

Strengthening Health Information Systems in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

MEASURE Evaluation, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development, has worked with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 2009. From 2015–2018, our work focused on improving the quality of malaria data produced at health facilities and the use of the information both at the local and national levels. Much of this work with the MOPH strengthens elements of the HIS identified in MEASURE Evaluation’s [Health Information System Strengthening Model](#) (HISSM), shown here.

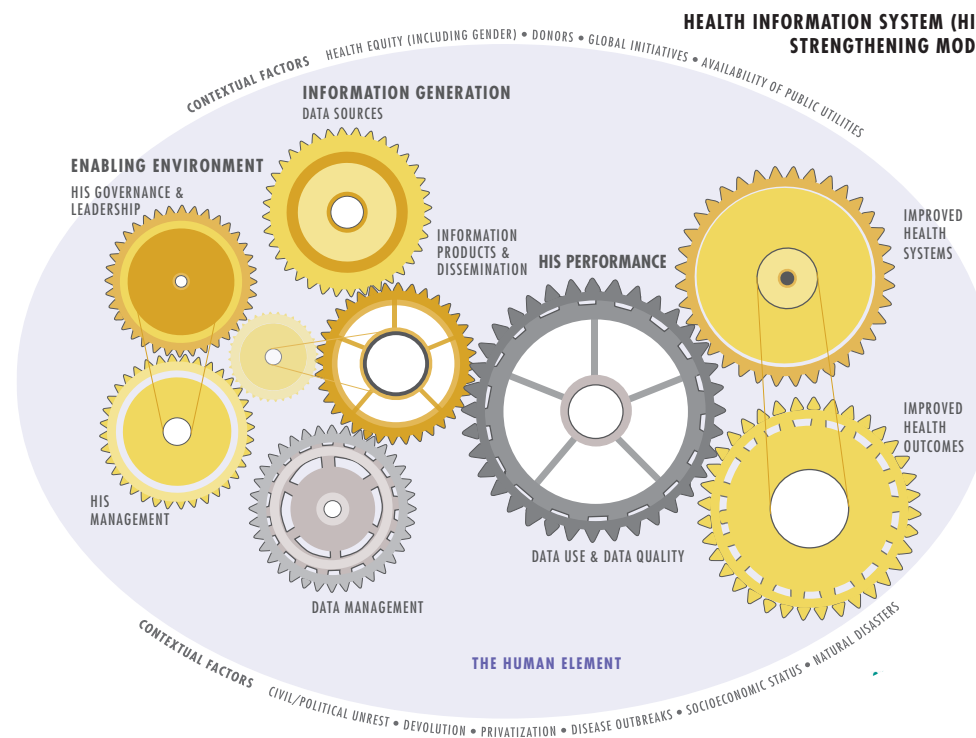
For example, in the model’s area of an “enabling environment” for a strong HIS, MEASURE Evaluation helped the MOPH and the NMCP develop data management centers of excellence (COEs) to demonstrate the benefits of specific monitoring and evaluation (M&E) interventions and to model best practices for improved data management and data use at the health facility level. Centers of excellence are based in existing facilities and received MEASURE Evaluation support to ensure that they were fully resourced and adequately staffed to be able to collect, manage, and use high-quality data on an ongoing basis. MEASURE Evaluation’s support in the enabling environment consisted of coordinating stakeholders and providing technical assistance and training at the central level of the health system on the use and management of DHIS 2.¹ In the model’s area of “information generation,” MEASURE Evaluation created a central data warehouse, provided training for MOPH personnel, and developed

