



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



2023 was a big year for CHISU. Our program expanded to include work in 23 countries—and in July, we reached the mid-project mark of our implementation.

As we start the new year, we reflect on a few key ideas:

- **Health Information System (HIS) Stages of Continuous Improvement (SOI) assessments have been a useful tool** for evaluating the status of health information systems, which is critical for helping countries identify gaps and formulate their digital health strategies. Now we're moving beyond assessments toward actually implementing these strategies and enabling systems interoperability—and are seeing early signs of HIS progression within countries.
- CHISU seeks to **facilitate digitally enabled decision making** in helping countries reach their digital health goals. This work requires continued time and investment in order for true HIS progression to happen.

- The **breadth and diversity of CHISU's support** is evident in the wide scope of topics we presented throughout the year as well as at December's [Global Digital Health Forum](#). We shared what we've learned from the more than 23 countries where we work to **make digital transformation a reality**—because while this transformation is often announced at the highest levels of the health system, making it a reality requires tremendous effort at the primary health level.

As we look ahead to another productive year with CHISU, we are excited to share that the project has been extended until 2026. It's rewarding to see USAID's commitment to our portfolio, which provides new opportunities for the project's continued expansion.

We're looking forward to taking what we've learned over the past year into 2024 and beyond—and we can't wait to share the coming year's progress as we continue to support countries on their digital health transformation journey.

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## CATCH UP ON CHISU'S WEBINARS

**Watch:** [Unleashing the Power of the HIS SOCI Tool](#)

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## RESOURCES

**[HIS SOCI Online Toolkit:](#)** The HIS SOCI Toolkit measures the goals of an HIS across five stages, identifies gaps, and supports the development of roadmaps to improve HIS capabilities related to processes, people, and systems essential for achieving a country's health goals.

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## CHECK OUT OUR COUNTRY SPOTLIGHTS

See below for some recent in-country developments—and keep an eye out for news about the work we're doing in Burundi, Latin America and the Caribbean, Sierra Leone, and Thailand.





CHISU supports the ministries for human, animal, and environmental health in line with the One Health approach in **Burkina Faso**. As part of CHISU's support, staff designed a workshop for radio and television spots on unusual health events. They have also supported training sessions on One Health surveillance and provincial-level supervision to assess service point agents and community actors' capacity to implement surveillance based on the One Health approach.

We were proud to see CHISU-supported work on One Health surveillance in Burkina Faso featured on the [DHIS2 website](#), which is a recognition of the results achieved in the country and a tribute to our programmatic approach.



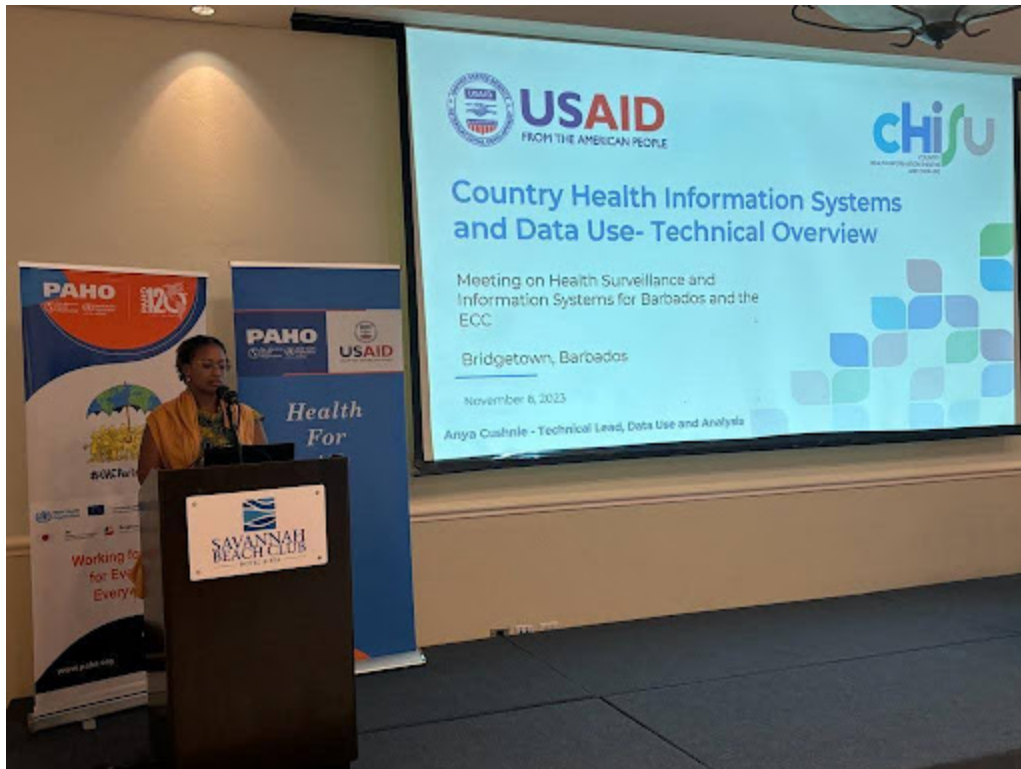
Ministry of Health Information System Directorate with digital tools to improve the quality and use of malaria data. CHISU Deputy Director Dr. Stephanie Watson-Grant visited Côte d'Ivoire in August, where she attended meetings with country stakeholders. Dr. Watson-Grant was able to hear about immediate needs they have and their vision for CHISU support in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as introduce the stakeholders to CHISU's new resident advisor in Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Rahim Kebe.

