

Driving Burkina Faso's enterprise architecture initiative: A DHALP success story



DHALP Burkina Faso second cohort. Photo: PATH/Adama Yameogo.

The *Digital Health Applied Leadership Program (DHALP)* is a 6-month executive coaching program designed to prepare participants to successfully create and lead digital health transformation initiatives that strengthen health systems. Following the successful pilot, which trained 41 leaders from five countries, DHALP was expanded in 2025 to include Rwanda, Burkina Faso, and Zambia, engaging 60 mid-level digital health leaders. Participants apply the program's lessons directly within their institutions, translating knowledge into measurable systems change.

Strengthening national leadership for digital transformation

Burkina Faso's journey toward a modernized, interoperable, and sustainable digital health system has taken a decisive step forward thanks to the leadership and technical contributions of participants from the second cohort of the Digital Health Applied Leadership Program (DHALP).

Designed to build the leadership, change management, and digital health capacities of health system executives, DHALP, implemented with the technical support of Digital Square at PATH, has equipped a new generation of leaders with the skills needed to champion the country's digital transformation.

These learnings were put directly into practice through the Enterprise Architecture (EA) Environmental Assessment and Development initiative, a flagship effort under Burkina Faso's Digital Health Strategic Plan (DSSP). This initiative aims to strengthen governance, interoperability, and sustainability across the national health information ecosystem.



“Undeniably, what we have learned during this DHALP program will be invaluable in leading current and future digital health projects within the Ministry.” – Kane Oussen

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and with coordination from Digital Square at PATH, the EA initiative followed an inclusive, participatory approach involving ministry directorates, technical partners, and national digital health champions—including several DHALP graduates.

From learning to leadership: DHALP participants in action

DHALP participants played pivotal roles in the development and validation of Burkina Faso's Enterprise Architecture. Five participants were embedded throughout the entire process—actively participating in context analysis, use case definition, and the design of the initial architecture. Their contributions ensured that the resulting architecture reflected national priorities, operational realities, and the long-term vision of the health system.

Beyond this core group, other DHALP members were deeply engaged in validation workshops and technical review meetings. They reviewed draft deliverables, analyzed conceptual models, and provided feedback to improve coherence and sustainability. Their combined efforts resulted in a stronger, more context-aware EA that enjoys broad ownership and alignment across the health sector.

Fostering ownership and sustainability

The active engagement of DHALP-trained professionals in the EA initiative marked a turning point in national digital health governance. By leveraging their leadership and systems-thinking skills, participants bridged gaps between strategy and implementation, ensuring that digital solutions align with Burkina Faso's long-term health goals.

Their involvement also fostered increased national ownership of the process. Through collaboration and peer learning, DHALP participants helped create a common language and shared understanding among technical teams, policymakers, and partners.

Looking Ahead

This success story underscores the importance of local leadership, inclusive collaboration, and continuous capacity strengthening in achieving a coherent, efficient, and people-centered digital health ecosystem. As Burkina Faso advances its digital health journey, the impact of DHALP stands as a powerful example of how investing in people leads to lasting systems change.

The Digital Health Applied Leadership Program (DHALP) Alumni Network connects graduates across Africa, extending learning and collaboration beyond the classroom. Its launch marks the start of a sustained movement of digital health leaders committed to advancing sustainable, interoperable, and equitable health systems across the continent.

[Learn more and explore other DHALP success stories.](#)



Burkina Faso cohort session. PATH/Adama Yameogo.