

Supporting Sustainable and Government-Led Digitized Community Health Systems in Kenya

eCHIS Fact Sheet



Developing an electronic community health information system (eCHIS) is one of the government's priorities as part of far-reaching health sector reforms to achieve UHC and enhance data use at all levels.

Overview

For the last decade, Kenya's MOH has been planning to institutionalize a unified digital health platform that encompasses all levels of the health system. Now catalyzed by a national push for universal health coverage (UHC), and a growing global focus on community-based PHC in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya is now embarking on a transformative journey to digitize its healthcare system from the ground up. This led to the creation of a multisector, MOH-led technical working group to lay the groundwork for operationalizing eCHIS including analysis strategy and prototyping for its implementation.

In August 2021, Kenya's MoH, Kisumu County government and Living Goods began to pilot eCHIS in two Kisumu sub-counties. Modeled off the Smart Health app, the government's enhanced digital health solution has now introduced a standardized platform that is scalable and interoperable with the broader health ecosystem.

The pilot ended in Q1 2022, and eCHIS is now in use in all the 7 sub counties in Kisumu County except for a cohort of 465 CHW who are part of an evaluation study. The learnings will be used to inform scale-up phase to cover all 95,000 CHWs in Kenya by 2025. Living Goods will support scale-up of eCHIS for Isiolo, Kisumu and Vihiga's 4,700 CHWs, where we already have existing co-financed partnerships for community health, and we will provide light-touch support to an additional 24,000 CHWs by 2026.

The Problem

Kenya is at the forefront of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) movement with strong political commitment and a growing recognition of the central role that community-based primary health care plays in enhancing access to health for all. However, multiple challenges exist within the community health system including weak supervision and performance management structures, low community health volunteer engagement, insufficient data collection tools and multiplicity of reporting systems, inconsistent and low-quality reporting, weak referral system between community and facility levels, and inadequate and non-standardized capacity building of CHPs. Widespread reliance on manual paper-based data systems has resulted in poor data quality, low accountability, misuse of health data, high costs of health service delivery and weak data utility for decision making.

In a bid to mitigate these challenges, many partner-led innovations have been adopted at national or county levels to enhance digital reporting, care-coordination, and supervision. This has resulted in multiple, siloed platforms at micro levels -- independently managed by partners -- leading to the lack of a coherent digital strategy.

The Solution

In 2020, the Government of Kenya commenced a journey towards an integrated electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) that adopts a standardized requirements framework leading to better data-driven decision making, continuous improvement in quality-of-service delivery and ultimately improved health outcomes for the households. The eCHIS will be part of the wider Digital Health Platform within the health system and cover broad areas of functionality that is household enrollment, community health level service delivery, client referral, supply chain management, community-based surveillance, performance tracking and management, reporting, e-learning and messaging.

Advancing Kenya's First Fully Digitized Community Health Information System

Working alongside other MOH partners, Living Goods is supporting government at the national and county levels to jumpstart, operationalize and scale eCHIS for improved health outcomes and performance management. We are a lead technical support and thought partner to MOH across all phases of eCHIS implementation.

