DATA ANALYTICS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

PATH

The Gates Foundation-funded Malaria Control and Elimination Partnership in Africa (MACEPA) project launched a data analytics fellowship program in 2024 with the goal of embedding fellows directly into National Malaria Programs (NMPs) to cultivate real-time collaboration and enhance data and analytics capacity to strengthen in-country decision-making.

The program is centered on a robust <u>technical training curriculum</u> focused on developing the analytical techniques, critical soft skills, and knowledge of malaria epidemiology needed to provide significant support to NMPs. The training modules are developed by MACEPA's modelling and analytics team to share key information and practices most relevant to the fellows' future work. This team of PATH experts also provide hands-on mentorship to each cohort of fellows over the two-year fellowship period, guiding them as they work on practical problems and build skills which can directly and immediately add value to the NMPs in their respective countries.

The fellowship program is expanding Africa-based data and analytics capacity for using routine data to inform decision-making on critical analyses such as sub-national tailoring and intervention targeting. Following the success of their fellowships, we envision that fellows will be able to provide essential data and analytics support through continued roles with NMPs, consultancies within the region, or with other in-country technical organizations–this way, data-driven support in alignment with country priorities can be led by in-country teams.

The program currently operates in Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of The Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Zambia.

Cohort-1 First Year Achievements

Enku Demssie
Enku carried out a comparative analysis of the malaria trends in Ethiopia after the rollout of a non-HRP2 RDT, and she set up a data cleaning process to inform sub-national tailoring of interventions. Her work is informing key decisions around strengthening diagnostic accuracy, regional surveillance, and data quality.

Serge Zola
Serge led the engagement with NMP in DRC for the finalization of the terms of reference and the eventual inauguration of the sub-national tailoring technical working group. He is also leading retrospective evaluations of DRC routine malaria data to better understand trends, identify risks, and highlight data quality issues.

Sarja Jarjusey
Sarja developed the first edition of the quarterly malaria epidemiological bulletin for The Gambia, giving a deeper perspective into the malaria trends and will aid the monitoring of program performance. He is also leading the engagement with NMP on the use of Magic Glasses to improve data reporting and evaluation systems.

Benson Mwelwa
In Zambia, Benson co-led a national analytics training and developed a facility-level stratification map to guide targeted interventions. His work is helping ensure malaria program decisions are data-driven while building sustainable capacity within the program.