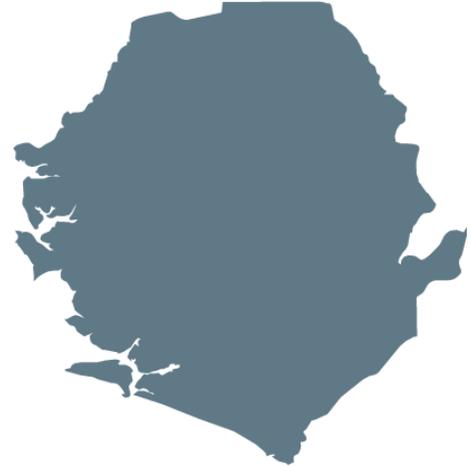# Sierra Leone

Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) Program

February 2024

Malaria is the leading cause of death in Sierra Leone and the country reports over two million cases annually.[1,2] However, Sierra Leone has made significant gains in reducing the malaria burden through ongoing investments and attention to malaria control. This includes treatments, surveillance, prevention, and many other control activities.

To continue to reduce rates of malaria infection and deaths, Sierra Leone has an emerging landscape of digital tools to assist both health workers and their managers in improving their healthcare skills and data collection methods. The National Health Information System (NHIS) in Sierra Leone is evolving from paper-based systems at both the health facility/community and district levels to centralized, electronic information systems for the management of health data in support of this trend.

CHISU is supporting the Government of Sierra Leone to strengthen malaria data systems and use through:

- Improving coordination among implementers and partners

- Strengthening Sierra Leone's NHIS

- Increasing the availability of quality health data

[1] Government of Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation. Sierra Leone Malaria Control Strategic Plan 2016-2020. 2015.
[2] Government of Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation. Annual Health Sector Performance Report 2016.

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 Sierra Leone?

CHISU is focused on strengthening governance in Sierra Leone by supporting partner coordination at the national and district levels to enhance stakeholders' ability to steward the health information system (HIS). The National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), Community Health Workers (CHW) Hub, and the Directorate of Policy, Planning and Information (DPPI) are key partners in these efforts.

CHISU is supporting coordination of the activities of NMCP's partners through the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and a technical working group that reviews activities conducted by partners. Additionally, CHISU supports the piloting of Community Health Information Systems (CHIS) applications and the training of surveillance, monitoring and evaluation staff, and hosts and managest of the Health Network Quality Improvement System (HNQIS) application (which is used for managing supportive supervision visits and follow-up).

CHISU Sierra Leone Resident Advisor Samuel Saidu speaks at the NMCP biannual review meeting in November 2023.

The program is also supporting the scale-up of two digital tools and ensuring that they meet DPPI's minimum specifications, such as interoperability with DHIS2. One of those digital tools is the HNQIS application, and the other tool is the malaria routine data quality assessment (mRDQA). CHISU will also support the Ministry of Health (MOH) in assessing two possible applications that could be used for the CHIS digital platform, which is designed to collect, manage, and analyze health-related data at the community level. CHISU's support will help the MOH ensure that the CHIS application meets the minimum requirements set by DPPI and ensure that it incorporates all functions the CHW Hub would like to see in the platform.

Additionally, CHISU is working closely with the NMCP to improve surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation capacity through training and supportive supervision for NMCP staff, district and hospital monitoring and evaluation staff, and district malaria focal points. CHISU is improving and standardizing data quality processes by developing a data quality assurance plan and custom tools to generate a quarterly malaria bulletin from the NHIS (DHIS2).