Ensuring historical data is part of Mali's malaria story for better decision making

Background

Malaria continues to be a primary cause of mortality and morbidity in Mali,[1] but the country is making progress in the fight against this scourge. A key method for optimizing malaria control interventions within the country is to prioritize programming using past data on malaria incidence, risk factors, parasites, vectors and the environment, and an analysis of access to services. While the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) had a platform to collect and analyze entomological data through a previous project (called VectorLink), that program ended in 2023—which resulted in a gap in information.

Steps Taken

Recognizing the need for a sustainable platform to host and analyze national entomological data, the NMCP decided to migrate the historical data to the national District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) platform, the country's health information system platform that will also collect new malaria data in the future.

USAID's Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) program supported NMCP in migrating the historical data to the national DHIS2 platform. This required collaboration across the health information system (HIS) and malaria stakeholders, including NMCP, *Laboratoire de biologie moléculaire appliquée* (LBMA), VectorLink, CHISU, and USAID.

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[1] Severe Malaria Observatory. "Mali." Accessed May 13, 2024. https://www.severemalaria.org/countries/mali.

NMCP, VectorLink, USAID, and CHISU collaborated on defining the methodology for importing the data before CHISU worked with Mali's General Directorate of Health and Public Hygiene (DGSHP) to customize the national DHIS2 using the key data collection variables. This made it possible to import existing metadata and customize all entomological data in DHIS2, saving considerable time and resources. CHISU then hosted a workshop with stakeholders to ensure historical data is readable and to plan for integrating current malaria-related data, including entomological laboratory, malaria supply (insecticidal nets), and sustainability monitoring indicators into DHIS2.

Participants in a workshop on historical data from the entomological platform.
Photo credit: CHISU

RESULTS + NEXT STEPS

With historical entomological data now available in the national DHIS2 platform, five forms have been customized in the national DHIS2 that pull over 965 elements together for a more complete view of the malaria situation in Mali. The form customization is allowing the NMCP to analyze, interpret, and use data for decision making, and will allow the NMCP to directly collect data in DHIS2 during future campaigns.

Participants during an exchange meeting on the entomological platform.
Photo credit: CHISU

All historical entomological data from 2018 to 2022 were imported into the national DHIS2 platform, and five indicators provided by LBMA were also created.

The customization of entomological data in the national DHIS2 enabled the NMCP to retrieve its historical entomologic data, to gain full control of its data and to expand it to new indicators suggested by LBMA. Finally, NMCP will be able to continue entering and analyzing its data going forward.