[Learn more about our work in Côte d'Ivoire](#)



CHISU supported semiannual malaria data review meetings in nine provinces in **DRC**. In Kasai-Oriental Province, more than 25 professionals came together for a five-day workshop to improve malaria interventions through data review. Participants analyzed health zone data, assessed its quality, calculated key malaria indicators, broke down the reported data by source, and compared reported patient data with input consumption. They discussed the findings during a plenary session and developed recovery plans for each health zone that included specific activities aimed at improving data quality at the health facility level, responsibilities, and regularly monitoring malaria indicator performance. Additionally, participants developed a capacity-strengthening plan to improve data management based on identified gaps.

[Learn more about our work in DRC](#)



In November 2023, CHISU participated in the Meeting on Health Surveillance and Information Systems for **Barbados** and the **Eastern Caribbean Countries**, organized by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Public health professionals from across the region and representatives from CARPHA (Caribbean Public Health Agency) attended the meeting. This meeting was a follow up to one held in 2022, which looked at lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to examine the current state of health surveillance systems. Attendees used the 2023 meeting to examine progress made for each country represented, areas for collaboration around HIS strengthening, and solutions. CHISU intends to host a learning event in 2024 to facilitate further discussion on coordination of HIS evolution in ESC.

[Learn more about our work in ESC](#)





CHISU collaborated with **Ghana** Health Service's Policy Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division to conduct training sessions to support the scale-up of an e-Tracker application for maternal and child health services and COVID-19 vaccination in the Northeast and Savannah regions. Approximately 350 health care providers from more than 130 health facilities were trained to use the e-Tracker for improved patient outcomes, data quality, and use. Following the successful e-Tracker scale up, a combined team with representatives from CHISU, the Ghana Health Service's Center for Health Information Management, and the Regional Health Directorate visited 40 selected health facilities across the two regions to provide follow-up technical support.

[Learn more about our work in Ghana](#)





CHISU supported **Haiti's** Ministry of Health (UEP-MSPP) to attend and present at the Global Digital Health Forum (GDHF) in December. Dr. Alfred Jean Patrick, Director of the UEP-MSPP, participated in a panel titled "From Blueprints to Practice: Perspectives on Health System Digitalization," which discussed perspectives on information system regulations and digital transformation. CHISU Haiti Resident Advisor Jhonson Charles took part in another panel on lessons learned in data interoperability and system integration in the context of Haiti, and the UEP-MSPP's Deputy Director Roddy Thermidor presented on how the UEP-MSPP encourages collaboration to improve decision making using Haiti's health information system platform (SISNU).

[Learn more about our work in Haiti](#)



In September, CHISU facilitated a three-day workshop for [Castellum Digital Indonesia](#), a Jakarta-based women-led startup, that covered monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) best practices for USAID-funded projects. During the workshop (which is part of CHISU's focus on building the capacity of local organizations), the team discussed project monitoring requirements, among other implementation points.

