



2024

HISP SOUTH & EAST AFRICAN HUB

2024

SUMMARY

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HISP

SOUTH & EAST AFRICAN HUB



HISP Ethiopia,



HISP Kenya,



HISP Rwanda



Saudigitus
(HISP Mozambique)



HISP South Africa



HISP Tanzania,



HISP Uganda



HISP Zimbabwe



UNIMA (HISP Malawi)

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Introduction

HISP Hubs: A collaborative response to strengthening Health Information Systems in East and Southern Africa

Health Information System Program (HISP) groups are integral to the global effort to strengthen health data management and decision-making through the implementation of the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2).

DHIS2 is an open-source software platform developed by the HISP Network, widely used for health



DHIS2 is adopted in more than 70 countries

data collection, management, analysis, and reporting across low and middle-income countries. HISP groups play a pivotal role in the customization, deployment, and support of DHIS2 within different countries.

The HISP groups are the primary DHIS2 liaisons with Ministries of Health in the countries where DHIS2 is deployed, and this close and ongoing collaboration has led to the success of DHIS2 adoption in more than 70 countries.

The increasing use of DHIS2 (District Health Information Software 2) in countries, for both disease programs and national Health Management Information Systems (HMIS), necessitated a coordinated approach to technical assistance and capacity building. In response, Regional HISP Hubs were established within the existing HISP network, with the support of DHIS2 investment partners including the Global Fund.

These **HUBS** serve several key purposes:

1

Coordinate Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: They play a central role in coordinating efforts to implement DHIS2 across specific regions, like South & East Africa

3

Facilitate Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration: Regional Hubs foster knowledge exchange and collaboration among in-country HISP Groups, enabling them to learn from shared experiences and address common challenges collaboratively.

2

Leverage Regional Expertise: By drawing on regional strengths, HISP Hubs support in-country HISP Groups, ensuring a unified and comprehensive strategy for strengthening health information systems.

4

Promote Consistency and Sustainability: The hubs encourage alignment among stakeholders and consistency in interventions, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of DHIS2 implementations.

HISP Groups: The Cornerstone of Implementation

HISP Groups form the cornerstone of DHIS2 implementation, providing crucial in-country support directly to Ministries of Health. These local entities operate legally within their respective countries or regions and hold Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the UiO HISP Centre and the HISP Hub. They offer tailored support to health ministries, including DHIS2 customization, training, data quality support, promotion of data use and technical assistance in HIS activities.

A Collaborative Network: Hubs and Groups Working Together
Regional HISP Hubs, acting as secretariat and coordinators, build upon the foundation laid by HISP Groups. **They achieve this by:**

- » Streamlining technical assistance and capacity building efforts.
- » Facilitating knowledge sharing and collaboration among HISP Groups



UiO : HISP Centre
University of Oslo

The Collaboration with the University of Oslo (UiO)

The University of Oslo (UiO), Norway plays a central role in the DHIS2 ecosystem through the HISP Centre. This interdisciplinary center spearheads the core software development of DHIS2, while also engaging in high-level capacity building, action research, and evaluation activities. HISP Groups are considered long-term and trusted collaborators of UiO HISP Centre.

This collaboration is formalized through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between UiO and each HISP Groups. These MOUs establish a foundation of shared principles that guide their work together.

New Regional HISP Hubs:

Expanding the Network

To further strengthen the DHIS2 support network, three regional hubs were established:

