

CHISU Results in Action

Mali: Linking Covid-19 Surveillance And Vaccination Programs With DHIS2 For Better Patient Follow Up

March 2023

Background

The first COVID-19 cases were recorded in Mali in March 2020. The national COVID-19 Crisis Committee had developed a spreadsheet-based reporting system and a WhatsApp group to quickly report COVID-19 data from different levels of the health system. This system was set up in parallel with the HMIS. In April 2020, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and its partners mobilized to respond to the epidemic by strengthening its information system for surveillance data, and adopting and integrating a COVID-19 tracker module in the DHIS2 platform. The vaccination module was integrated in June 2021.

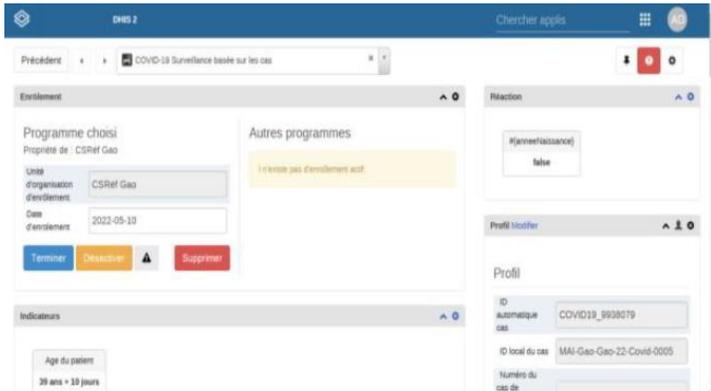
The notification of cases and their management, as well as contact follow up, are done in the surveillance program through the surveillance module based on the cases registered in the COVID-19 tracker, which was developed by the Epidemiological Surveillance Division. At the same time, the COVID-19 vaccination registry program has been integrated into DHIS2 under the leadership of the National Immunization Center for the registration of vaccinated individuals.



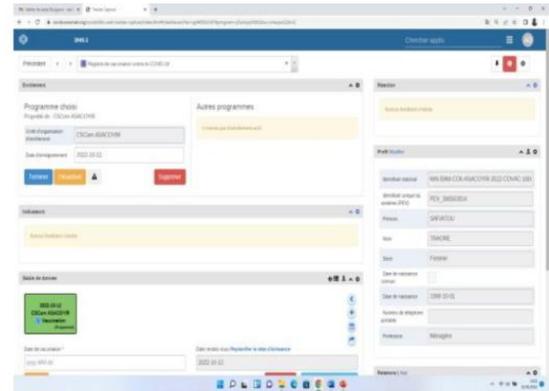
Photo: CHISU

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

Challenge



Program surveillance based on registered cases



COVID-19 Vaccination Registry Program.

Both programs (surveillance and vaccination) are managed by two different entities of the General Directorate of Health, respectively the Epidemiological Surveillance Division and the National Immunization Center.

The possibility of carrying out a longitudinal follow-up of a subject evolving in both programs had not been thought of when implementing their data management in the DHIS2 platform.

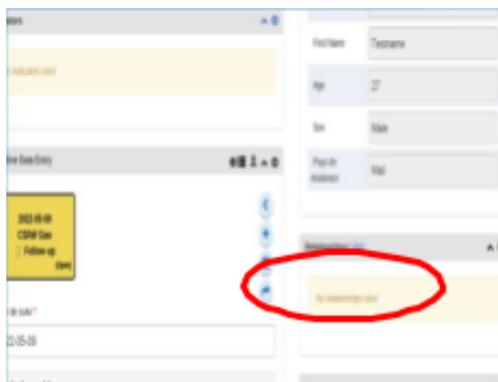
Surveillance and vaccination data from the same subject were not linked in DHIS2. This increased data entry time and data entry workload.

The CHISU program aims to strengthen the availability and quality of data on the COVID-19 epidemic. In collaboration with both COVID-19 data management entities and under the leadership of the MoH, CHISU proposed the possibility of both programs to facilitate the follow-up of the subject enrolled in the DHIS2 and thus improve the management of the data and the DHIS2 platform.

Solution

Relationship function

After discussions with the DGSHP – which is the coordination entity for the health information system as a whole in Mali – CHISU configured and tested the Relationship function of the DHIS2 tracker to allow the linking of surveillance and vaccination data about the same subject.

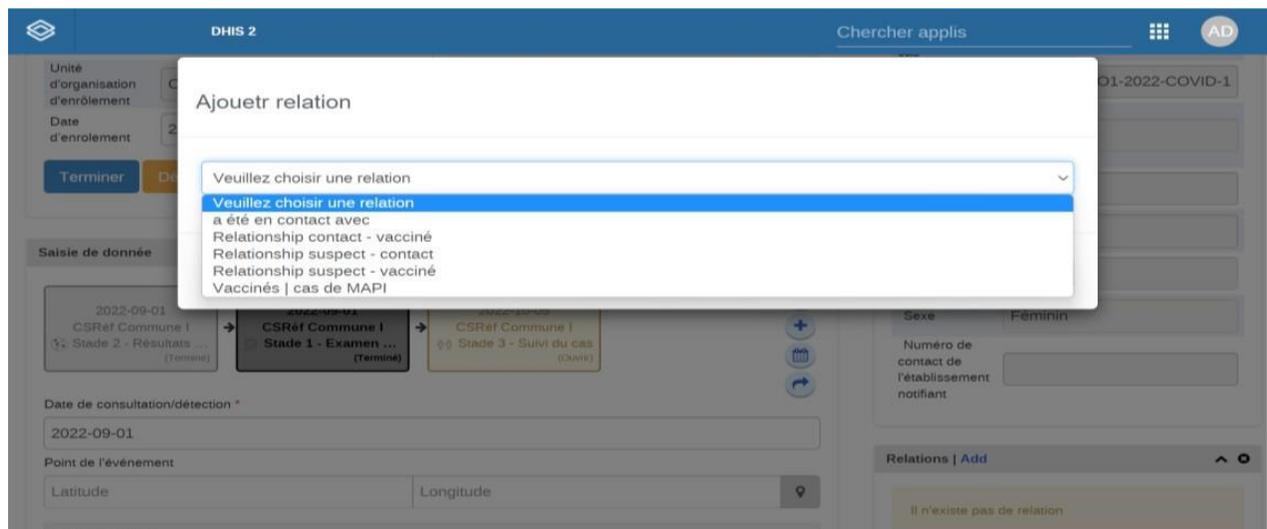


Three types of relationships have been configured in the Relationship function:

Suspect-vaccinated relationship - A subject initially enrolled in the COVID-19 surveillance program who is vaccinated. Through the data initially recorded and search criteria, the same subject is enrolled in the COVID-19 vaccination register program by clicking on the Suspect-Vaccinated Relationship function;

Relationship contact-vaccinated - A contact subject registered in the contact-tracing program and who is vaccinated afterwards;

Suspect-contact relationship - A subject initially enrolled in the COVID-19 surveillance program as a case is linked to his/her contacts



"Linking the two epidemiological surveillance and vaccination programs has reduced

data entry workload and facilitated the search for patients in DHIS2.

Through this functionality, longitudinal follow-up, i.e. access to all data concerning a patient whose information is entered into a DHIS2 program, is now a reality in Mali"

Impact

With CHISU support, in Mali, the same subject enrolled in one of the three COVID-19 tracker programs (case-based surveillance, contact registration and follow-up and the COVID-19 vaccination register) can be followed in the other programs by the configuration of the Relationship function of the DHIS2 tracker. Enabling this feature improves subject tracking and data quality.



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