

Monthly Malaria Bulletins Contribute to Improving Data Use for Malaria Control in Mali

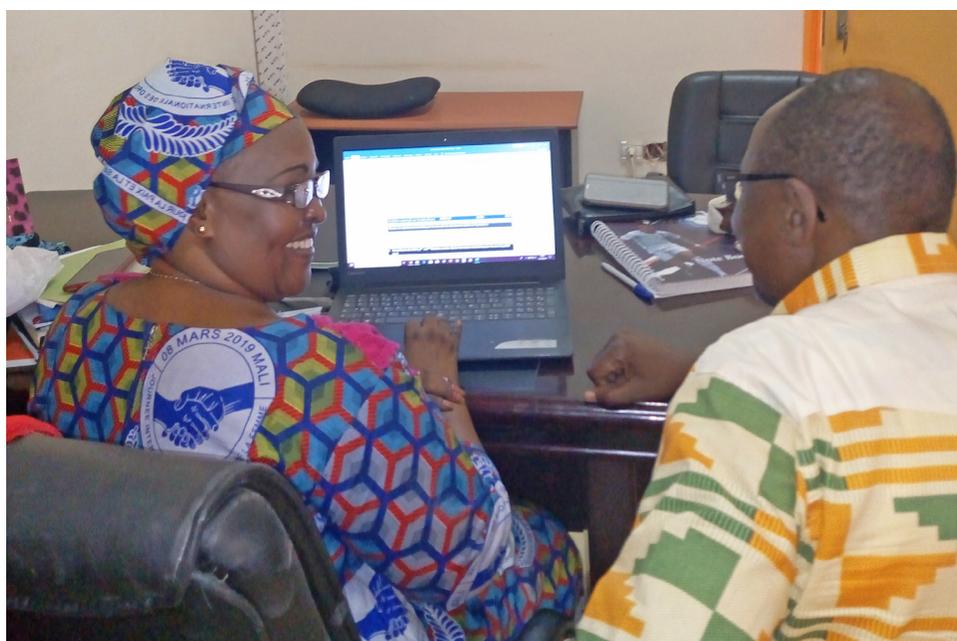
As a close partner of the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) in Mali for the past 10 years, MEASURE Evaluation has supported malaria control and prevention activities that have made a difference in collective efforts to combat the epidemic. Together, MEASURE Evaluation and the NMCP have improved the quality of malaria data available, in part by strengthening the capacity of NMCP staff in monitoring and evaluation.

Although the disease is preventable and curable, consistent and high-quality malaria data to guide program implementation and to measure achievements are in short supply. In response to the acute need for reliable malaria data at national and subnational levels, the NMCP, with the support of MEASURE Evaluation, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), created a monthly malaria bulletin to provide nationwide updates. The bulletin, launched in 2018, shares surveillance and routine data on key malaria activities and events, completeness and timeliness of reporting, and data quality drawn from Mali's health information system—known as DHIS2, for the District Health Information Software, Version 2, that runs it. The bulletin also reports on key malaria performance indicators determined by the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, such as the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

The bulletin, distributed countrywide by the Ministry of Health, provides malaria stakeholders with timely routine and surveillance data without the need for online access to DHIS2.

The NMCP extracts data from the previous month from DHIS2 to create tables, and these data are analyzed and interpreted with recommendations for programmatic decision making. For example, the malaria bulletin shares data on intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (especially the full course of three doses) and level of stock and stockout of malaria commodities—information used for discussion in the NMCP's Malaria in Pregnancy working group's meetings. Importantly, they help NMCP staff and others monitor progress in regions and plan for activities such as supervision, training, and social and behavioral change communication.

As of October 2019, 22 bulletins had been issued and shared electronically with PMI, regional directors of health, and personnel in charge of the local health information system, including focal points in the regions and districts.



MEASURE Evaluation's work in Mali has strengthened the health information system to provide data to inform the national malaria control program. Photo: MEASURE Evaluation.

“Regions need to take inspiration from this [national] newsletter to do the same at the regional level,” says Hamidou Niangaly, malaria focal point at the regional directorate of Kayes. “This allows for visibility and transparency in the implementation of the national policy to fight malaria.”

“The document is of paramount importance to us and we applaud its development,” says the malaria focal point of another health district. “It allows us to place ourselves in context of others and especially to improve ourselves.”

Dr. Marico Gaoussou, World Health Organization advisor to a regional health directorate, said, “Overall I think it’s a very good initiative that must be sustained.”

The regional directors of health of Taoudenit and Sikasso as well as the planning officer for the Gao Region say they all have appreciated the initiative and have provided encouragement and called for continuity.

According to Dr. Diahara Traore, NMCP deputy director, “This newsletter should be put on the official website of the Ministry of Health, Solidarity, and the Elderly of Mali (Ministère de la Santé de la Solidarité et des Personnes Âgées), as it is relevant. I would like to see the development of a quarterly malaria bulletin, as well.”

By continuing to publish the malaria bulletin and improve its content, the NMCP and MEASURE Evaluation will help decision makers at all levels make timely and effective decisions based on reliable data for the benefit of the entire population of Mali.



République du Mali
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Ministère de la Santé et des Affaires sociales

PROGRAMME NATIONAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE PALUDISME

Bulletin mensuel sur le paludisme N°007-19 **Juillet** **2019**

Situation du déploiement de DHIS2 pour la remontée des données de routine sur le paludisme

Ce bulletin présente le niveau de certains indicateurs clés sur paludisme (pour le mois de juillet) selon les données du DHIS2 à la date du 05 septembre 2019. La région de Ménaka tout comme le mois précédent n'a envoyé aucun rapport. A noter que dans cette région, l'accès à DHIS 2 est toujours limité au niveau du district pour la saisie des données.

a. Complétude des RMA (1er et 2^{ème} échelon, Section 5) des Formations Sanitaires pour le mois de juillet 2019

Le taux de complétude des rapports a connu une baisse par rapport au mois précédent dans la plupart des régions. Ces taux étaient de 83% pour le 1er échelon, 71% pour le 2ème échelon contre 91% et 84% le mois précédent. Nous attendons une amélioration de la complétude dans les jours et mois à venir puisque la saisie continue pour les retardataires. Au moment de l'analyse comme signalé le mois précédent seul les CSCom de Ménaka n'ont pas soumis de rapport.

Régions	Districts	RMA 1 ^{er} échelon (Section 5)		RMA 2 ^{ème} échelon (Section 5)			
		Attendus	Reçus	Complétude (%)	Attendus	Reçus	Complétude (%)
Kayes	10	246	228	93	10	10	100
Koulikoro	10	227	207	91	10	6	60
Sikasso	10	250	224	90	10	7	70
Ségou	8	208	183	88	8	7	88
Mopti	8	176	164	93	8	5	63
Tombouctou	5	97	41	42	5	2	40
Gao	3	66	47	71	3	2	67
Kidal	4	22	6	27	1	1	100
Taoudenit	4	20	1	5	0	0	0
Ménaka	7	26	0	0	0	0	0
Bamako	6	59	55	93	6	4	67
Total	75	1397	1156	83	62	44	71

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