» **Asia:**

Led by **HISP India.**

» **South and East Africa:**

Led by **HISP Uganda.**

» **West and Central Africa:**

Led by **HISP West & Central Africa.**



HISP WCA, HISP Asia & HISP SEAF Coordinators in Discussion

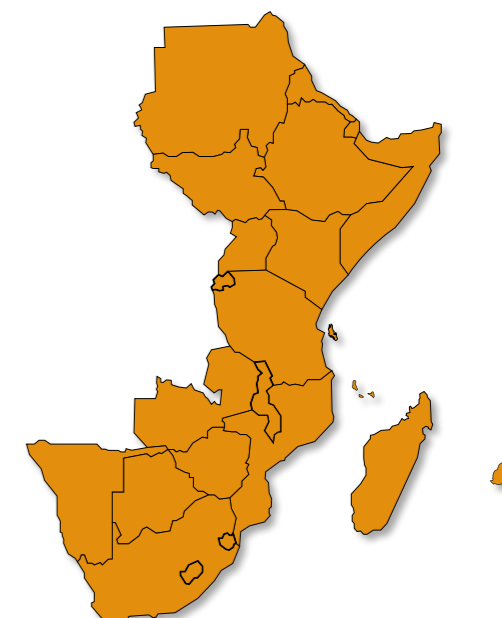
Governed by **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)** and **Terms of Reference (TORs)** for governance structures and agreements, these hubs work closely with **HISP Groups** within their regions to achieve the following objectives:

» **Increase Capacity and Coordination:** Enhance the capacity and coordination of technical assistance within their respective regions.

» **Improved Effectiveness and Reach:** Strengthen the overall effectiveness and reach of the DHIS2 support network.

This structured network ensures the maximized impact of DHIS2 support, particularly because robust health information systems are critical for improved health outcomes.

Coverage: The HISP SEAF region encompasses **28 countries, kingdoms, and island nations**. This includes Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Somaliland, Puntland, Comoros, Reunion, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Eswatini, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa.



Language Multiplicity: The region's linguistic diversity is significant, with five primary official languages including English, French, Portuguese, Amharic, and Arabic,

Local expertise, Global impact: A network of strong in country HISP Groups provide localized expertise. This allows countries to take advantage of the deep understanding that the HISP Groups have of their specific contexts while harnessing the broader knowledge of the global DHIS2 community.



These HISP Groups include:

HISP Ethiopia, HISP Kenya, HISP Rwanda, Saudigitus (HISP Mozambique), HISP South Africa, HISP Tanzania, HISP Uganda, HISP Zimbabwe, and UNIMA (HISP Malawi),

The **Global Fund & DHIS2:**



A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

The Global Fund invests heavily in health programs worldwide. A key partner in maximizing the impact of these investments is DHIS2, a robust health data management platform. HISP Groups, local entities with DHIS2 expertise, play a crucial role in this partnership.

Here's how DHIS2, supported by HISP Groups, strengthens National Health Information Systems (NHMIS) and supports HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria Programs in the Global Fund context:

» Smarter Investments:

HISP Groups ensure efficient use of Global Fund grants by implementing DHIS2 effectively, maximizing the value for grant recipient countries.

» Better Data, Better Decisions:

DHIS2 ensures high-quality, readily available data. This empowers countries to make informed decisions about their health programs.

» Local Knowledge, Global Impact:

HISP Groups provide in-country expertise to tailor DHIS2 to specific needs and build the capacity of local health ministries.

» Measurable Progress:

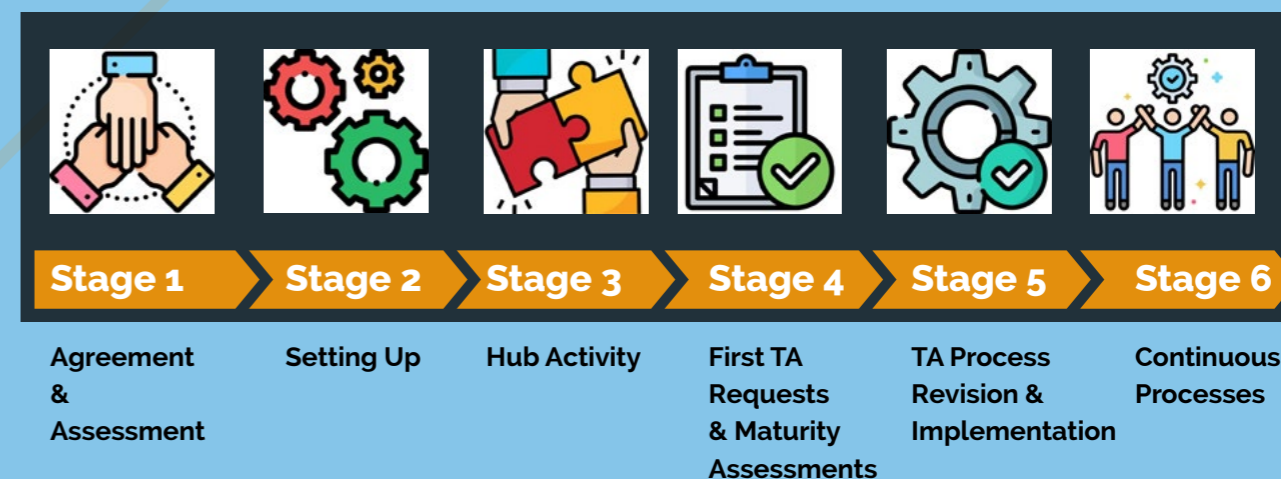
DHIS2 supports achieving Global Fund's KPIs for health information systems, ensuring investments translate to real-world improvements.

