

RESULTS IN ACTION

JOINT SUPERVISION ENABLES AGILE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN BURKINA FASO



Photo: Entering vaccination data at a site in the Nongre-Massom health district.

BACKGROUND

Investing in enabling environments for digital health can better prepare countries for emergency responses. In Burkina Faso, prior investments to improve the country's health information systems better prepared the country to respond to emergencies. When COVID-19 hit, the country was able to build on those systems, rather than starting from scratch, and quickly respond to the pandemic.

In 2019, USAID supported the development of the One Health information system in Burkina Faso. The system, built using the global good DHIS2, brought together a diverse array of data streams through an [interoperability layer](#), which allowed different technology systems and applications to share data with each other. The existence of this interoperability layer enabled the Government to quickly deploy COVID-19 case management, tracking, testing, and vaccination systems on the Ministry of Health's One Health database.

CHALLENGE

CHISU and the Ministry of Health reviewed and simplified COVID-19 forms in the existing MS-Surveillance platform (the Ministry of Health's One Health surveillance database). CHISU also helped to link new applications to match the needs of the evolving COVID-19 response—including testing, case management, vaccination, etc. This data sharing enabled health workers to shift some manual processes that took up to four hours to one that quickly generated and delivered secure vaccination cards within five minutes. Mobile appointment scheduling software also improved efficiency, leading more clients to access vaccination and testing for COVID-19, improving vaccination coverage and COVID-19 tracking.

Despite the above achievements, data from paper-based sources and vaccination campaigns were not being entered in a timely manner. These remaining manual processes slowed COVID-19 immunization data entry, particularly during vaccination campaigns in remote areas. Handwritten records, which had to be consolidated at a central level, increased the response time for test results and vaccination cards.

SOLUTION + PROCESS

CHISU carried out joint supervision trips with the regional health departments of Centre, Boucle du Mouhoun, and Centre-Ouest during the national COVID-19 vaccination campaigns. The trips aimed to observe vaccination progress on the ground and identify challenges faced by immunization teams, including data entry in the MS-Surveillance platform, lack of tablets, and workload, which prevented entering data in real time.

Joint supervision teams provided technical assistance to vaccination teams in the health districts of Sig-Noghin, Baskuy, and Nongre-Massom (Center region); Koudougou, Nanoro, and Réo (Center West region); and Dédougou district (Boucle du Mouhoun region). Seventy health districts were provided with internet connection credits for the strengthening of data entry by CHISU, as part of national vaccination campaigns that took place in 2021 and 2022. Emphasis was also placed on entering campaign data in the MS-Surveillance platform.



Photo: Joint supervision CHISU/DRS Boucle du Mouhoun, in the site of the Communal Health and Social Promotion Center (CSPS) of Dédougou.

IMPACT

CHISU support ensured the connection of 2,803 tablets for data entry during the vaccination campaigns, making it possible to register more than 473,000 people vaccinated into the country's MS-Surveillance platform and the printing of health passes.

CHISU continues to participate in COVID-19 vaccination campaigns organized by the Ministry of Health, including the most recent one in November 2022, and is currently carrying out supervision trips on the management of COVID-19 data in various regions: Center West, Center South, Central Plateau, and Boucle du Mouhoun. The supervision aims to ensure that the vaccination teams understand the tools, correctly fill out materials, and enter data in the MS-Surveillance platform using tablets.

The Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) program is USAID's flagship data and information system project to strengthen host country capacity and leadership to manage and use high quality health information systems to improve evidence-based decision-making.

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