Global Programme 'Social Protection Innovation and Learning' (SPIL)

Innovating for Universal Social Protection through openIMIS and Adaptive Social Protection

Context

Social protection is a human right and key to sustainable and inclusive economic and social development for individuals, communities and countries. All people can be exposed to illness, unemployment, natural disasters or other risks in the course of their lives, yet over half of the world's population still have little or no access to any form of social protection. Attaining Universal Social Protection (USP) by the year 2030 has been enshrined as Target 1.3 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The COVID-19 pandemic, with its health, economic and social consequences, has drawn unprecedented global attention to the importance of USP.

Germany was a pioneer in developing social protection, and is today a major partner in promoting USP in its partner countries and worldwide, including as a founding member in the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection 'USP2030'. During the present 'Decade of Implementation' of the SDGs, Germany is focussing on two of the greatest current challenges for attaining USP: 1) enhancing efficiency of social protection programmes including the digitalisation of information management and 2) going beyond emergency relief in disaster-stricken regions to foster sustainable resilience through Adaptive Social Protection.

Approach

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Global Programme 'Social Protection Innovation and Learning' (SPIL) aims to support countries in the application of innovative approaches to social protection.

Programme title	Global Programme 'Social Protection Innovation and Learning' (SPIL)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), openIMIS component co-financed by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Region	Worldwide, and For openIMIS: Bangladesh, DR Congo, Cameroon, Nepal, Chad, The Gambia, Tanzania and potential others For Adaptive Social Protection: India, Indonesia, Malawi, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, the Sahel region
Duration	09/2020 – 08/2023
Financial volume	12,050,600 € (including 2,350,600 € from SDC)

SPIL takes a two-pronged approach:

1) It furthers the development and dissemination of the digital global good openIMIS for efficient data and process management in social protection schemes and for Universal Health Coverage. This open-source software is designed to be well integrated into the overall digital health and social protection architectures of scheme operators. The openIMIS Initiative is co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

2) SPIL facilitates cross-border knowledge exchange and global learning on adaptive social protection (ASP) for strengthening social protection systems' resilience to large-scale shocks and crises. The programme collaborates with a series of national, multilateral and interna-

tional partners and implements a variety of exchange formats, with a view to scaling up innovations and strengthening social protection systems in partner countries.

Coordination desk for openIMIS

This global good greatly increases efficiency by facilitating management of the large volumes of data needed to administer health and social protection schemes. What started as a small-scale management information system for health insurance in Tanzania has evolved into an internationally recognised open-source software that brings together a vibrant global community of developers and implementers. Since 2016 the coordination desk of the openIMIS Initiative is hosted by GIZ. The coordination desk supports its communities of practice with essential services such as feasibility assessments, and promotes the use, continuous development and further integration of the software with other digital systems. It is already used for managing the data and processes of over 6,2 million beneficiaries in six countries. openIMIS has branched out from its beginnings in health insurance, e.g. for managing cash transfers (The Gambia) and Employment Injury Insurance (Nepal) – especially relevant for the USP agenda. An emerging collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) positions openIMIS for major scale-up in the domain of social protection.
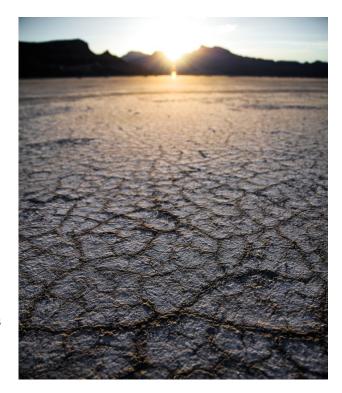
Adaptable to different scheme and country needs, and interoperable with various data exchange formats, openIMIS is free to download, customise and use. This digital global good can save partners important resources on software development. Nonetheless, as with any digital tool for managing complex processes, additional investments are required for deployment, e.g. customising openIMIS for the specific use case, training of users, and establishing the initial IT infrastructure. To support operators interested in deploying openIMIS to overcome such initial obstacles, BMZ and SDC have established a **Catalytic Implementation Fund** providing resources to complement partners' existing means.

Learning and Innovation in Adaptive Social Protection

Major catastrophes such as drought, war or the COVID-19 pandemic threaten entire populations' well-being and livelihood. Linking social protection with disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, ASP proposes a comprehensive approach associating four 'building blocks' – partnerships, programmes, data and financing – to restore and maintain societies' resilience. In collaboration with partners such as socialprotection.org, the World Bank and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), SPIL applies a multi-stakeholder strategy to disseminating, implementing and further developing the ASP concept via three interrelated areas of action. A **Global Knowledge Exchange** is fostered through high-level public events targeting development and government decision-makers. Focussed specialist workshops are organised to **expand the conceptual boundaries of ASP**. Their discoveries feed both into the global exchange and into **operationalising ASP on country level**. With coordination offices on three continents, SPIL supports the development of ASP initiatives in five focus countries, as well as in the fragile Sahel region, yielding concrete experiences and learnings for both South-South sharing and for the knowledge exchange platforms.