DHIS2, empowered by HISP Groups and the Global Fund, is a powerful driver for stronger health information systems and ultimately, better health outcomes around the world.



From Concept to Action Establishing the HISF SEAF Hub

The **HISF SEAF Hub** was established in a series of key stages:



STAGE 1



Agreement & Assessment:

- » Discussions culminated in an agreement to establish the hub.
- » followed by a thorough assessment of HISP Uganda's readiness (LFA Assessment).
- » A plan to address identified risks through mitigating actions incorporated into the draft contract.
- » A formal contract solidified the partnership between the Global Fund (GF) and HISP Uganda.

STAGE 2



Setting Up:

- » Governance documents were established (MOU, Steering Committee & Project Management Team Terms of Reference)
- » Follow up on the plans addressing mitigating actions.
- » Operational setup included sub-contracts with HISP Groups and forming the Steering Committee and Project Management Team with HISP Group members.



Steering Committee for HISP SEAF Hub

STAGE 3



Hub Activity:

- » Initial activities focused on explaining the hub's mechanisms, scope, roles & responsibilities, and reporting procedures.
- » DHIS2 Academy held in Kigali Rwanda with support from the HISP Groups in the region.
- » HISP Groups engaged Ministries of Health to identify Technical Assistance (TA) needs.

STAGE 4



First TA Requests & Maturity Assessments:

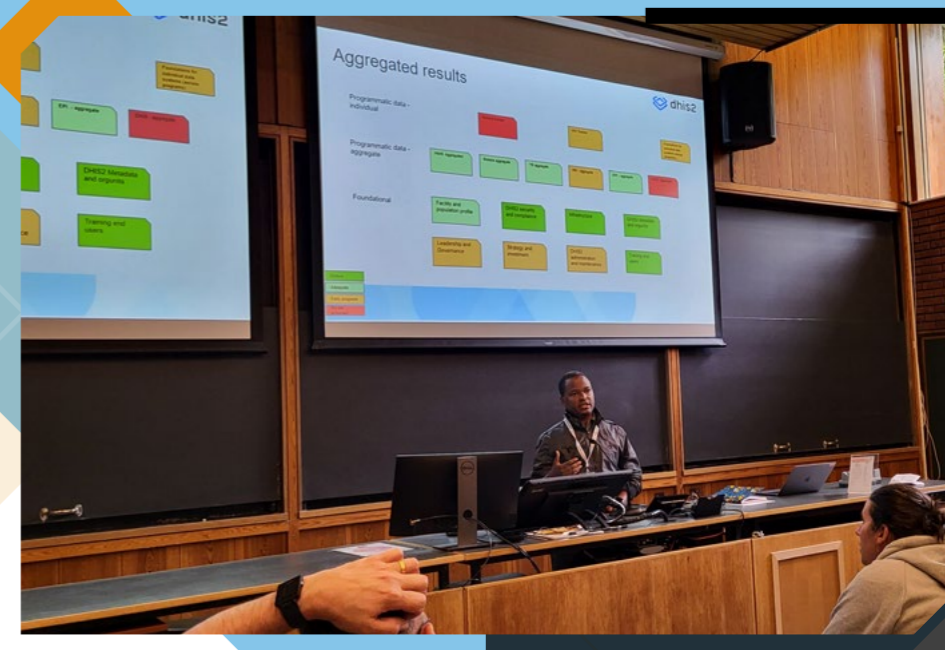
- » The first TA requests arrived from Global Fund PHMEs from Comoros, Sudan, and Eritrea.



