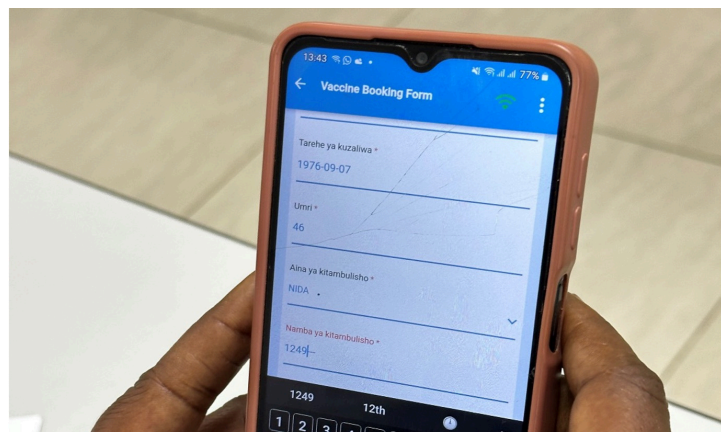# DIGITAL SQUARE'S PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT TO THE DIGITAL INNOVATION IN PANDEMIC CONTROL PROJECT

Scaling the use of digital tools for vaccination planning, deployment, and monitoring

BACKGROUND

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Digital Square has leveraged its unique role and strengths to support countries, donors, and partners to use existing digital tools in prevention and response efforts. Harnessing our technical expertise and established relationships across the global digital health ecosystem, including our engagement with and support of digital public goods for health, Digital Square is supporting countries to innovatively select and adapt digital tools to navigate the complexities of the pandemics and strengthening routine immunization systems.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), together with GIZ actors from the field of digitalization and health launched the Digital Pandemic Control (DIPC) project in 2020 to bring digital health technical expertise to countries to create more pandemic-prepared health systems. The DIPC project provided an award to Digital Square to partner with ministries of health and other key stakeholders from November 2022-2024 to scale the use of digital tools for COVID-19 vaccination planning, deployment, and monitoring. The DIPC project partners with ministries of health by aligning project goal and activities with countries' national digital health strategies. This enables the strengthening of health systems to be better equipped in responding to COVID-19 and future pandemics.

OVERALL PROJECT GOAL

The DIPC project will **create models for improved and more sustainable pandemic-prepared health systems** with a focus on immunization workflows, working with three partner countries: Ghana, Malawi, and Tanzania. The project will carry out the work by focusing on three primary workstreams.

