**Options for engagement with Digital Impact Alliance’s Open Source Center**

Long term sustainability for OpenLMIS will require partnership with organizations like Digital Square and DIAL’s Open Source Center. These organizations connect OpenLMIS to a community of practice, provide opportunities for grant-based funding, and access to advisory services. While it may make sense for OpenLMIS to take some short-term actions alone, the collective shared needs of many similar global goods is leading organizations like the OSC to plan for mechanisms to support these critical digital investments. OpenLMIS’s participation in these initiatives will strengthen their long-term resiliency.

The DIAL Open Source Center (OSC) program directly supports free and open source software projects in the international development and humanitarian domains. The OSC has found that as projects begin to scale beyond the innovation stage, they need substantial investment in long term sustainability, often driven by growing needs for operational independence. As OSC’s role evolves to become a central convener for software projects in the international development sphere, OpenLMIS has an opportunity to remain a key partner, charting a path for addressing common and unique challenges faced by projects.

Equally, the OSC can be a key partner for OpenLMIS by providing purpose-driven strategic guidance and customized support for long-term scale, maturity, and success. OpenLMIS is a member of the Open Source Center and will continue to receive support services. In the future there may be opportunities for the OSC to play a role in fiscal sponsorship and/or as a primary maintainer of the project. The latter two scenarios would be dependent on the OSC taking steps to offer these services. In the case that the OSC does not, it is still encouraged that OpenLMIS consider other partners rather than singularly doing all things independently.

1. *General OSC membership:* Through membership, OpenLMIS can access OSC’s network, grants, resources, and consultations to address issues related to technical architecture, legal and intellectual property issues, community, and organizational sustainability. A membership with the OSC will also enable OpenLMIS to participate and engage in working groups and critical ecosystem research.
2. *Fiscal sponsorship:* As OpenLMIS explores opportunities to establish a foundation, the project can merge with OSC’s foundation as a next phase. In this scenario the OSC would serve as a legal entity that can hold intellectual property and licenses while being able to accept funding on behalf of OpenLMIS.
3. *Primary maintainer:* In a final stage, the OSC can serve as the primary organizational owner of the project with a role in community management, product road map, community governance, while freeing OpenLMIS and its community to operate core development, partnership development, etc. as necessary.

The Open Source Center can provide essential support for OpenLMIS. Each of the current and future services would be available to OpenLMIS should they be of use.