HISP Tanzania team with the Ministry of Health Eritrea.



Rwanda team sharing the preliminary results of the DHIS2 Maturity Profile at the DAC23



Key Pillars of the HISP SEAF Hub

These pillars are the foundation for the HISP SEAF Hub's capacity to support countries with unique contexts and requirements.

» Governance

Ensures clear direction, effective decision-making, and accountability for a successful collaboration.



HISP leads from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia & Uganda discussing DHIS2 Implementation strategies for the region

» Documentation

Promotes transparency, knowledge sharing, and the consistent application of best practices.

- » A revised DHIS2 Maturity Profile tool (piloted in Rwanda) was introduced and translated into Portuguese.
- » Collaborating with MOHs, DHIS2 Maturity Assessments were conducted in 21 countries.
- » HISP Groups provided TA recommendations and prioritized regional TAs, drafting budgets and Scopes of Work for MOH meetings.

STAGE 5



TA Process Revision & Implementation:

- » Initial TA processes were streamlined based on feedback from HISP Groups & MOH,
- » TA approved based on DHIS2 Maturity Assessment recommendations, focusing on foundational aspects.
- » The bulk of the TA was implemented from July to December 2023.

STAGE 6



Continuous Processes:

- » Regular program and financial reporting,
- » Coordination among HISP Groups, MOHs, and the GF, ensure alignment with objectives and efficiency.
- » Budget reviews and process updates were conducted regularly.



The Global Fund team, with MOH Uganda & Mukono District Biostatistician reviewing data sources

» Accountability

Fosters a culture of responsibility and trust by delivering on commitments to HISP Groups and stakeholders.



Tanzania review session with the Ministry of Health

» Coordination:

Harmonizes efforts, optimizes resources, and maximizes the impact of initiatives undertaken by the Hub.



HISP Tanzania sharing their updates to the Steering Committee

» Adaptability and Agility

Enable the HISP Hub to respond effectively to the evolving needs of Ministries of Health (MOHs), stakeholders, and HISP Groups.



Facilitator from HISP Ethiopia supporting DHIS2 Academy in Uganda

» Quality Assurance:

Maintains high standards through continuous improvement processes, evaluation, and the implementation of control measures to ensure sustainable results.

