

# Global Health Security

## Surveillance that keeps abreast of potential outbreaks



## Mali's path to stronger disease surveillance

### MEASURE

**Evaluation** provides tools, research, training and mentorship, and strategies to help countries improve their health information systems to guide country planning for improved health.

### The start

In Mali's response to the Ebola epidemic in 2014, the country's Ministry of Public Health and Hygiene prioritized strengthening surveillance of priority diseases with potential to become epidemics.

### The means

MEASURE Evaluation helped reduce surveillance from 33 diseases to 12 priority ones, including hemorrhagic fever, measles, meningitis, yellow fever, cholera, anthrax, and other zoonotic (animal to human) diseases.

### Challenges

- Complex surveillance forms had 1,190 variables (later reduced to 52).
- Data quality suffered as trained users moved or were transferred.
- Internet connectivity problems persisted.
- Resources to maintain and secure access to data sources were scarce.

### Solutions

- MEASURE Evaluation helped set up standard data review templates, reduced variables, and improved data forms to minimize duplication and reduce collection burden.
- Mali prioritized regional quarterly reviews of data quality and national biannual reviews.

- Users shared ways to address challenges and worked together on regional plans to address them.
- Integrated disease surveillance in the district health information system, version 2 (DHIS2) platform had 100% reporting from regional health offices, hospitals, and districts, and 97% of community health centers

**Strengthening digital systems requires skilled people and continuous monitoring for data quality and facilitated data use.**