CHISU also supports the Center for Data and Information Technology (Pusdatin) in carrying out a series of interventions on Digital Maturity Index (DMI) implementation. Part of that work involves conducting workshops and other capacity-building activities, including a series of 20 online training sessions and three digital literacy activities. One of the digital literacy activities was held on October 4-6 in Surabaya, East Java. More than 100 health workers attended in person, and more than 530 health workers attended online. The activity aimed to increase HIS governance and resources management digital literacy, especially for health managers.

[Read more about our recent work in Indonesia](#)





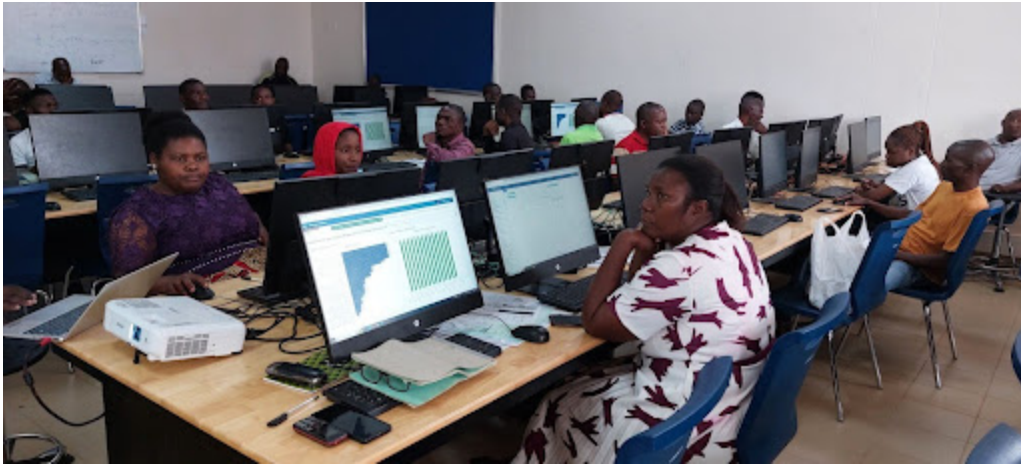
**Kenya** developed the first edition of its malaria surveillance guidelines in 2023, which outlined the surveillance approaches to be implemented across the 26 malaria epidemic-prone (EPR) counties. Because malaria transmission is declining in Kenya, the guidelines recommended revising the thresholds used to monitor malaria epidemics, which is automated and done using an application in DHIS2. CHISU worked with the Division of Health Informatics University of Nairobi Health-IT (funded by USAID) to revise the thresholds—allowing for better monitoring of outbreaks in EPR counties.

[Learn more about our work in Kenya](#)



Control Program (NMCP) and the Ministry of Health to organize a malaria surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation training. A total of 32 malaria managers were trained. During this time, CHISU also worked with the NMCP to conduct a malaria data desk review and analysis and develop operational plans based on the results achieved.

[Learn more about our work in Madagascar](#)



CHISU is supporting efforts to strengthen **Malawi's** HIS and improve the country's data use. As part of those efforts, CHISU worked with the country's government to upgrade their DHIS2 software and supported the training of key DHIS2 users.

[Read about CHISU's work improving data use efforts in Malawi](#)





**Mali** recently developed its first national Data Quality Assurance (DQA) Plan, which will help improve data quality issues around malaria, and other data. CHISU supported this initiative, which included consultations with various HIS stakeholders. Officials representing multiple institutions—from the National Institute for Public Health to the National Agency for Telehealth and Medical Informatics and the Health Information Systems Program for West and Central Africa—created and discussed the plan at a workshop in October and shared it for validation from critical stakeholders in the country. CHISU also began engaging with stakeholders to improve their One Health related data.

[Read the success story from Mali](#)



Strengthening HIS leadership and governance is a priority for **Namibia's** Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS) Health Information and Research Directorate (HIRD). In October, the HIS technical working group (TWG) met to review the TWG terms of reference (TOR), and to allow the UN and US agencies and partners to present their planned activities to strengthen the HIS. The HIS TWG met again in November to review the TOR. TWG members anticipate that the final version will be ready in January 2024, setting the scene for collaborative support to HIRD.