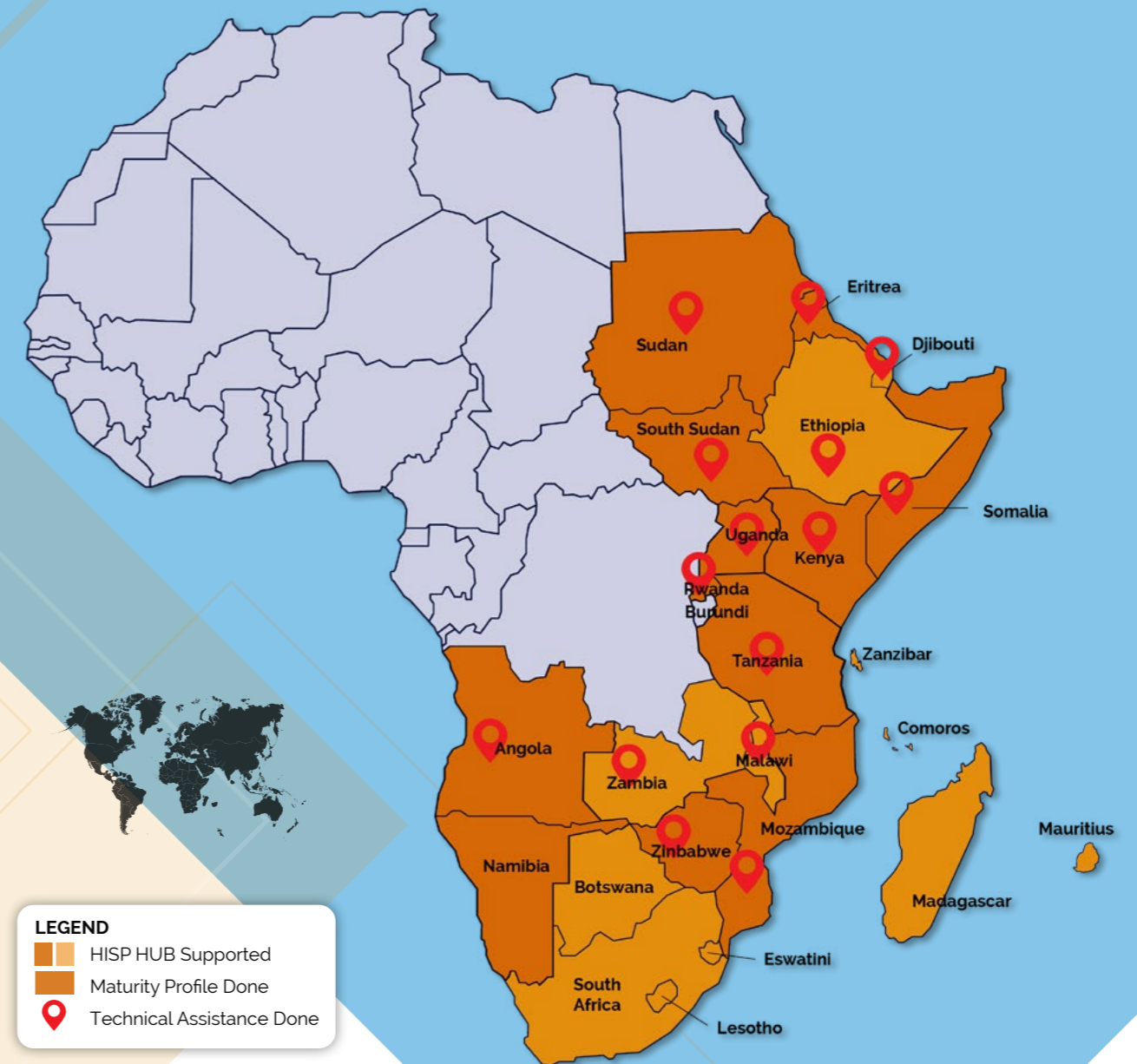


» Standardization:

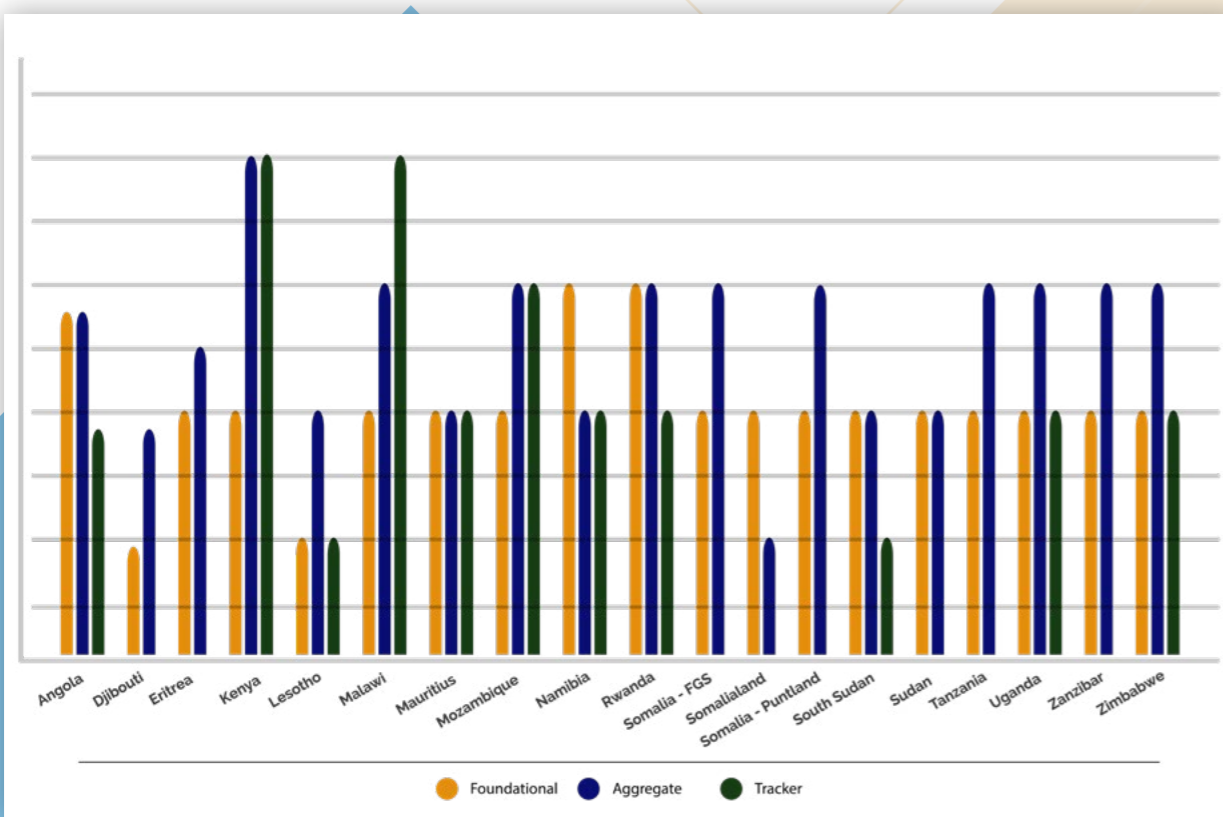
Promote the standard of work provided by HISP Groups in DHIS2 Implementation across the countries we support.

