

THE DATA USE PARTNERSHIP

AT A GLANCE

The Data Use Partnership (DUP) is a Tanzania government-led initiative that is improving the national health care system through better use of health information. Under the DUP initiative, the government is working with PATH to strengthen digital health and build local capacity so that everyone—from government officials to health workers to patients—can have better access to health information and make more informed decisions, leading to a healthier Tanzania.



THE CHALLENGE

Health workers often work with poor-quality and incomplete data, which limits their access to the right information, at the right time, and in the right form. This can lead to:



Uninformed decisions about patient care



An ineffective response to disease outbreaks



Stock-outs of essential medicines and supplies



Misallocation of limited health budgets

Before the DUP initiative, health workers often relied on a series of paper records and different disconnected digital systems for understanding their patients' medical needs, which made it difficult to get a full picture of each patient's health status. They had limited training on the steps needed to diagnose common illnesses and felt powerless to use the health data in their paper-based medical records to improve care.

The government of Tanzania, through the DUP initiative, is working to overcome these challenges.

THE APPROACH

Building a health workforce of the future.

The DUP initiative is equipping Tanzania's health sector with skills for the country's changing digital landscape. This includes training existing and future generations of health workers to make better use of digital platforms and data, updating curricula, developing digital and data use toolkits, and employing eLearning platforms to reach the most remote individuals. A well-trained health workforce will be able to make optimal use of digital tools, allowing it to serve patients better and more efficiently.

LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL IMPACT

The DUP Initiative is working to create systems and tools that support better decision-making, resource allocation, and coordination throughout the health system leading to better health care for all Tanzanians.

FACILITY SUPERVISION SYSTEM

A new facility supervision system will link performance data and recommendations in a systematic way so that health facilities have a single, consolidated plan to improve service delivery and quality.

HEALTH WORKER REGISTRY

A health worker registry will share data across institutions about training, certification, and employment history, helping to better allocate human resources in the midst of health worker shortages. It will also serve as a communication platform, notifying health workers about updates to health guidelines and providing peer support.

CENTRE OF DIGITAL HEALTH

A national Centre of Digital Health will focus on the management and development of Tanzania's cornerstone digital health systems. The centre will concentrate management and oversight of the country's systems, while growing the country's digital health expertise.

BEATRICE'S STORY



Beatrice is a nurse in Dodoma, Tanzania, where she sees as many as 100 patients each week.

Under DUP, the government of Tanzania is strengthening its health system in its entirety by introducing new digital systems, strengthening data privacy, and building health worker capacity to use the country's newest tools.

Beatrice will have access to an integrated digital health system that helps her view her patients' complete medical histories, view recent health documents in a public database, and improve her data analysis skills through a series of eLearning courses.

When a patient receives the results from a diagnostic test, Beatrice will be able to use her medical records together with digital decision-support features based on clinical guidelines, to help determine the best course of action for the patient's care.

Strengthening digital governance and policy.

In today's digital age, special care must be taken to protect the privacy and security of sensitive health information stored online. Tanzania is designing and implementing new ways to manage and govern large volumes of health data. Under the DUP initiative the government is developing a series of policies, guidelines, and strategies to determine who can access and use what data and when. In 2019, the government launched a new [Digital Health Strategy \(2019–2024\)](#) that is playing an essential role in guiding the implementation of digital health initiatives and enabling a health system that is patient centric and data driven, and healthier as a result.

Digitalizing primary health care.

Digitalizing primary health care requires user-friendly software designed to support a range of health sector processes, from ordering new medicines and supplies to registering new patients. The government of Tanzania is working to digitalize primary health care so when patients visit a clinic, health workers can electronically access their complete health history to provide better care.

Coordinating the digital health ecosystem.

To be effective, digital and data tools must be scalable, connected, and able to share data across multiple systems, health areas, and facilities. The DUP initiative is working to increase the health sector's visibility into its more than 160 digital health and health-related systems, improving how they interface, and solving for gaps in services and resources.

THE IMPACT

The DUP initiative builds for scale, sustainability, and health impact by developing an integrated digital health system. Its collaborative, holistic approach will help health workers anticipate disease spikes, allow administrators to better direct resources to underserved areas, and ensure policymakers shape integrated health information systems and the tools to support them. At the core of these efforts is a commitment to empowering health workers and building a healthier Tanzania.

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