Namibia

Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) Program

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As of January 6, 2023, Namibia had recorded 170,164 COVID-19 cases and 4,080 deaths. In addition, the country had a COVID-19 vaccination coverage of about 37 percent at that time.[1] In April 2020, Namibia's National Health Emergency Coordination Committee (NHECC) was activated under the MHSS (Ministry of Health and Social Services) to lead an integrated response to the COVID-19 pandemic. International agencies and other partners, such as USAID, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the Robert Koch Institute, provided support to the MHSS to enhance capacity, manage data, strengthen disease surveillance, and support COVID-19 risk reduction.

A number of digital systems have been developed in Namibia for COVID-19 surveillance, case finding, vaccine management, and vaccination records, reflecting the MHSS's prioritization of electronic health information systems (HIS) since the onset of the pandemic.

CHISU is supporting the Government of Namibia to improve its COVID-19 response system by strengthening the country's HIS through:

- Enhanced governance systems and organizational structures
- Increased availability of quality health information
- Strengthened health workforce capacity and organizational processes to improve data analysis and use

[1] WHO Namibia COVID-19 Dashboard

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**

How is CHISU supporting digital transformation in Namibia?

CHISU is working with MHSS to strengthen COVID-19 vaccination data management by integrating the COVID-19 data management process into the existing national HIS in the same manner as other epidemic-prone diseases. CHISU will review and update COVID-19 vaccination data collection tools in line with identified information needs for the COVID-19 response.

To enhance the quality of COVID-19 vaccination data being recorded and captured in existing electronic systems, an HIS roadmap and policy is being developed that includes strengthening data management practices for COVID-19 vaccination data. In addition, to improve the flow of vaccination data from the site level to the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2) Vaccination Tracker, technical assistance is being provided to support the deployment of DHIS2 to target facilities as a first step in familiarizing site-level staff with data management.

For sustainability beyond the duration of CHISU's COVID-19 support, the program is collaborating with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) to enhance COVID-19 data quality, analysis, and visualization. Finally, CHISU will review current supportive supervision practices and provide technical support on the institutionalization of data review, analysis, and process standardization.

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