

# RESULTS IN ACTION

## IMPLEMENTING TOOLS AND BUILDING CAPACITY AROUND DATA QUALITY REVIEW IN NIGER

HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS FOCUS ON  
MONITORING AND ENSURING DATA QUALITY IN THE COUNTRY

CHISU helped coordinate the implementation of data quality review (DQR) tools in Niger in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Directorate of Statistics. Although the country deployed the DHIS2 data management platform in 2017, the quality of data remained problematic, particularly for the routine Health Information System (HIS).



Photo: Abou Dan Baskoré, Statistics Division.

The Directorate of Statistics and its partners revised the indicators and data collection tools in 2019. This work generated a comprehensive guide, a training manual, capacity building, and customization of the new tools (revised data collection forms and indicators) in the DHIS2 platform, but some data quality issues were not resolved.

### BACKGROUND

Data quality issues have been a major concern for HIS administrators in Niger. Addressing these requires revised data collection tools and indicators, as well as data manager commitment and continuous monitoring of data quality.

### CHALLENGE

The main challenges on data quality aspects are:

- Lack of formal tools to check the quality of data
- Data quality was uncertain due to the lack of regular supervision visits

## SOLUTION + PROCESS

To change the situation, the Directorate of Statistics asked CHISU to assist in the implementation of the World Health Organization DQR tools when the program started operations in Niger in 2022. CHISU helped identify steps for successful implementation of the DQR tools. First, we organized thematic meetings with each National Control Program (NCP) to clearly identify the indicators and specify how they are calculated.

Prior to CHISU involvement, the Directorate of Statistics and partners had organized workshops for the integration and customization of the different indicators for the immunization program. CHISU helped combine partner efforts to expand, complete, and carry out these activities, including USAID Implementing Partners (USAID-IP), President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) Measure Malaria, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). PMI Measure Malaria supported the organization of a one-week workshop on the Directorate premises with CHISU facilitation. The NCPs joined the workshop to identify their respective indicators. At the end of the week, the needs of each NCP were clearly defined and recorded. Then the Directorate undertook the customization workshop with CHISU support.

After the customization of the DQR tool, CHISU organized a workshop for the development of the DQR user manual but at the beginning of the workshop, organizers realized that there were shortcomings in the calculation of different indicators. CHISU helped correct the anomalies by going through all the indicators in order to start the development of the DQR user manual. This allowed stakeholders to finalize the user manual (including step by step instructions). To finalize the process, CHISU supported the Ministry of Health to train central level actors and partners on how to conduct a DQR.

## IMPACT

The assessment of routine data quality through the DQR at the central level helped set up a baseline on data quality and opened up a window for further monitoring of data quality at the decentralized levels. In addition, all partners are well sensitized and fully aware of the potential of the DQR tools and eager to carry out similar data quality checks in their respective zones as reflected in the following quote from Abou Dan Baskore, Statistics Division Chief, "If the data produced are of good quality, the decisions that follow will be accurate and based on evidence, and will allow for the improvement of the health status of the population."

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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