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# Madagascar

## Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) Program

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In Madagascar, one of the strategic priorities of the Ministry of Public Health (MOH) is health information system (HIS) strengthening. This includes the establishment of a data warehouse, which has been identified as a priority intervention in the country's Strategic Plan for HIS Strengthening (PSRSIS 2018–2022). In fact, PSRSIS 2018–2022 promotes the integration of all data collection and management subsystems into a single system, and works toward interoperability of all HIS interventions. The District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) was adopted as the main health data storage tool in the country to be used for the integrated management of health data.



However, Madagascar's *Office National de Nutrition* (ONN) has no routine or systematic platform to analyze and review strictly nutrition data. These data are dispersed between different ministries and organizations due to the multisectoral structure of ONN's coordination. This includes quarterly review and monitoring of nutrition data (which are integrated with maternal and child health data) by the *Direction de la Santé Familiale* (Family Health Directorate); MOH collection of nutrition data from the Monthly Reporting Activity forms at the hospital, health center, and community levels; and compilation of data on community health activities by community health volunteers, which are sent to the district level to be entered into DHIS2.

Completeness of community data is very low due to staff shortage at the district level for data entry. In addition, the large majority of growth monitoring and promotion activities are carried out by community health volunteers and therefore are not reported systematically into DHIS2.

## How is CHISU supporting digital transformation

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Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) is USAID's flagship data and information system program to strengthen host country capacity and leadership to manage and use health information systems to improve evidence-based decision-making. [www.chisuprogram.org](http://www.chisuprogram.org)



## in Madagascar?

CHISU has supported the Government of Madagascar to strengthen the use of quality data by:

**Conducting an HIS maturity assessment.** CHISU collaborated with the MOH, particularly the *Direction des Etudes et de la Planification et du Système d'Information* (DEPSI), health program managers, and existing HIS partners in conducting a Stages of Continuous Improvement (SOCI) assessment to measure the actual status of the HIS. The output included future HIS goals as well as HIS priorities to be included in the development of the HIS strategic plan 2023–2027. The assessment also helped HIS stakeholders gain a better understanding of the progress made in strengthening the HIS overtime, as well as chart a roadmap toward improvement. The assessment also provided important context for the ONN digitization needs assessment.



Stakeholders learn about the results of the High Performing Health Care tool assessment.

**Conducting a High Performing Health Care (HPHC) tool assessment.** CHISU supported the implementation of the USAID-developed HPHC assessment tool—which measures the accountability, affordability, accessibility, and reliability of the health care system—by working with the Mission to identify the target respondents and key stakeholders who should be engaged in this effort. CHISU also translated the HPHC website into Malagasy to facilitate feedback from a wider number of participants and to support dissemination of results. CHISU contacted the relevant stakeholders and provided them with unique links to complete the survey as well as follow up to encourage maximum participation. The results of the assessment were compiled and analyzed and shared in a half-day stakeholder meeting. Overall, 133 people participated in the assessment. The results highlight areas that work well and those that need to be improved, and serve as a benchmark for future evaluation.

**Assessing the ONN's digitization needs.** CHISU evaluated what is needed to digitize the information system of the ONN in three phases: 1) a scoping exercise determined the parameters of the digitization assessment; 2) identified data and information needs and determined what digital health solution/system is necessary; and 3) developed a costed operational plan for systems/processes that can adapt to the needs of the nutrition program and respond to any evolving need. Short-term activities include establishing a regulated environment conducive to the interoperability between ONN and MOH systems and supporting ONN in leveraging the newly established nutrition sector digitization technical working group (TWG) to rally stakeholders behind a common vision. Medium-term activities include configuring the interoperability between ONN and DHIS2 instances and continued support to the TWG to ensure sustainability of systems. Long-term activities include configuring and implementing the collection of nutrition data.

In FY23 and FY24, CHISU will support the Government of Madagascar to strengthen the design, development, and implementation of HIS related to malaria, maternal and child health, family planning, and nutrition. CHISU will strengthen national strategic documents; build capacity in generating and using quality data; and leverage existing platforms for collaboration and coordination between stakeholders, among other activities.



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