

Program Update Report

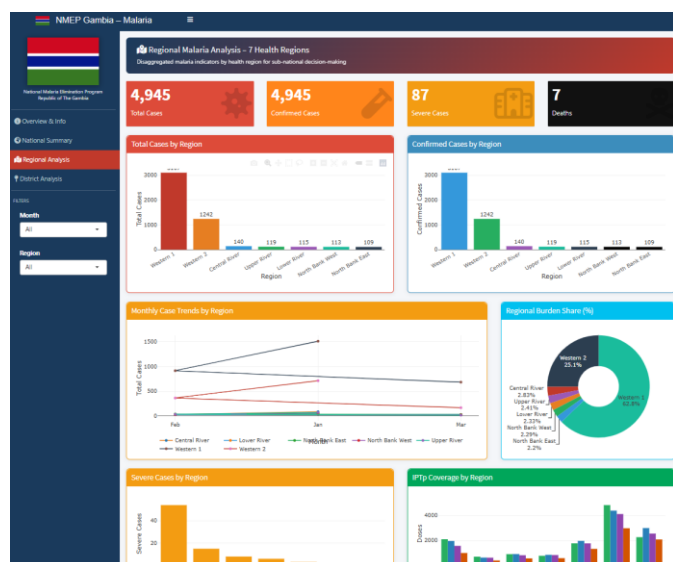
January – June 2026

The Data Analytics Fellowship Program under Malaria Control and Elimination Partnership in Africa (MACEPA) achieved significant milestones during the first half of 2026. Across six MACEPA-supported countries, data fellows collaborated with their respective National Malaria Programs (NMPs) to develop critical data products that strengthened evidence-based decision-making, advanced Subnational Tailoring (SNT) activities and built sustainable local capacity.

Malaria Bulletins

A key responsibility of the data fellows is the development of dashboards and situational reports to analyze routine surveillance data, intervention implementation data, and commodity data, all of which support evidence-based decision-making.

In the Gambia, **Sarja Jarjusey** has developed a quarterly malaria bulletin for key epidemiological and programmatic endpoints that is being shared through a reproducible dashboard created in R.



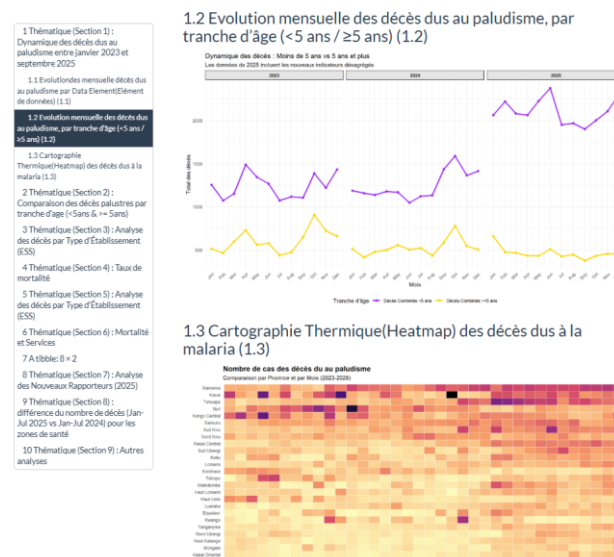
Screenshot of NMEP Bulletin in The Gambia by Sarja Jarjusey

In Ethiopia, **Dr. Enku Demssie** continued the production of monthly malaria epidemiological bulletins for the National Malaria Elimination Program (NMEP) using the dedicated update system she developed. She has also published a comprehensive [workflow, sustainability, and handover guide](#) to ensure continuity of bulletin production

and to enable future analysts to independently generate subsequent editions through a standardized and reproducible process. Notably, the mentee assigned to her by the NMEP led the production of the most recent bulletin for May 2026.

Data Visualizations

The data fellows have contributed numerous ad-hoc data visualizations to enhance project reports and improve understanding of key data signals. These include the HMIS-driven NMEP dashboard in Ethiopia; an extensive web-hosted platform for identifying data errors and trends in malaria mortality by **Serge Zola** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); a dashboard to monitor malaria case-based surveillance in the Gambia; two dashboards created by **Edikan Mikop** for real time monitoring and decision making with the RHCC project in Nigeria; and thematic geospatial maps by **Saint-Omer Acko** to support GC8 funding applications in the Central African Republic.



