2018 Annual Report

Celebrating 14 years, OpenMRS is a global community dedicated to creating the world's most effective open-source EMR platform to improve healthcare delivery in low-resource environments

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OpenMRS 2018 Annual Report

Letter to the Community

What a year 2018 has been! OpenMRS continues to serve as an awe-inspiring example of the power of a dedicated community. We are collectively driven by a deep-seated desire to improve health equity through effective health record keeping practices. Information is care. As such, we've come together to collaboratively build core software platforms, best practices, techniques, and community approaches which empower those environments most in need of support.

Since our origins in 2004, we have been strong champions of the underlying concepts which describe "public goods." Everything we collectively develop is produced in ways which encourage broad reusability, sustainability, and local empowerment. All of what we produce as a community is freely and openly available, and we put significant effort into encouraging collective participation in our work.

As we reflect on the changing trends of this past year in the global health space and the move towards digital health global public goods, we take particular pride in the role that the OpenMRS community has played as an early influencer and exemplar of this approach. Thanks to our ever-growing community, OpenMRS is internationally recognized by countries, implementers, and aid organizations as a de facto standard for patient record keeping.

As a mission-driven community of volunteers, we are committed to doing everything that we can to support better health record keeping practices of resource constrained environments.

As long as we put users and interested stakeholders at the center of our community process, solve real problems for people in health systems, and create appropriate technologies and content that people love to use, we will find sustainable impact and success.

We owe so much to each and every one of our community members for their contributions: their time, their expertise, their guidance, their willingness to share the OpenMRS community with others. This report is an attempt to recognize some of the many contributions our community has made in the world over the last year and celebrate our collective progress, and to guide each other towards effective growth growing forward

Our best days are yet to come!
-Paul

Mission and Strategy

Mission

The OpenMRS community continues to believe that we can substantially improve the health of under-served populations by enhancing the utilization of health information.

We share a common mission, vision, and values to enable broad scale, successful use of electronic medical record systems in diverse care setting to improve the health of under-served populations.

Principles

OpenMRS is committed to being open, community-driven, and user-centered. Our community also adheres to the living guidelines for technology enabled organizations as outlined in the Principles for Digital Development.

Strategies

To realize our vision, we committed to the following goals in 2018:

- Develop and evolve the foundational technical products of our community
- Develop and evolve a pre-configured electronic medical record application to be directly used in health delivery settings through a community involved process
- Foster a broader ecosystem through partnerships in multiple areas to drive innovation, increase availability and accessibility, distribute the software development and implementation effort, and leverage worldwide expertise
- Educate individuals, institutions, and companies on building, implementing, and maintaining OpenMRS and related health information technologies
- Ensure that organizations have adequate and appropriate support for content management within their HIT systems
- Ensure that the operations of OpenMRS are maximized for efficiency and effectiveness for the community as well as increase fundraising efficacy

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OpenMRS Implementations

More than

3,048 sites

&

8.6 million active

patients

Albania	Honduras	Nepal
Argentina	Hungary	Nicaragua
Armenia	India	Nigeria
Australia	Indonesia	Pakistan
Bangladesh	Israel	Peru
Belarus	Japan	Philippines
Bhutan	Jordan	Rwanda
Bolivia	Kazakhstan	Senegal
Botswana	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Brazil	Kiribati	South Africa
Burundi	Kyrgyzstan	Spain
Cambodia	Laos	Sri Lanka
Cameroon	Lesotho	Svalbard
Chile	Liberia	Tajikistan
Colombia	Libya	Tanzania
D.R.C.	Madagascar	Uganda
Ecuador	Malawi	Ukraine
Ethiopia	Malaysia	United States
Gambia	Mali	
Georgia	Mexico	
Ghana	Mozambique	
Haiti	Myanmar	

Diversity

"The inclusion of women in software development and the leadership of OpenMRS makes me look at it as a special organization" - OpenMRS community member

The OpenMRS mission includes a commitment to fostering and supporting a community of inclusion that reflects our commitment to health equity as well as the communities that we serve. We believe the best ideas come from people with different backgrounds and talents, and we build a safe and open community where these people can come together and innovate.

At this year's Implementer's Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, a fishbowl session on Women in OpenMRS recognized that it takes more than technology to make a great community. One participant remarked: "Woman is the soul of our society....When you bring ladies into OpenMRS, you are creating a community."

Women bring expertise in non-development roles, such as program management, UX, and quality assurance, that brings value to OpenMRS.   Intentionally creating more spaces for women to engage and contribute their expertise, through programs targeting women like Outreachy and Girls on Rails, is one approach.

Another participant suggested looking at current opportunities for community skill building or recognition mechanisms, such as the OpenMRS Developer Stages, bootcamps, and mentorship programs like Google Summer of Code, and find ways to reach out to women and increase their participation. Doing so will mean identifying barriers to participation, being mindful of and bringing men into the conversation. Another fishbowl participant described what she would like to see at future OpenMRS meetings: "In five years, this room should look different. What I want in 2030 is diversity."

Community Voices and contributions

1,113 new members   36,103 Talk visits   2,231 Talk topics created 18,446 Talk posts written

OpenMRS has become more than a software product. To many, it has become home, a place to raise concerns, discuss failures, improve existing ideas, and solve problems. Here is what some community members say they value the most about the OpenMRS community

"Being able to contribute to a cause that helps alleviates suffering and may save a life somewhere is a great thing to me."

"Building something audacious, free, and available along with an engaged and diverse global community."

