# Thailand

## Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) Program

**February 2024**

In the last decade, Thailand has achieved a 91 percent decrease in malaria incidence through efforts led by the Ministry of Public Health's (MOPH) Division of Vector Borne Diseases (DVBD).[1] One of these efforts was an investment in its information systems with the introduction of Malaria Online (a web-based Tableau business intelligence platform) as its malaria information system (MIS). Malaria Online is one of the most comprehensive digital surveillance systems in the South East Asian region. It tracks near real-time, geo-referenced, case-based entomological, epidemiological, and laboratory surveillance data, and generates automated aggregated and graphical reports. Efforts are underway to expand the use of mobile technology at the community level, including for the management of the geographic focus areas for intervention (i.e., foci management).

Despite the country's tremendous progress in reducing malaria incidence, some areas have regressed in recent years. For example, the provinces of Phuket and Chaiyaphum were declared malaria-free in 2018 and reverted their status to active-foci provinces in 2019. Another province, Phitsanulok, reverted to an active-foci province (after not having reported malaria cases for several years) in 2020 due to an influx of migrants from Burma. The political crisis in Burma and populations fleeing conflict has led to a four-fold increase of malaria cases in Thailand since 2021.

As Thailand grapples with maintaining malaria elimination efforts in this context, malaria case detection, response, and reporting become even more challenging as cases are highly mobile, concentrated at borders, and in geographically remote areas. Thailand is transitioning from a vertical malaria program to integrated management of malaria with other community health priorities within the MOPH—so work to strengthen Malaria Online and invest in complementary digital health tools must consider this context.

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[1] PMI. PMI Digital Community Health—Key Informant Interview. (2021)

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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 Thailand?

CHISU is supporting Thailand's MOPH to process documentation for malaria elimination certification and associated tasks; develop an action plan to link the Malaria Online system with other priority information systems; improve the availability, quality, and timeliness of malaria data; and strengthen the review and analysis of malaria data at the national and provincial levels.



MOPH Division of Vector Borne Diseases staff verifying surveillance data with hospital staff.

Specifically, CHISU is supporting the MOPH to:

- Conduct a readiness assessment to support integration of Malaria Online with the the national disease surveillance systems—R506 for notifiable diseases and 43 folders for all health issues

- Support DVBD to track and respond to increasing border malaria using Malaria Online

- Conduct assessment of training needs to maintain data systems

During this first year of implementation in Thailand, CHISU is working with the country's national malaria control program to improve the use of Malaria Online to generate information for the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of malaria programs.