



DHIS2 101

Health & Beyond: What DHIS2 Teaches Us About Building Sectoral Digital Public Infrastructure at Scale

Format: Presentation and Brainstorming

Date: 11th/12th February, 2026

Duration: 1 hour (Including Q&A)

Max. no. of Participants: 40

Presenters: DHIS2 Team

Objective

The objective of this session is to provide a clear, architecture-level understanding of how sectoral platforms operate within Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), using DHIS2 as a real-world, globally deployed example.

Rather than focusing on a single country or sector-specific implementation, the session positions DHIS2 as a metadata-driven, configurable platform that enables service delivery workflows and population-level analytics while consuming foundational DPI services such as digital identity, interoperability layers, and shared registries without tight coupling or duplication.

While healthcare is used as a familiar reference point, the principles, architectural patterns, and governance lessons discussed are intentionally cross-sectoral and applicable to domains such as education, social protection, climate services, and population-level monitoring systems.

Target Audience

This session is intended for stakeholders interested in leveraging foundational DPI for sector-specific digital transformation at sectoral level, including:

- DPI and digital transformation architects
- Digital ID and civil registration practitioners
- Open-source technology providers and system integrators
- Government stakeholders exploring DPI adoption beyond single sectors
- Digital Public Goods (DPG) ecosystem actors

Session Overview

1. What Is DHIS2? A Platform-Level Introduction

A concise introduction to DHIS2 that moves beyond health-specific terminology, clarifying what kind of system it is, what problems it was designed to solve, and what it deliberately does not attempt to do. This section establishes a shared mental model for participants from DPI, ID, and open-source backgrounds.

2. DHIS2 in a DPI Architecture

An architecture walkthrough illustrating how DHIS2 fits within a national DPI stack, distinguishing foundational DPI components (digital ID, interoperability, consent, registries) from sectoral platforms responsible for service delivery and analytics. The focus is on system boundaries, responsibilities, and data flows rather than country-specific designs.

3. Reusable Patterns from Global Scale

Discussion of practical patterns observed across multiple countries, including:

- Referencing national digital ID within sectoral systems without owning identity
- Balancing decentralised service delivery with centralised analytics and planning
- Use of dhis2 extensions to support evolving use cases
- Supporting sectoral autonomy while maintaining national coherence
- Move from pilot to scale: what it takes
- Adhering to standards and country blueprints

These patterns are presented as transferable lessons for DPI design beyond healthcare.

4. Platform Walkthrough and Partner-Focused Discussion

A light platform walkthrough to make the concepts tangible, followed by an interactive discussion focused on areas of interest to technology partners and implementers, including:

- How DHIS2 can be extended and configured to support sector-specific workflows
- Common integration scenarios with foundational DPI components and interoperability layers
- The role of analytics and aggregated data as a shared public good
- Ecosystem and partnering models, including the roles of system integrators, local implementers, and opensource contributors

Session Outcomes

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the role of sectoral platforms like DHIS2 within a broader DPI ecosystem
- Identify architectural principles that prevent siloed system design while enabling sector-specific innovation
- Recognise how foundational DPI components and sectoral platforms can evolve independently yet coherently
- Identify concrete entry points for technology partners, integrators, and open-source contributors
- Apply lessons from DHIS2's long-term, multi-country scaling experience to DPI initiatives beyond healthcare

Thank you. We look forward to your participation in the session!