WORKSTREAM GOALS

Workstream 1 - Accelerate the implementation of digital tools to support sustainable immunization systems in Ghana, Malawi, and Tanzania by:
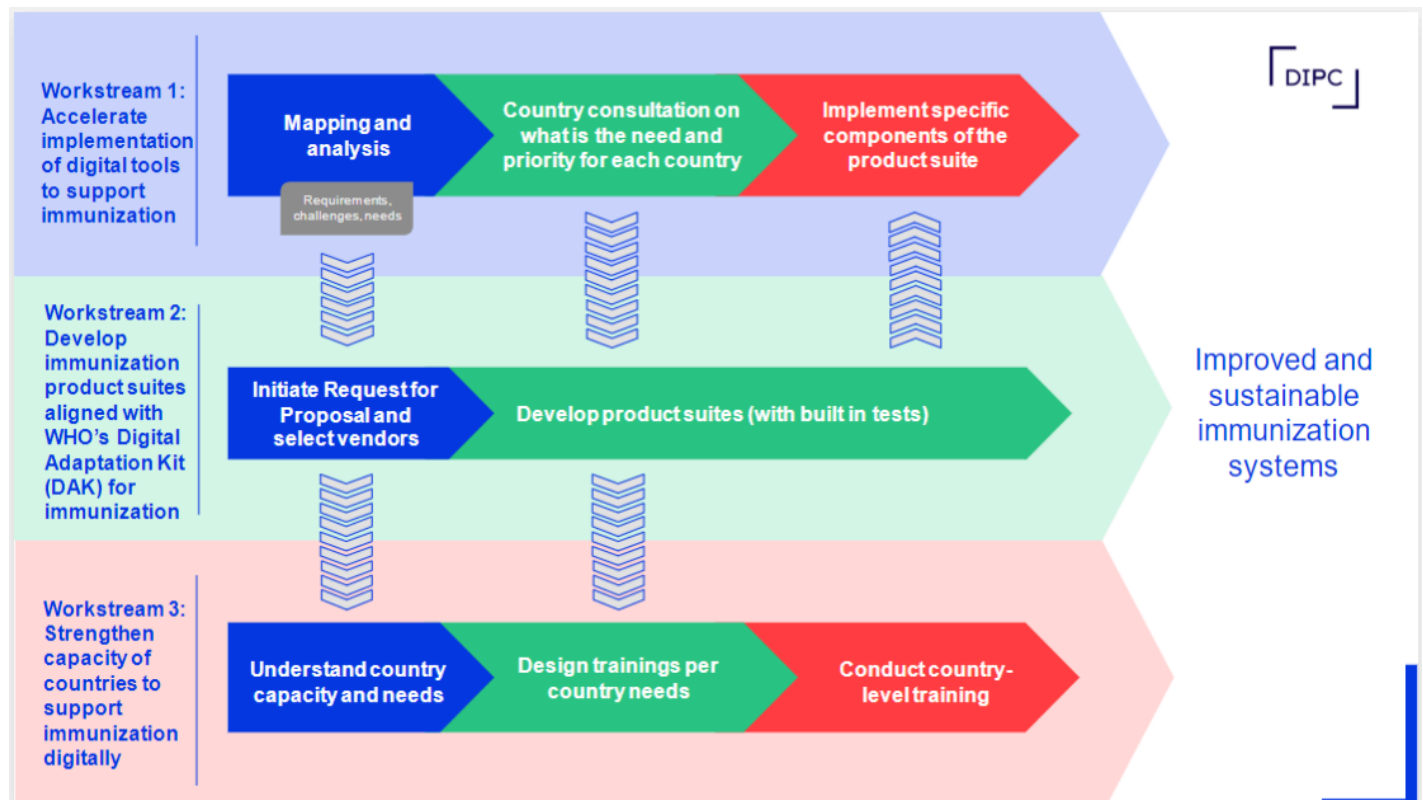
- Building on existing investments and advancing the use of technology adopted and adapted to support COVID-19 and routine immunization to better prepare for, prevent, and respond to future pandemics.
- Leveraging existing global guidelines and recommendations and adapting to each country context.
- Demonstrating how the use of digital tools can further support routine immunization and surveillance.
- Equipping countries with the capacity to test and validate their local infrastructure to vet how well their own digital tools meet the needs of immunization workflows.
- Generating and disseminating an evidence base in collaboration with ministries of health that can be used to scale similar digital tools and systems in other geographies and globally.

Workstream 2 - Develop generic (i.e. not country-specific) immunization product suite(s) aligned with WHO's Digital Adaptation Kit (DAK) for immunization by:

- Promoting the development, adoption, and reuse of digital public goods for health, with a particular focus on open source global goods and to support an ecosystem of interoperable standards-based technologies.
- Engaging the global goods community to identify and package digital public goods for health as joint products to meet immunization needs and to make them "shelf-ready."
- Creating documentation to help countries better understand the group or suite of tools best designed to exchange data and to meet their needs in the immunization health domain.

Workstream 3 - Implement innovative and sustainable capacity-strengthening approaches by:

- Partnering with ministries of health and Regenstrief Institute to design and carry out an in-depth capacity assessment. From this research, the aim is to identify critical technical skill gaps that need to be filled to ensure that the immunization product suite can be successfully deployed, operated, and scaled in country.
- Partnering with Regenstrief Institute and the OpenHIE community to support training in Ghana, Malawi, and Tanzania at the planner and manager level and at local and regional health facilities.
- Building from "global" training content to support training local digital health entrepreneurs to serve as technical counterparts, advisors, and partners to ministries of health in the three target countries.

CONTACTS:

GIZ:
Tessa Lennemann, Project Lead
tessa.lennemann@giz.de
DIPC@giz.de

Digital Square:
Gracey Vaughn, Global Project Lead
gvaughn@path.org
www.digitalsquare.org