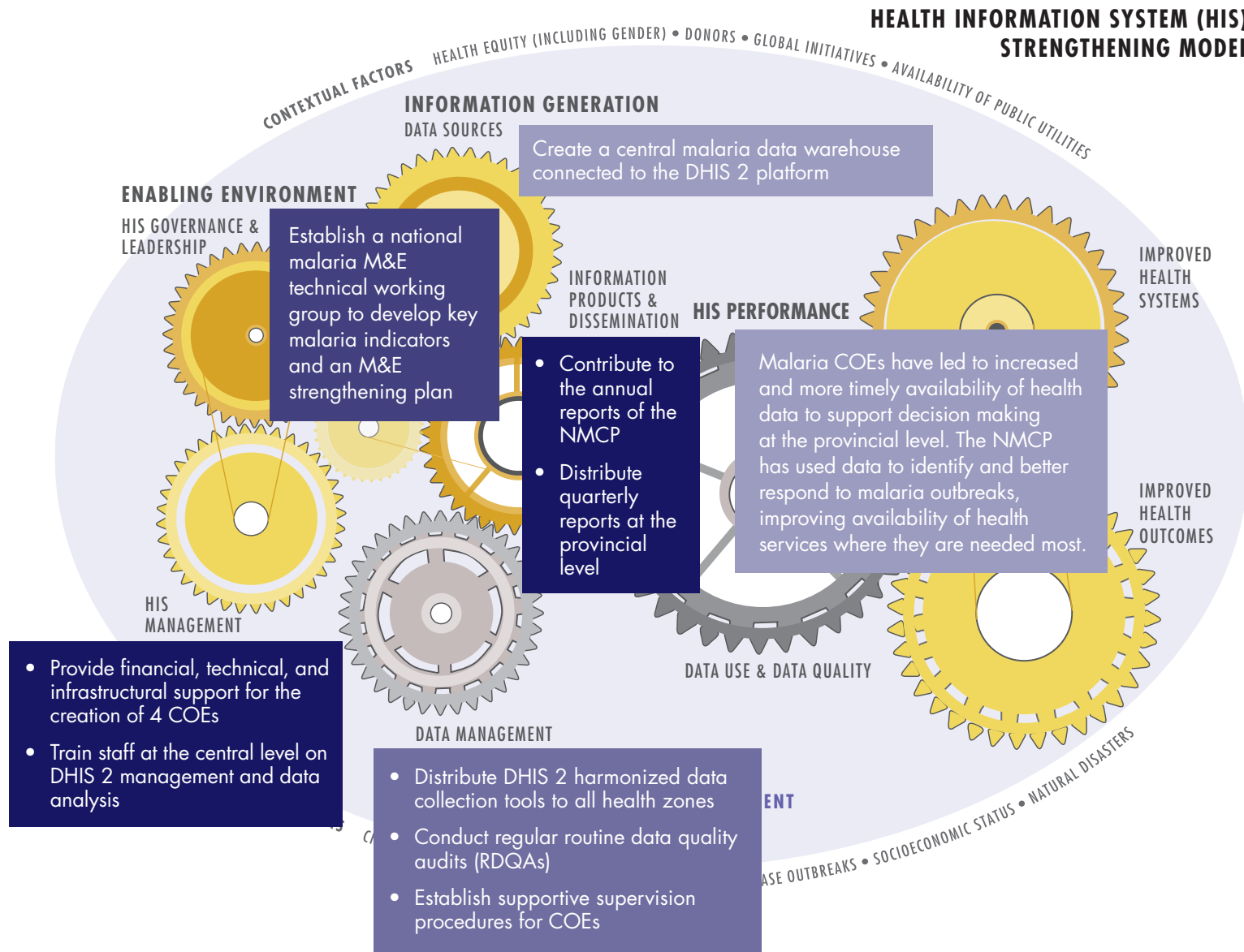
national guidelines to institutionalize practices that assure good data quality: that is, data that are correct, timely, and complete.

The graphic on the next page superimposes on the HISSM descriptions of MEASURE Evaluation’s activities in the enabling environment and information generation areas that supported the health ministry’s development of the COEs. By displaying these interventions across the model, we can see their strategic interaction and how they combined to

strengthen data quality and data use at all levels of the DRC’s health system. Because of these interventions, the NMCP was able to collect better-quality data and increase its use of routine malaria data to improve resource allocation in response to malaria outbreaks. The table below the graphic lists additional MEASURE Evaluation activities in the DRC that supported HIS strengthening.