DHIS2 Maturity Profile for the Region

MAP:
Showing the region, DHIS2 Maturity Profiles & TA done



dhis2 Maturity Profiles Summary by Country



Graph showing the results of the DHIS2 Maturity profiles that guided the TA support

TA DELIVERED

The HISP SEAF Hub provided a range of **Technical Assistance (TA)** to address diverse needs:

1. Foundational TAs:

- » Establishing core elements for DHIS2 implementation (data model design, system setup).
- » Upgrading DHIS2 to newer versions.
- » Server maintenance and upgrades.
- » Metadata cleaning for data consistency.
- » Strengthening DHIS2 security.
- » Capacity building for MOH staff.



Zimbabwe, National Malaria Program Metadata Assessment Activity

2. Governance Support:

- » Developing DHIS2 governance documents (policies, procedures).
- » Facilitating stakeholder collaboration through advocacy meetings and Technical Working Groups



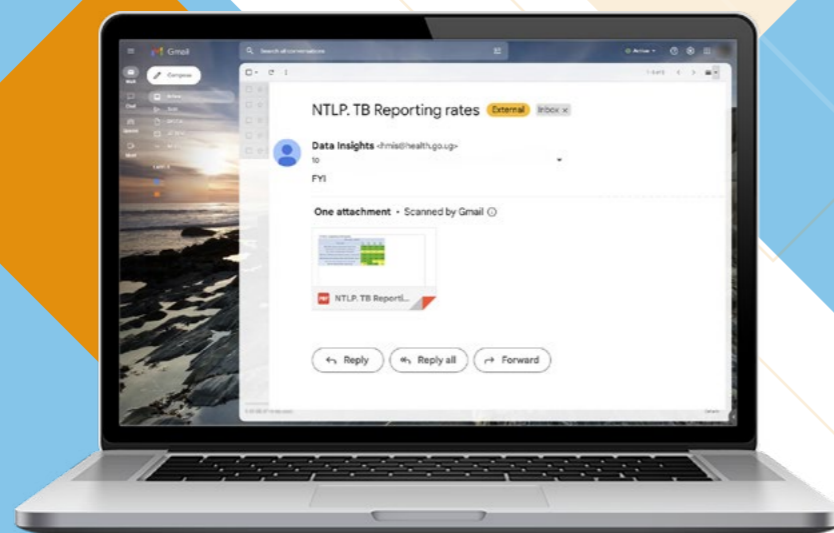
Stakeholders meeting to form a HMIS TWG in Djibouti

3. Future-Oriented TAs:

» Addressing emerging needs like push analysis, public dashboards, and data quality assurance.