Screenshot of DRC Malaria Mortality Analysis by Serge Zola

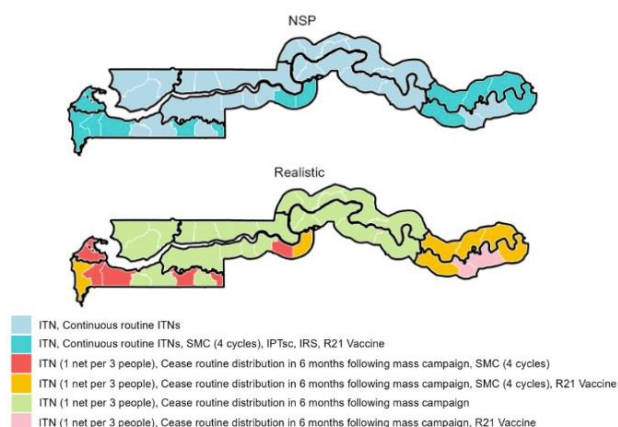
Program Planning Support

The data fellows have also been providing support to a variety of programmatic planning processes, ensuring that data and analytics function as a core component of NMP long term strategic vision.

In DRC, data fellow **Remy Ngoy** provided key support to the NMCP-led workshop to finalize the National Malaria Strategic Plan for 2026-2030, as well as completing the first phase of capacity building for NMCP staff on use of the MACEPA-developed COOP budgeting tool. Similar support was provided in Ethiopia to strengthen the surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation components of Ethiopia's National Malaria Strategic Plan.

SNT Stratification and Modeling

A key process for NMPs is the subnational stratification of malaria risk in their respective countries, leading to more accurate tailoring of intervention plans and resource distribution. Our fellows have played a central role in this work across every MACEPA country, carrying SNT forward in local languages, in local time zones, and in meetings and workshops with remote global team support.



Screenshot of intervention targeting from SNT workshop in The Gambia

In the Gambia, **Sarja Jarjusey** facilitated the establishment of the country's first SNT Technical Working Group (SNT TWG), which he continues to run. He also led the data cleaning and harmonization work underpinning multiple intervention scenarios. In the DRC, **Serge Zola** established the national SNT TWG, supporting NMCP with data collection and assembly, and working with partners to translate prioritization analyses into intervention packages aligned with the NMSP and SNT-COOP process. In Zambia, **Benson Mwelwa** led data collation, compilation, and validation for the country's prioritization and stratification analyses, and presented the results directly to technical stakeholders to build consensus on intervention targeting.

Fellows in the remaining countries have kept SNT processes running and, in some cases, institutionalized them further. In Ethiopia, **Dr. Enku Demssie** has supported the transition of SNT TWG coordination to NMEP's SMEOR unit and presented SNT stratification work at the national NSP revision workshop. In CAR, **Saint-Omer Acko** has coordinated the logistics behind subnational stratification meetings — scheduling, onboarding new participants, and producing meeting documentation.

Capstone Projects

As a requirement of the data fellowship program, each data fellow will complete a capstone project to synthesize the skills they have acquired and create a sustainable data analysis product for the NMP in their country. The first cohort of data fellows are nearing the completion of their fellowship period and are delivering draft elements of their capstone projects for NMP edits and approvals.

In Ethiopia, this has taken the form of a dashboard to monitor data quality and consistency in DHIS2, informed heavily by detailed system research and targeted to users within the Ethiopian NMP. In the Gambia and DRC, interactive R Shiny dashboards have been developed to monitor key program reporting indicators. And in Zambia, **Benson Mwelwa** conducted a comprehensive analysis to identify malaria-reporting health facilities with missing or inaccurate geographic coordinates. He collaborated with Provincial Health Offices to collect updated and accurate GPS coordinates and updated these in DHIS2, improving the quality of geospatial data for malaria surveillance, planning, and reporting.

Ongoing Developments

The Data Analytics Fellowship Program is excited to introduce its third cohort of data fellows. **Remy Ngoy** will support MACEPA data and analysis projects in DRC, while **Pelumi Olukeye** and **Tobi Olatunbosun** will both contribute to similar efforts in Nigeria.