

# CHISU Results in Action

Improving the malaria data quality score in nine provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 2018 to 2023

January 2024

## Background



Dr Kaseya, Head of PNLP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Division at a M&E Technical working group at national level, in Kinshasa, May 10, 2023

in strengthening the country's health information system through training, coaching, data audits, reviews, and supervision. Based on data quality criteria, NMCP and the National Health Information Division developed a performance score, which provides insight into how to improve the quality of data in DHIS2 (District Health Information System 2).

The data quality performance score is calculated on a scale from 0 to 20 points and uses the following criteria: 1) completeness of reporting, 2) timeliness of reporting, 3) datasets with more than 80 percent completeness, 4) the percentage of submitted reports with

Malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with more than 27,296,419 cases and 24,880 deaths reported in 2022.<sup>1</sup> Interventions to eliminate this disease require an effective monitoring and evaluation system with high-quality data that guides informed decisions for resource allocation, planning, and programming.

For several years, the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) supported the DRC National Malaria Control Program (NMCP)

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<sup>1</sup> DRC NMCP annual report 2022

validation rule violations (the less there are, the better the rating), and 5) correction in DHIS2 by health facilities of violated rules detected in the previous period (the lower the correction, the lower the rating). Performance scores are delineated in the following manner: 0 to 49 percent (very low performance), 50 to 59 percent (low performance), 60 to 79 percent (medium performance), 80 to 89 percent (good performance), and 90 to 100 percent (high performance).

## Steps Taken

CHISU began supporting NMCP and nine PMI-supported provinces with malaria data quality efforts in early 2023. The program also provides support to the Ministry of Health (MOH) staff for improving data analysis, holding regular meetings, conducting malaria routine data quality audits (mRDQA) and supervision in health facilities, conducting malaria data validation and review meetings with health zone teams, and facilitating technical working groups and malaria task force meetings. All of these activities contribute to improving the quality of data reported in DHIS2 and NMCP's key indicators.

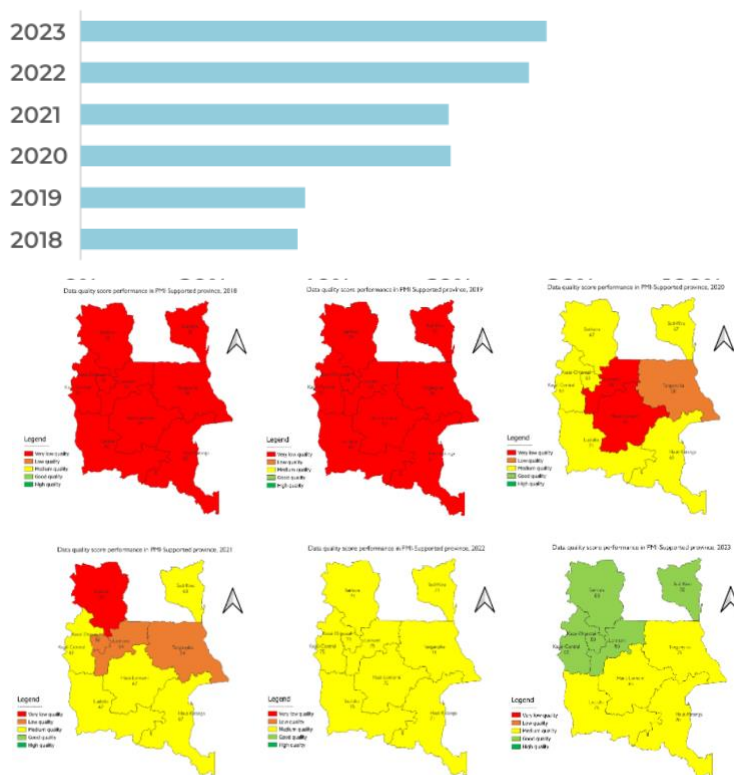
## Results + Next Steps

In the nine DRC provinces supported by PMI, the overall data quality score improved gradually between 2018 and 2023—

- **2018:** 35 percent; very low performance (range: 25; 42)
- **2019:** 37 percent (range: 21; 50)
- **2020:** 60 percent; medium performance (range: 42; 71)
- **2021:** 60 percent (range: 50; 67)
- **2022:** 73 percent (range: 71; 75)
- **2023:** 76 percent; medium performance (range: 65; 80)

Out of the nine provinces, five (56 percent)—Sankuru, Sud-Kivu, Lomami, Kasai-Oriental, and Kasai-Central—improved their score from less than 50 percent (very low performance) in 2018 and 2019 to 73 percent (medium performance) in 2022, and 80 percent (good performance) in 2023 (January–August).

Evolution of the data quality score in PMI-supported provinces



Data quality score performance in PMI nine-supported provinces in DRC in 2018 (for the first), 2019 (the 2nd), 2020 (3rd), 2021 (4th), 2022 (5th), 2023 (6th)

The other four provinces (44 percent)—Haut-Lomami, Haut-Katanga, Tanganyika, and Lualaba—improved their score from less than 50 percent (very low performance) in 2018 and 2019 to an average of 71 percent in 2023 (January–August; medium performance).

Provinces	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Haut-Katanga</b>	33%	21%	63%	67%	71%	70%
<b>Haut-Lomami</b>	29%	42%	42%	67%	75%	65%
<b>Kasai-Central</b>	38%	33%	63%	63%	75%	80%
<b>Kasai-Oriental</b>	38%	34%	63%	56%	75%	80%
<b>Lomami</b>	25%	33%	50%	54%	75%	80%
<b>Lualaba</b>	42%	50%	71%	67%	75%	75%
<b>Sankuru</b>	38%	29%	67%	50%	71%	80%
<b>Sud-Kivu</b>	38%	42%	67%	63%	71%	80%
<b>Tanganyika</b>	38%	46%	58%	54%	71%	75%
<b>All PMI-supported provinces</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>76%</b>

Based on these encouraging results, CHISU will continue contributing to the steady improvement of the malaria data quality performance ratings in DRC’s provinces. This will be achieved through ongoing support to the country’s MOH for more data analysis meetings; conducting mRDQA in additional health facilities by health zone; developing and disseminating standard operating procedures for data analysis at the operational level (health zones) of the health system (in addition to what is used at the provincial and national levels); perform monthly malaria data review and validation in health zones; conduct more coaching sessions on the use of existing dashboards; develop more user-friendly dashboards and analysis tools to help improve routine malaria data at each level; and roll out the mRDQA App for Android in health facilities for improving coordination of data quality activities going forward.



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