"However much we come from different countries, races and gender, we all had a goal of pushing OpenMRS to a higher level"

"I value the fact that the community works to support each other and no one's contribution is undermined"

"Awesome!"   "Energizing!"   "Eye-opener!"   "Great!"   "Inspiring"

Kenya: 2018 Implementers Conference

These are a few of the words used to describe the 2018 OpenMRS Implementer's Conference, held in Nairobi, Kenya from December 4-8. Close to 200 people from 23 countries gathered to learn more about how OpenMRS plays in advancing universal health coverage through financial inclusion at the point of service, strengthening overall health care service provision within a continuity of care model, and enhancing the efficacy, effectiveness and Return on Investment of digital health by operationalizing the Principles For Digital Development.

2018 Outreach Programs

Google Summer of Code

2018 Program Administrator: Daniel Futerman
10 projects, 20 OpenMRS mentors, students from 5 countries

Google Summer of Code is a global program focused on bringing more student developers into open-source software development. OpenMRS has been one of the core organizations for the GSOC outreach program for 11 years, offering projects for students that have the potential to save lives with improved health information systems. Projects this year included improvements to the OpenMRS platform, development of new OpenMRS modules and enhancements to existing modules, as well as contributions to mobile apps and OpenMRS distributions.

Google Code-in

2018 Program Administrator: Suthagar Kailayapathy
823 students, 24 mentors.

Google Code-In is an opportunity for pre-University students to participate in a global, online, contest introducing teenagers to the world of open source. OpenMRS has been participating right from the start and this year's Google Code-In was OpenMRS' largest year to date. A total of 3,123 students participated in the 9th annual Google Code-in - and 26% of them completed tasks for OpenMRS. Over the course of seven weeks, students completed a total of 1,072 tasks, making OpenMRS one of the largest organizations by task count in GCI.

OpenMRS Distributions

What is an OpenMRS Distribution?

A particular configuration of the OpenMRS Platform, OpenMRS modules, content (concepts, forms, reports, etc) and (optionally) other integrated applications, that can be installed and upgraded as a unit.

Reference App

Bahmni

eSaude

KenyaEMR

UgandaEMR

OpenMRS Products....

...and Code Contributions

In 2018, we released five Platform maintenance releases as well as a minor and maintenance release for the Reference Application. In addition to Release Managers and contributors Samuel Male, Juliet Wamalwa, and Mark Goodrich, we would like to recognize key community input from Eric Henziger, Owais Hussain, Daniel Kayiwa, Dimitri Renault, Svitlana Honcharuk, Nicholas Ingosi, Geoffrey Wasilwa, Isaac Stears

Platform	Reference Application
➤ 2.1.4	➤ 2.8.1
➤ 2.1.3	➤ 2.8
➤ 2.0.7	
➤ 1.12.1	
➤ 1.11.9	

OpenMRS Core:
58 people made 303 commits

Core Apps Module:
16 people made 68 commits

Sync 2.0 Module:
16 people made 170 commits

Add-on Index:
17 people made 41 commits

OpenMRS Partner Highlights

OpenMRS partners are organizations who are committed to the mission of improving health care delivery or help achieve that goal by joining alongside us.

"**Possible**, a US-based nonprofit, in partnership with Nyaya Health Nepal, a Nepal-based NGO, delivers healthcare to underserved communities in Nepal within public sector infrastructure. Together, our over 350 staff across our two integrated care delivery systems provide home to hospital healthcare to over 200,000 community members, and over 150,000 hospital visits annually. Our integrated care systems include three core components: (1) training healthcare workers and improving quality of care at government-owned facilities; (2) home-based, longitudinal care delivered by professionalized community health workers; and (3) an integrated electronic health record to optimize care between the facility and the home. We leverage our work as integrated care providers to design, test, and scale solutions that improve population health in Nepal and beyond."

OpenMRS West Africa was set up to provide technical support for startups and implementers of OpenMRS across West African countries. The aim is to build capacity within the sub-region to plan, develop, implement and support OpenMRS projects. The West Africa OpenMRS Community is currently in collaborating with two IT firms in Nigeria (Reverton.Net & ACi LTD). The firms provide platforms for training events, human resources, support, and development.

Looking Forward: OpenMRS at 15

We move into 2019 therefore, in the midst of an exciting, important transition time within the OpenMRS community. Given the rapidly growing worldwide support around digital health public goods such as OpenMRS, our community has seen new levels of engagement and support. Thanks to your collective action, countries are increasingly making national-level commitments to implement OpenMRS at scale. Community participation is growing rapidly. Organizational alliances are rapidly taking root. Expectations for what we have collectively developed have never been higher. Our growth is pushing us to become even more goal oriented and structured in what we do.

Our community has spoken with a common voice about what they'd like to collaborate on next: a common out-of-the-box modular application framework alongside the OpenMRS Core Platform, more robust community processes to support an extended form of development collaboration, and educational content that empowers legions of individuals to work with our community's proceeds more independently.

Here are a few ways to share your knowledge and experience with others in the OpenMRS community:

- Respond to Talk posts
- Participate in Platform and Ref App Project Management Meetings, Design Forums, Community strategy discussions, and Operations meetings.
- Assist with OpenMRS events, such as the annual Implementer's Conference
- Welcome and get to know new members - and steer them to the resources they seek
- Become a mentor for Google Code-In, Google Summer of Code - or anyone in the community who needs some guidance

Supporting Organizations

- AMPATH
- Centers for Disease Control, U.S.
- Digital Square
- Fogarty International Center, NIH
- Google
- Harvard Medical School
- Intelligent Medical Objects
- International Development Research Centre
- Jembi Health Systems
- Medical Research Council, South Africa
- Millennium Villages Project

- Partners In Health
- Regenstrief Institute
- Rockefeller Foundation
- SalesForce
- SolDevelo
- ThoughtWorks
- University of California San Francisco
- University of Washington
- World Health Organization
- ... and many others!