Push Analysis for Uganda



4. Pilot Projects:

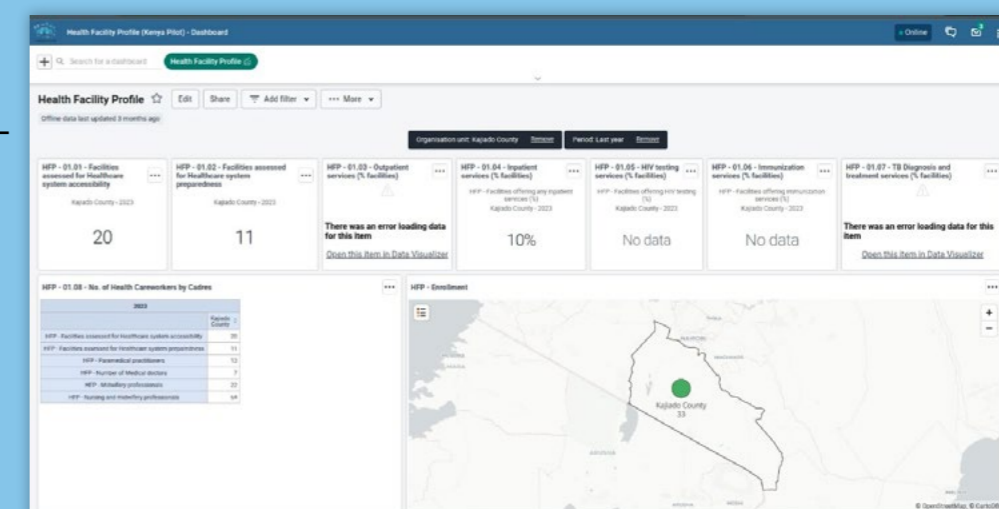
» Testing innovative uses of DHIS2 (Health Facility Assessment tool HFA, Aggregate Data Exchange ADEx, Data Quality assessments).



Malawi team Configuring the HFA Tool



Test stage of HFS tool for Kenya Dashboard



BUILDING CAPACITY: HISP SEAF Hub Initiatives

DHIS2 Academies: Six regional academies (Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Cape Verde) covered fundamentals and advanced DHIS2 implementation, reaching professionals across the SEAF region.



Saudigitus team at the Portuguese language Academy in Cape Verde

Capacity Building Activities: Five targeted events in Uganda, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania (with benefits to Mozambique & South Africa) further strengthened skills.



Knowledge sharing sessions with HISP Rwanda & HISP Uganda.

Technical Academy (Kigali): Focused on server administration and integration, providing HISP staff with practical knowledge sharing and networking opportunities.

