

## The National Digital Health Information Systems (HIS) support project

Funded through Right to Care and mandated by the National Department of Health (NDoH), this project commenced in October 2022 to assist the NDoH in building digital health systems.

This transformative strategy entails strengthening governance structures, creating robust integrated platforms for the development of information systems, the use of a common unique identifier for patients interfacing with the health system at various levels, and enhancing access for healthcare users through mobile platforms.

The project also supports roll-out of the Contracting Units for Primary Healthcare Services (CUPS) in provinces, ensuring that South Africa's National Health

Insurance (NHI) programme outcomes will be attained.

Systems being supported at this stage are TIER.Net, the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS), and the Health Patient Registration System (HPRS).

The HIS project is a continuation of support rendered at facilities since the HPRS commenced in June 2015, and has been implemented in 46 districts across eight provinces in collaboration with the NDoH.

This work has supported implementation of the required Digital Health software solutions for NHI by a team of National Health Insurance Information Systems (NHI-IS) Technicians.

### Some of our Health Information Technician (HIT) Team Leads and Technical Manager working at various facilities in South Africa:



Over the past seven years, the HIT team has implemented HPRS in 3 205 public health facilities in eight provinces and 46 districts (with the exception of the Western Cape) as an integral part of health information systems in South Africa.

The objectives of the project at facilities are mainly to:

- support updated combined readiness reviews (CRRs) per visited facility as and when required;
- support the implementation of Tier 1 and Tier 2 support for the required National Digital Health Strategy systems;
- build the capacity of district and provincial managers and end-users for utilisation of the HPRS;

- provide support for identifying issues on the EVDS, NHLS, and TIER.Net systems;
- support and maintain project management information systems; and
- support the sustainability of specified CUPS per province.

The team has been resilient and responsive to changes as required by the NHI-IS Programme Office. HST Technicians deliver consistently high project delivery standards, ensuring that HST's implementation skills support sustainability within the healthcare domain, and are therefore crucial for the continuation of support.