The Ethiopia Data Use Partnership (DUP) is a collaborative endeavor of the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to advance the country’s healthcare. The DUP is a dynamic, responsive team of partners that is led by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), jointly selected by the FMOH and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and currently includes: Regenstrief Institute, University of Gondar, and Gobee Group. The DUP aims to improve the collection and use of high-quality routine information in the health sector, leading to better quality, efficiency, and availability of primary health and nutrition services at all levels of the health system.

Leveraging the synergy of partnerships, the DUP is also an engagement platform for implementing partners and donors, spearheaded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It strives to provide effective technical and financial support while galvanizing additional commitments to strengthen the national health information system.

WHAT WE DO
The FMOH recently launched the Information Revolution Roadmap (IR), a strategy that fundamentally shifts current approaches to data collection and information management. It champions a data culture where stakeholders actively use data for decision-making.

Committed to the FMOH’s vision of delivering quality healthcare throughout the country, the DUP supports the national implementation of the IR over the next five years. The comprehensive initiative will include organizational strengthening, selective system design, accelerated system expansion, individual capacity building, and cultural change activities.

The project activities follow the IR’s framework that includes two pillars—cultivating an information culture and digitalization—and an overarching HIS governance, stressing country leadership, ownership, and strong coordination among diverse stakeholders.

THE DUP APPROACH
The DUP is grounded in a participatory, user-centered approach and follows the four guiding principles:

1. **Country ownership & accountability** - the DUP establishes a capacity building partnership with the FMOH
2. **Inclusive & active collaboration** with a range of cross-sector stakeholders
3. **Investment to a pervasive information culture** that promotes active data use at each layer of the health system
4. **Innovation & strategic change**, stemming from human centered design and systems thinking that builds on current investments and encourages learning from local and global experiences
PILLAR 1: CULTIVATING AN INFORMATION CULTURE
A primary DUP focus is promoting a culture of data use. Empowering stakeholders at every level to not only collect high quality data, but to also consistently apply the information in decision-making will positively impact Ethiopia’s health system and health outcomes. Pillar 1 activities involve facilitating individual capacity building in coordination with local universities, as well as using the Connected Woreda Strategy for organizational strengthening of performance review teams through user-centered innovation labs.

PILLAR 2: DIGITALIZATION AND SCALE UP OF PRIORITY HIS
The DUP will establish eHealth architecture, including foundational components and capacities, by continuing to work on MFR and the NHDD and establishing a data warehouse. As part of standardizing the electronic HMIS, the DUP also supports the FMOH in developing a transition plan and customizing DHIS 2 to Ethiopia’s context. Pillar two activities are critical in making data accessible to stakeholders by setting data standards for eHealth solutions and promoting interoperability between the country’s different health information systems.