CHISU Results in Action

Helping Improve COVID-19 Surveillance Coordination In Mali

January 2023

Background

As part of its policy to strengthen the health information system in Mali, the Ministry of Health (MOH) aims to ensure the production, analysis, dissemination, and use of up-to-date health information for better evidence-based decision-making. To achieve this objective, the MOH and its partners are working to have an effective health information system by maximizing the efficient use of health sector resources. This requires coordinated actions between the MOH and its partners.

Challenge

- Lack of coordination meetings on health emergencies. In Mali, the management of public health emergencies is the responsibility of INSP (National Institute of Public Health) through the Department of Public Health Emergency Operations (DOUSP), which coordinates all management of health emergencies activities. DOUSP transformed the national COVID-19 crisis meeting (which was not functional) into a meeting on health emergencies.

Photo: Technical team meeting in September 2022.

- Lack of activity coordination meetings between technical and financial partners that support the strengthening of the quality of COVID-19 surveillance data. There were no formal meetings for exchange between partners in order to better coordinate the implementation of activities and avoid duplication.

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**

- Irregular DHIS2 technical team meetings. Since the close out of the MEASURE Evaluation project in March 2020, there has been only one DHIS2 technical team meeting between March 2020 and March 2022. The absence of DHIS2 technical team meetings impacted the DHIS2 platform monitoring and troubleshooting.

Results + Next Steps

Through INSP, CHISU also supported the revision of the terms of reference of the crisis committee, transforming it into a meeting of health emergencies as well as the regular holding of these meetings. These meetings made it possible to discuss and deal with all the stakeholders on the health emergencies facing the country. Efforts are being deployed to finalize the health sector emergency plan developed in 2021 as well as the National COVID-19 Plan.

The coordination of all USAID project implementing partners (IP) and other partners implementing the response to the COVID-19 epidemic, was a priority for CHISU for better management of resources, less agenda conflicts and duplication of activities, as well as improved visibility of partner activities.

Photo: Technical team meeting in September 2022.

These meetings between partners made it possible to not only share information on the activities planned by the projects, but also share the cost of similar activities such as, for example, the collaboration between CHISU and Keneya Sinsi Wale on the co-financing of the DHIS2 technical team meetings. Findings from the CHISU-conducted ICT assessment informed partner discussions on how to fill identified gaps. The World Bank-funded REDISSE III project distributed previously procured IT equipment, and CHISU initiated plans to fill additional IT gaps. CHISU and the MUSO project coordinated complementary support for internet connectivity in the intervention regions and districts.

Through the General Directorate of Health and Planning and Statistics Unit, CHISU also supported regular meetings of the DHIS2 technical team. The meetings allowed participants to discuss governance issues around the DHIS2 platform and take decisions to improve its use by all stakeholders. These DHIS2 technical team meetings resolved governance issues such as the acceleration of the acquisition of new servers hosting each and the separation of DHIS2 into three domains of the HIS subsystems (aggregated instance, tracker instance for COVID-19 related data, and tracker instances for other health program related data). They also helped solve synchronization problems for data entered offline as well as interoperability between DHIS2 and YNIETTE[1] for the COVID-19 traveler application and between DHIS2 and Medexis[21] for the management of the drug supply chain.[2]

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[1] YNIETTE is a Tuareg local term meaning "vision."

[2] Medexis is a next-generation logistics management tool for the (public) health services industry

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Impact

Through these coordination meetings and the decisions taken, information sharing among partners has fostered better coordination of activities, avoided unnecessary duplication, favored cost saving and helped identify opportunities for synergies across partners.

The establishment of a new committee on health emergencies and the development of new terms of reference for this committee are clearing the way forward for further collaborations to address emerging issues more effectively.

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comprising all procurement, storage and distribution, and health services operations on a single platform.