[Learn more about our work in Namibia](#)





In August 2023, members of the CHISU team met with representatives of **Niger's** Surveillance and Epidemic Response Department, the directorates of Immunization and Statistics, departments of Pharmacy and Traditional Medicine, of Health, and Studies and Programming, and the Ministry of Livestock and the Environment for a preparatory meeting to develop a new plan for the country's HIS. The group will now develop questionnaires for testing the expired plan before developing the new one at the central level in Niamey and four regions. This was part of our support for Niger's Directorate of Surveillance and Response to Epidemics.

[Learn more about our work in Niger](#)



**Serbia** continues to strategically plan the country's journey toward digitization in health care. CHISU supported the organization of two workshops in that direction. The first workshop was held in November, and about 20 representatives from the Prime Minister's office, the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the Ministry of Health, NALED, and the Office for Information Technology and eGovernment joined CHISU, UNDP, and World Health Organization (WHO) experts to discuss the next steps. A follow-up workshop was held in December to draft the country's 2024–2025 healthcare digitization action plan.

[Learn more about our work in Serbia](#)

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Upcoming events

[Annual Prince Mahidol Award Conference](#), January 22–27

Caribbean Regional HIS Learning Exchange, January 31–February 2

[9th Annual DHIS2 Symposium](#), February 22–23

[12th ICT4D Conference](#), March 18–21

Check out some [key conferences in 2024](#)

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## Recent highlights

[Asia eHealth Information Network \(AeHIN\) General Meeting 2023](#): CHISU Technical Director Derek Kunaka joined members of the CHISU Indonesia team at the AeHIN General Meeting in early November. CHISU team members presented their work around strengthening health information systems in Indonesia. Mr. Kunaka spoke during an afternoon plenary session, and the team also participated in the Marketplace to share about our work.

[Africa Health Tech Summit 2023](#): CHISU Director Steve Ollis and Deputy Director Dr. Stephanie Watson-Grant joined representatives from countries supported by our program for the Africa Health Tech Summit in October. Dr. Watson-Grant participated in a session celebrating the launch of the African Women in Digital Health action plan, and Mr. Ollis spoke on a panel titled “Leveraging Data Use for Effective Digital Transformation,” alongside representatives from the MOH of Malawi and Burkina Faso.

[African Women in Digital Health Initiative](#): CHISU partnered with Africa CDC and Speak Up Africa for the African Women in Digital Health (AWiDH) Initiative, which focuses on removing barriers for African women to participate in the digital health space. We took part in a session during the Africa Health Tech Summit to mark the beginning of the AWiDH action plan implementation. Dr. Stephanie Watson-Grant also spoke on a panel about AWiDH during the Global Digital Health Forum.

[American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene \(ASTMH\) 72nd Annual Meeting](#): CHISU team members and partners were present at the ASTMH Annual Meeting in October to present on our work in assessing malaria data quality in DRC and Ghana.



[RBM Partnership to End Malaria Surveillance, Monitoring, and Evaluation Working Group \(SMERG\) Semi-Annual Meeting](#): Did you know that CHISU serves as the Secretariat for the RBM Partnership to End Malaria Surveillance, Monitoring, and Evaluation Working Group? Three CHISU members attended the semiannual working group meeting that was held at the same venue as the ASTMH Annual Meeting, as many stakeholders had already gathered for the conference.

[Health Informatics in Africa \(HELINA\) Conference](#): Namibia Resident Advisor Sarie Podges attended the HELINA conference in November, where she was able to network and gain insights from representatives sharing research and best practices in using digital health in Africa. CHISU partner Dorcus Seidu from the Ghana Health Service presented in collaboration with CHISU about supportive supervision.

[Global Digital Health Forum \(GDHF\)](#): More than 40 people presented on CHISU-related work during the GDHF in early December! CHISU team members presented on panels, gave poster presentations and lightning talks, and more. The presentations included our learnings from HIS SOCI assessments, how our support is helping make digital transformation a reality, and more. You can read more about our presence at this year's GDHF by reading our conference [wrap-up blog post](#).

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**JSI leads CHISU with RTI International, Vital Strategies, Macro-Eyes, Jembi Health Systems, and the Global Evaluation and Monitoring Network for Health (GEMNet-Health).**



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