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Malawi

Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) Program

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Malaria continues to be a major public health issue in Malawi, with an estimated 6.2 million cases each year peaking between November and April. Across all age groups, malaria is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the country—accounting for 30 percent of all outpatient visits and 34 percent of inpatient visits.¹

All routine malaria data in Malawi is being reported through the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2), and the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) is responsible for providing policy direction and guidance in planning and reviewing malaria control strategies.

Challenges that Malawi has faced in its malaria elimination efforts include lack of staff as well as insufficient knowledge on how to use electronic health information systems (HIS). Although these challenges can be addressed through in-service (on-the-job) training, it's also important to strengthen pre-service training (received before employees join the government) to provide staff with more thorough digital health knowledge and skills.

CHISU is supporting the Government of Malawi to improve coordination of its HIS, strengthen the implementation of national policies and guidelines, and improve use of data at national and decentralized levels.



How is CHISU supporting digital transformation in Malawi?

CHISU is continuing to support national-level HIS strengthening interventions initiated in

¹ Malaria Strategic Plan, 2017-2022

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



Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) based on the gaps and recommendations from the CHISU-led Stages of Continuous Improvement (SOCl) assessment, as well as data quality and improvement interventions in the eight CHISU-targeted districts. CHISU is also initiating additional data use strengthening interventions at the district and facility levels.

Strengthening malaria data systems and use in Malawi

To strengthen HIS governance and leadership, CHISU is:

- Supporting national-level monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and NMCP technical working group meetings
- Providing technical inputs to the national Malaria Surveillance M&E efforts
- Supporting finalization and implementation of national HIS policies and strategies
- Initiating dialogue on the inclusion of private sector health service providers in the national HIS



Participants in a malaria strategy development workshop supported by CHISU in Malawi in early 2023.

To increase availability of quality health information in the country, CHISU is supporting implementation of routine malaria data quality verification at the district and facility levels and training facility staff on direct DHIS2 data entry for malaria data in CHISU-targeted districts. The program is also:

- Supporting the national DHIS2 version upgrade and training NMCP staff, malaria coordinators, and health management information system (HMIS) officers on the upgraded system
- Providing technical procurement for the distribution of registers and procuring and distributing an emergency supply of key registers as needed

To improve data management, analysis, and use, CHISU is:

- Supporting the implementation of supportive supervision
- Supporting targeted data use mentorship using appropriate visualization tools (DHIS2 dashboards, score cards, and relevant manual visualization tools) at the facility level
- Supporting the Central Monitoring and Evaluation Division (CMED), NMCP, and the Digital Health and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) unit at the village clinic level in two targeted districts

CHISU will also introduce facility- and district-level data use competitions and recognize local actions that improve service delivery through data use.



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