¹ An electronic platform for the collection and analysis of health data





MEASURE Evaluation's Other HIS Strengthening Work in the DRC

HISSM areas	HISSM subareas (gears)	Health information system strengthening activities			
		2015	2016	2017	2018
Enabling environment	HIS governance and leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the NMCP National Strategic Plan Develop a comprehensive monitoring and M&E strengthening plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene regular quarterly meetings of the national M&E technical working group and provincial groups to analyze data quality Produce a work plan jointly with the M&E technical working group and malaria partners to coordinate malaria control activities Provide technical assistance for the National Malaria M&E Plan and NMCP Strategic Plan Conduct advocacy for the MOPH to integrate gender in malaria data tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map partners' activities to identify gaps in M&E progress Develop a data demand and use (DDU) action plan in key regions Develop comprehensive M&E reinforcement plans for key regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene quarterly M&E technical working group meetings at national and provincial levels Convene quarterly malaria task force meetings at national and provincial levels Facilitate weekly technical meeting with NMCP M&E Unit and U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)
	HIS management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Internet access for 30 health zone (HZ) offices Hold a national workshop on M&E of malaria programs Evaluate NMCP M&E capacities using MEASURE Evaluation's M&E Capacity Assessment Tool (MECAT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ongoing technical and human resources training, essential equipment such as information and communication technology, and mobile technology for data management at COE sites Provide Internet access in 35 HZs Support capacity building of the NMCP's M&E Division Conduct M&E capacity assessments in key provinces Conduct DHIS 2 training and in-service training for information technology professionals and NMCP staff at the central level to manage databases, encode data, and perform analyses Conduct MECAT in 2 of 9 PMI-priority provinces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an NMCP monitoring manual Conduct M&E capacity assessments in additional provinces Conduct a workshop on DDU self-assessment with NMCP and NMCP partners to inform the NMCP's DDU action plan Scale up the COE model and establish additional COEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire and train new provincial M&E advisors in 9 PMI-targeted provinces as openings occur Review NMCP capacity-building action plan and prioritize remaining action items Hold annual data review at national and provincial levels Facilitate mid-term review process of NMCP National Strategic Plan Distribute essential hardware to new COE facilities (laptop, projector, electricity, Internet modem, and router) Train central-level NMCP staff on DHIS 2 and routine data quality (RDQA) Develop COE coaching plan and supervision guidelines Develop malaria indicators glossary Develop COS implementation guidelines and M&E plan

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Information generation	Data sources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the transfer of databases so that data from all partners could be included in the DHIS 2 central database 		
	Data management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train HZ data managers on DHIS 2 Support supervision visits at HZ and provincial levels Update the malaria indicator matrix and reference sheets Conduct RDQAs to develop a data quality assurance (DQA) system (ongoing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide supportive supervision for COE sites and provincial data managers Ensure the availability of data collection tools at the HZ level Conduct RDQAs at COEs in three provinces and identified actions for improving data quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train providers on the use of SMS (text messaging) to transmit malaria data to DHIS 2 (in progress) Collaborate with provincial health information officers to equip them to provide technical support during supervision visits Conduct RDQA at each new COE Develop an SMS platform for mobile data submission to DHIS 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt RDQA for facility-level use Conduct RDQAs in targeted HZs Conduct RDQA at sample of COEs and control health facilities COEs Develop data collection tools for targeted provinces and COEs Conduct regular supportive supervision visits at HZs and COEs Develop new baseline data collection protocol for COEs Train COE workers on M&E fundamentals and DHIS 2 Collaborate with provincial health M&E advisors to provide technical support during supportive supervision Support monthly data analysis at the provincial level and quarterly at the national level
	Information products and dissemination				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of National Strategic Plan mid-term review report Support assessment report on use of SMS for data transmission in the DRC Support production of annual reports at national and provincial levels Organize World Malaria Day events to disseminate trends and findings Support NMCP staff training in data analysis and presentation