

RFA #2019-016 Q&A #3 Transcription

Q: We know that for the situation of OpenCRVS, which is linked into the demo references, the project is in pilot phase and we don't have access to a public source code of the project, so even if we found some FHIR integration into OpenCRVS source code, the description into GitHub, I'm still wondering how we can actually test the integration. How do we get access to the tool itself?

A: I do know that the Plan International team and Jembi have been doing a lot of work around this. In terms of having access to it within the openIMIS community, we have members from the Jembi team who would be able to facilitate some of that access on that side, but we would help in terms of making those connections and driving things forward. The FHIR specs that are in GitHub, they are updated to one of the later versions, so we could be leveraging it from there.

What we are saying is that OpenCRVS is based on FHIR, so if we look at the FHIR resources as a Hapi server, that could be a good way to do some additional testing. We'll follow up with OpenCRVS for their plans on having source code availability in the demo site up.

Q: About the concept note deadline, what time/time zone is it due?

A: We're going to issue a modification and put that out but the time that has been indicated is midnight, Pacific Time on Friday, August 23.

Q: I have a question about the concept note. Do we have to draft concept notes that would fit into the budget or if we bundled some activity into a single concept note, can the value be a bit more than what's available or not?

A: In the concept notes, we really want to see what your ideas are. It wouldn't necessarily be constrained by budgets. During the application phase, you might see a related concept note that you want to join together and reconfigure what the work is that you want to do. You might put in two or three work packages or items and somebody else might have a better response on one of them and you join forces, for example. We want to enable that type of flexibility so because of that, don't feel constrained, at least from the concept note side of things.

During the application phase, I think you want to be a bit more restrictive in adhering to the budget. We identify an amount in the RFA that we hope to make available. At the same time, we're also looking for additional funding. One of the things that the Digital Square Board can do is say, well we have three applications that we want to fund and that's slightly over the amount available and then they can task us with trying to identify additional funding, but you have to be realistic.

Q: When we look at the template of the concept note itself, the description and what is requested is quite technical, and even during the call, you said that you want to see ideas. So, is the typical idea like we will apply this methodology or more that we will approach this issue with these kind of features or innovative approach?

A: So, what happens after the application phase is that the applications are sent to our Peer Review Committee. I think what you want to make sure is that you provide enough information to the Peer

Review Committee, which includes technical folks as well as non-technical folks, to have enough information for them to understand your application and evaluate it.

Q: So, it should be also about the scope? It's not only on the technical part, it's also about describing what the scope is in a bit more detail?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you prefer to have a concept note with different openIMIS features that are not related between them or do you prefer one feature per concept note?

A: I think it's okay to have one concept note, just make sure you clearly organize so it's under the Nepali request: the community support or the modularization. Within those, if there are distinct work packages just separate that out. I think that'll help other people understand if they do want to collaborate with you sort of what you're proposing and make it easier for bringing concept notes together into the larger phase. That being said, it's not a requirement, but I think it's just a helpful way to structure your application.

Q: Are we limited to 3 pages for the concept note?

A: Yeah, please stay within the page limit noted in the concept note template.

Uwe Wahser: Maybe if there are no questions, I could just leave a few words of encouragement, especially for those who have not yet been part of the openIMIS initiative, to be really encouraged to give it a try. The openIMIS community is very open and I think we have been a very integrative community, getting people on board with new technologies. I would just like you to encourage you to be a bit bold and to just give it a try and don't be afraid of those who are on board already; we are nice people. Let's just see this is as a good occasion of shaping ideas in the next month and to help you fully align your applications with what we are looking for. You don't have to be perfect, but just give it a try and we'll see what we can do with it. I think that matches with your strategy, doesn't it Carl?

Carl Leitner: Yeah, this is an opportunity to put out ideas and iterate on them and improve them. Things don't need to be perfect straight up. What we do want to do is get to the right approaches and the right solutions and it's going to take all of us working together and thinking together to do that so we hope we view this process as a different way of trying to do work in this space and additional transparency and opportunities for collaboration that we traditionally don't have. So, thank you for participating in this process.

Carl Fourie: For those who are not familiar, there is an existing community that is very active in terms of supporting this and they did mention that. But there are standard weekly developer calls and there are community implemented engagement sessions that do happen on a monthly basis, if not more so please do take that into consideration when thinking about getting support or asking questions within your applications.

Q: How do we get into this?

A: The first thing you could do is follow some of the links into our openIMIS [Wiki](#) and there you'll find it's a workspace where we develop ideas and you can find some of those discussions. I could also include you into the developers committee invitations that we have. We are trying to follow up on issues so might be a bit boring, but it would be a good start to get an impression of topics we are discussing right

now. If you're interested in that, just shoot me an email (uwe.wahser@giz.de). If you want to be part of the Wiki, you can just create an account on Atlassian and look for the openIMIS project. You can just sign up yourself as there is no procedure for joining. And then we have a Google Groups forum and emailing list, so you could also sign up for that if you want.

Q: Is the openIMIS project a nonprofit?

A: Yes, exactly. OpenIMIS was developed in 2012 for community health funds in Tanzania and then a year or two later it was ported to the national health sector scheme in Nepal. Both were related to GIZ programs and both were conducted through a Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. And then later there were a few minor implementations in other countries but starting from 2015 there was a way of saying it's a useful package and let's move it fully into the open source space because there is nothing yet on health financing. We have a lot of open source packages around patient registries and lab system logistics reporting in the health sector, but there's nothing on health financing and insurance management. So, that is why the Swiss Development Corporation and the German Development Corporation, they somehow released funds and thought this is a good idea to create that community and the result is open source. The openIMIS initiative is not an organization that is formally written down somewhere. It's more like a community of several organizations' companies jointly contributing and trying to find new areas of application, new countries to hop on and become implementers. It's fully open source and we are fully complying with the global good philosophy of relying on open standards being transparent.

Q: Is there going to be another meeting after this one?

A: No, this is the final Q&A call. If you're interested, the [Digital Square wiki](#) has the recordings and transcripts of the previous two. I would recommend having a listen and reading through those.

Q: Could you also share a link to the presentation itself, just the slides?

A: We will get those uploaded to the Digital Square wiki.