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GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA

CONTEXT

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) was launched in 2014 as epidemics such as SARS, H1N1 influenza, MERS-CoV, H7N9 and Ebola had demonstrated an ability to spread quickly across borders in our increasingly interconnected world. GHSA works through the "One Health" approach which unites human, animal, and environmental health into a comprehensive, multi-sectoral framework. This approach recognizes that stressors in any one domain impact the others and increase the likelihood of experiencing deadly outbreaks. Mali is especially vulnerable to epidemics of potential global significance because of its proximity to countries that have recently experienced epidemics. Characteristics such as deforestation and desertification, conflict and environmentally driven displacement, poverty, a weak healthcare infrastructure, and a predominantly agricultural and pastoral workforce also put Malians at risk.

ABOUT THE ACTIVITY

USAID's goal is to assist Mali, a GHSA Intensive Support Country, to detect infectious disease threats early, respond rapidly and effectively to new outbreaks, and prevent those outbreaks that are avoidable. We will achieve this goal only by promoting our values of inclusive and equitable development and gender equity. Our target is to support Mali to achieve "Demonstrated Capacity" by 2025 (80% achievement on the WHO IHR monitoring scale) or comparable level in at least five critical global health security areas, as measured by the Joint External Evaluation (JEE).

Over the past five years GHSA has strengthened the Government of Mali's (GOM) capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious disease threats, including Ebola and COVID-19. USAID, in collaboration with inter-agency partners including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes for Health, invests in activities to strengthen the human and livestock health systems of Mali with an emphasis on surveillance, laboratories, reporting, emergency management and workforce development. GHSA investments accelerated Mali's COVID-19 response and have helped to build essential systems to combat future pandemic threats.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

COORDINATION, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, AND STANDARDS

- Monthly coordination meetings now bring together representatives of the Ministries of Health, Livestock and Fisheries, Environment, and Agriculture.
- Active and passive surveillance systems, including risk assessment and mapping, are in place for priority zoonotic diseases—anthrax, rabies, tuberculosis, avian and other zoonotic influenzas, and rift valley fever.
- The National Public Health Institute's Emergency Operation Center has instituted standardized operating procedures, soon to be extended to regional, district and community levels.
- DHIS2 (Mali's digital health information system) has been enhanced with updates to Community Health Center and Community Health Worker capabilities.
- Hospital quality committees are regularly tracking pandemic influenza and other emerging threats and infection prevention and control standards indicators.
- The mHero platform (training and support for hospital-based providers via SMS) was rolled out to personnel trained on disease surveillance and response.

PREVENT, DETECT, AND RESPOND TO EMERGING PANDEMIC DISEASES

- 21 laboratories have been strengthened with support for External Quality Assurance.
- Culture and sensitivity testing is now used to follow tuberculosis patients resistant to 1st line drugs.
- Proficiency of staff has been improved to collect, transport, and handle samples to detect diseases such as COVID-19, Ebola, Meningitis, Measles and Cholera and others.
- 150 public health staff were trained as Field Epidemiologists.
- More than 200 community-based health volunteers were trained and are promoting pandemic preparedness and response.
- Ebola preparedness and response was strengthened following cases reported in DRC and Guinea in 2021.

- Radio programs have been aired in 14 languages to educate the public on COVID-19 prevention.
- The Directorate of Pharmacy and Medicines was supported to develop a national Antimicrobial Stewardship technical working group and Drug and Therapeutics Committees are active in five hospitals.
- The *Direction Générale de la Santé et de l'Hygiène Publique* was helped to establish a functional community-based epidemiological surveillance system.
- Covid-19 vaccine readiness and distribution are being strengthened and supported, and COVID-19 impacts on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria services are being mitigated.
- Health information systems for COVID-19 vaccine rollout are in place to enable real-time monitoring and management of vaccine availability and coverage, and to minimize wastage.
- New coordination mechanisms involving health communication committees, NGOs, women/youth groups and religious leaders in collaboration with Mali's *Centre national d'information, d'éducation et de communication pour la santé and the Agence Nationale de Telesante et d'Informatique Médicale* are in place to strengthen vaccine confidence and uptake.
- The capacity of Mali's health hotline (*Ligne Verte*), where citizens can get referrals and answers to their questions about Covid-19 and immunization, has been tripled.
- Global Health Security Program investments have strengthened and scaled-up community-based event surveillance and laboratory capabilities to include vaccine preventable diseases.
- The quality and utilization of the national health information system using DHIS2 at the district and facility levels has been improved, including the roll-out and expansion of the community electronic registry.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- Food and Agriculture Organization / Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases
- Johns Hopkins University CCP / Breakthrough ACTION
- ICF / Infectious Diseases Detection and Surveillance
- Management Sciences for Health / Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS)
- FHI 360 / Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EPiC)
- Chemonics /GHSC-PSM- Emergency Supply Chain
- JSI / Country Health Information Systems and Data Use
- URC / USAID Keneya Nieta