

CHISU Results in Action

Data Quality Assurance to Improve Decision Making in Mali

BACKGROUND

Mali just developed its first national Data Quality Assurance (DQA) Plan, an initiative that counted on CHISU's support and included consultations with a wide range of Health Information System stakeholders.

Officials representing various institutions—from the National Institute for Public Health to the National Agency for Telehealth and Medical Informatics and the Health Information Systems Program for West and Central Africa—discussed the plan and shared it for validation by key stakeholders in the country.



Photo: CHISU

The plan is the product of discussions held during a workshop organized by the General Directorate of Public Health (DGSHP) with CHISU's technical and financial support in Bamako in mid-October. The workshop helped clarify the concept of data quality assurance and highlight the cost of inaction around data quality improvement.

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

STEPS TAKEN

Participants addressed common data quality issues, factors leading to poor quality data, monitoring, and key definitions around quality assurance and quality control.

Participants also discussed the main pillars of a DQA Plan—updated standard operating procedures (SOPs), adherence to SOPs, establishment of a team in charge of documenting, correcting, and leading the DQA process, improving and sustaining HIS staff performance—outlining its vision, objectives, roles and responsibilities, key interventions, activities, timeline, and budget estimates.

RESULTS + NEXT STEPS

Based on the discussions, workshop participants drafted a three-year DQA plan, which was circulated for validation in the country. Key recommendations from the workshop also included a formal presentation to the Ministry of Health on the importance of data quality assurance and a partner roundtable to discuss funding opportunities to support the implementation of the DQA plan.

“Data quality is a major concern for the Ministry of Health and this plan will allow us, at different levels of the system, to solve data quality issues such as incompleteness,



inaccuracy, redundancy, inconsistency, non-standard format, and lack of promptness,” said Dr. Mamoutou Diabaté, HMIS Head at the DGSHP. “We already finalized the DQA plan and refined it, taking into account all inputs from the workshop for political buy-in and broad dissemination,” Dr. Diabaté continued.

“This workshop helped us resolve one of the major concerns of the MOH, which is the continuous improvement of data quality for decision making based on evidence.”

Dr. Mamoutou Diabaté, Health Management Information System Head at the General Directorate of Health.

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