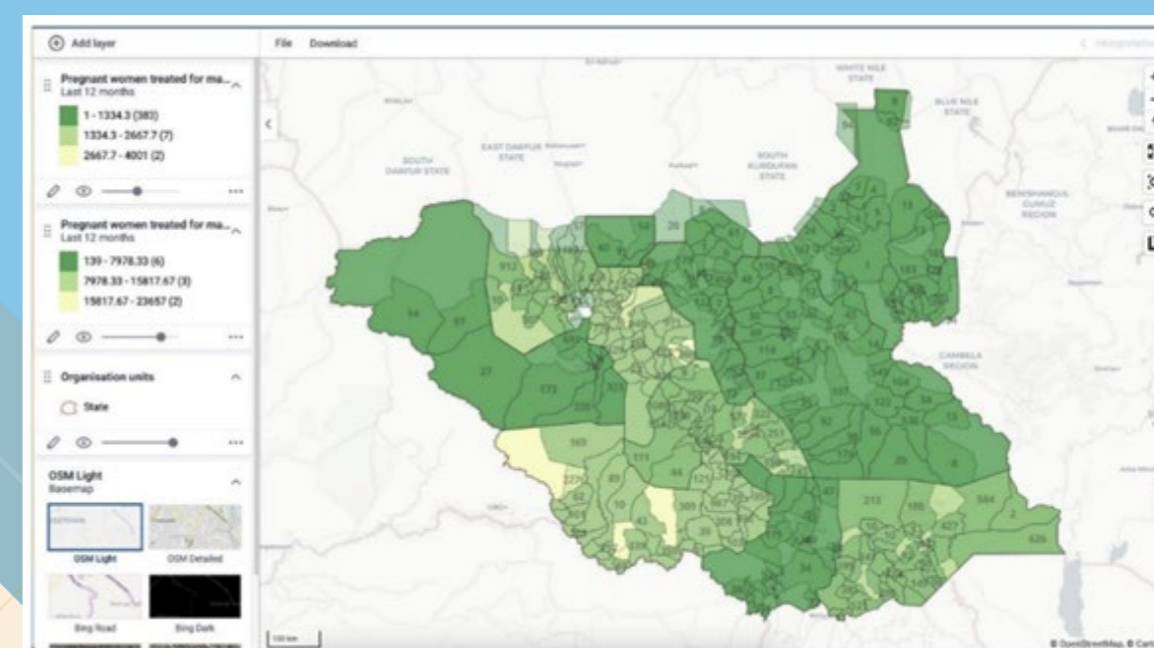


MOH Technical staff & Developers from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, & UiO in Rwanda.

7 LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE HISP SEAF Hub experience

The HISP SEAF Hub experience yielded valuable insights for strengthening health information systems across countries.

» **Addressing unique needs:** Customization is essential to address each country's specific challenges. Leveraging local expertise from the HISP Groups ensures sustainable solutions.



South Sudan updated shape files up to Payam level

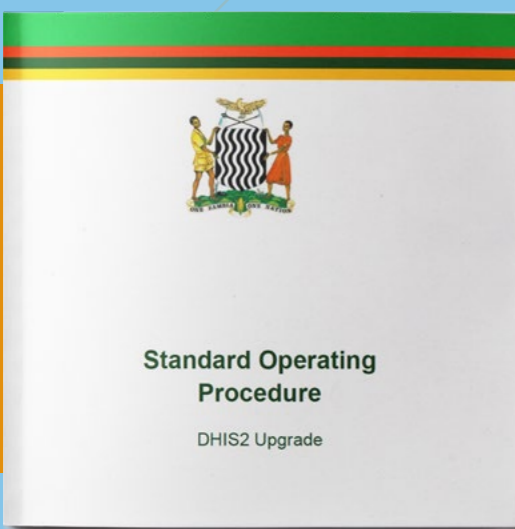
» **Strong partnerships:** Building strong relationships with Ministries of Health and stakeholders is essential. HISP's commitment to "lifetime support" and active engagement fosters sustained impact.



Ministry of Health & HISP Teams from Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda & Uganda



» **Foundational Focus:** A solid foundation is vital for robust health information systems. Investment in capacity building, Governance, Infrastructure aspects of the HMIS empowers stakeholders to effectively utilize data and maximize system effectiveness.



Ministry of Health Zambia worked closely with HISP South Africa to develop governance documents as seen in these SOPs

» **Invest in people:** Well-trained and supported technical Ministry of Health, Programs & HISP staff are critical for successful implementation and long-term sustainability.



DHIS2 Academy team from Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, & Uganda

» **Adaptability is key:** Flexibility allows the HISP Groups to respond to unforeseen challenges and changing circumstances, as demonstrated in Sudan.

» **Comprehensive planning:** Overlooking critical aspects like national training plans can hinder success. Comprehensive planning ensures all essential components are considered.

» **Balancing expertise with support:** The Hub leverages expertise from multiple HISP Groups in the region, while acknowledging the challenges of in-country support across diverse contexts.



Facilitator from HISP Tanzania

Acknowledgements

HISP Center - University of Oslo, HISP Ethiopia, HISP Kenya, HISP Malawi, University of Malawi, HISP Rwanda, HISP South Africa, HISP Tanzania, HISP Uganda, HISP Zimbabwe



UiO : **HISP Centre**
University of Oslo



Thank You!



*Regional HISP Team and
UiO HISP Center*

