



# The Open Source Approach to Global Health Information Systems

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# What is the Open Source Approach?

- Open Source: A program in which the source code is available to the general public for use and/or modification from its original design free of charge.
- That is - users can use the system for *free* **and** are *free* to modify it.
- The ability to freely use and modify software encourages a community of both collaborators and contributors to form around the project.





# Other Approaches

**EPICOR.**

Microsoft  
Dynamics NAV



Commercial

Custom

**M** MACS  
Software

sage

**SAP**

unicef 



# Critiques of the Open Source Approach

- Conversion Costs
- Slower to Produce Results

*If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.  
-- African Proverb*



# Key Benefits of an Open Source Approach

Free to Use

Community Supported

Sustainable

Freely Customizable

Re-usable

Low Barrier to Entry


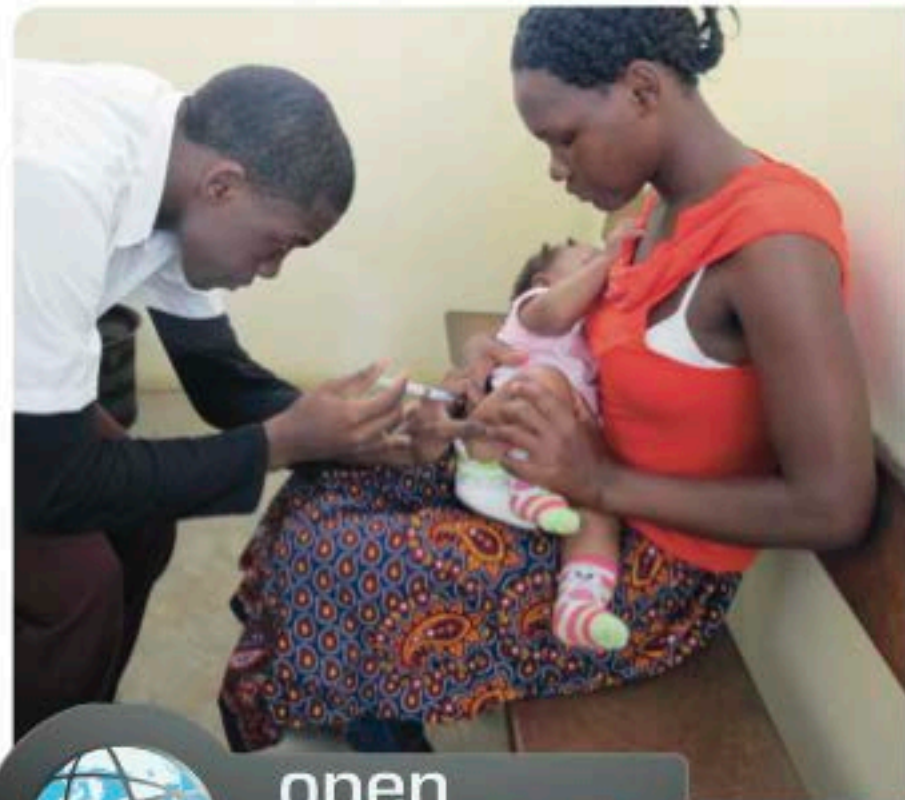
Part of an HIS  
Ecosystem



# Open Source Health Information Systems Space





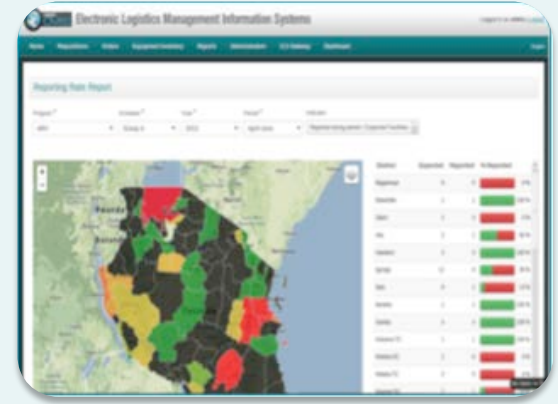


**open  
LMIS**™

**OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE FOR  
MANAGING HEALTH SUPPLY CHAINS**



# The OpenLMIS Community



Community

Repository

Software





# Lets Hear from the Community...



David Sarley  
Senior Program Officer  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Marasi Mwencha  
Deputy Country Director - Strategic and Technical Support  
John Snow, Inc.

Amy Roberts  
Senior Associate, Vaccine Stock Management  
Clinton Health Access Initiative



# Questions?

