Burundi

Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) Program

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Malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Burundi, according to the Burundi Health Statistics Yearbook. The World Malaria Report 2022 reports that between 2015–2022, Burundi experienced the world's largest increase (46 percent) in estimated malaria incidence. In addition, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Burundi program is working to operationalize its goal for HIV activities "to accelerate towards sustained epidemic control by consolidating gains, closing the gaps, and enhancing capacities."

To support the country's response for both malaria and HIV, CHISU is enhancing Burundi's health information system (HIS) governance systems and organizational structures; improving the development, adaptation, and use of effective tools for measuring and monitoring the country's HIS progression; strengthening the interoperability of data systems; and helping Burundi to review and update its HIS strategic documents, standard operating procedures (SOPs), guidelines, and digital health strategy. Furthermore, with ongoing digitization of patient records happening in hospitals and other health facilities, CHISU is supporting the development of an updated national HIS strategic plan as well as national digital health architecture and interoperability frameworks to ensure coordination of these efforts and reduce duplication.

How is CHISU supporting digital transformation in Burundi?

Strengthening malaria data systems and use

CHISU is helping Burundi strengthen malaria surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation (SME), routine health information systems, and data quality review and analysis in order to improve the availability and use of malaria data for decision making.

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**

CHISU supports the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), other health programs, and SME focal points at the provincial and district levels. CHISU's support includes strengthening local capacity in data visualization and using tools (such as the malaria dashboard application) to increase demand for and use of health data and information to address health priorities, gaps, and challenges. CHISU also supports efforts to improve data quality and use through the mentoring of MOPH and NMCP staff in data quality reviews, development of data quality assurance training curricula, and development of a data use plan.

CHISU provides technical assistance to the Health Information Management Program (PROGISSA) in their efforts to finalize a health system enterprise architecture and an interoperability framework. CHISU will help ensure that standard requirements are met and that all stakeholders are engaged throughout the development and validation processes. In addition, CHISU is supporting the development of a data governance policy which is a strategic reference document for data management, data exchange, and data security regulation. This enables the National Information System Directorate (DSNIS) and PROGISSA to oversee the stakeholders' compliance to HIS standards.

Strengthening HIV data quality and use

CHISU strengthens data, technology, and HIS to support HIV activities in the country. CHISU's work with HIV data quality and use is in line with PEPFAR Burundi's program priorities and PEPFAR's guidance "Reimagining PEPFAR's Strategic Direction," which focuses on five strategic pillars. According to the guidance, CHISU addresses four out of five of those pillars:

- Strategic Pillar 2: Sustaining the Response

- Strategic Pillar 3: Public Health Systems and Security

- Strategic Pillar 4: Transformative Partnership

- Strategic Pillar 5: Follow the Science

CHISU is supporting the Ministry of Health to organize data analysis meetings at decentralized levels. In the photo CHISU's data manager advisor coaches PNLS staff on the use of DHIS2 to review routine health information systems data.

To support these efforts, the program works to strengthen the collective technical capacity of the National AIDS, STI, and Hepatitis Programme (PNLS/IST/HV) and SME focal persons at provincial and district levels, especially in the collection, quality, and use of health data. CHISU's work builds on the USAID-funded Data for Implementation (Data.FI) project's experience to support Burundi's MOPH and the PNLS/IST/HV to monitor the use of the national HIV electronic medical record (SIDAInfo), and unique identification (UID) systems to develop a national rollout plan of those systems and to assist PNLS/IST/HV in their scale up nationwide.