implementation was Sierra Leone in 2007.
- Today HISP WCA supports 23 countries in West & Central Africa.
- Capacity is built through in-country mentoring, DHIS2 Academies, peer learning, and local documentation.
- The model reduces long-term dependence on outside consultants.




Building implementer communities, not just deploying systems.



The HISP model turns learning into ownership and ownership into resilience.


Financial Reality of the HISP Model

Open source removes license dependency — not sustainability costs



If funded only as projects

- Fragmented modules
- Weak maintenance
- External dependency
- Poor long-term data use



Better financing approach

-  Move from project funding to ecosystem financing
-  Treat local capacity as core infrastructure
-  Budget for evolution, not only deployment



Open source removes license dependency; sustainable DHIS2 still requires predictable investment in people, institutions, governance, and operations.





ID4AFRICA
ID4AFRICA 2026



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Thank You

DHIS2 & HISP



Questions & Discussion



LOCAL
CAPACITY



DIGITAL PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE



INTEROPERABILITY
& STANDARDS



DATA
FOR IMPACT



COMMUNITY
OWNERSHIP



Local capacity • Community • Sustainability

