MACEPA DATA ANALYTICS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Program Update Report

Q3 2026 | July – September

During the third quarter of 2026, the Data Analytics Fellows under the Malaria Control and Elimination Partnership in Africa (MACEPA) made significant contributions to their respective national malaria programs (NMPs) in malaria surveillance, strategic planning, and program evaluation. Across six MACEPA-supported countries, fellows produced practical tools, analytical products, dashboards, and capacity-strengthening initiatives that supported NMPs in making more informed, data-driven decisions for malaria control and elimination.

Data Analysis Training

Several data fellows conducted training needs assessments during the quarter to guide the design and implementation of future data analytics capacity-strengthening initiatives within national malaria programs.

Remy Ngoy, the data fellow in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), developed and administered a Training Needs Assessment survey and subsequently compiled a results report based on responses from 15 NMEP staff and partners. The findings helped identify priority competency gaps and informed the content and implementation plan for a scheduled R-training workshop in Q4 of 2026.

In The Gambia, **Sarja Jarjusey** designed and implemented a Training Needs Assessment involving 23 NMCP staff and partners at both central and regional levels, including data managers, epidemiologists, and IT officers. The assessment identified key capacity gaps and priority learning areas, providing a strong evidence base for the development of another upcoming R-training workshop, scheduled for Q4 of 2026.

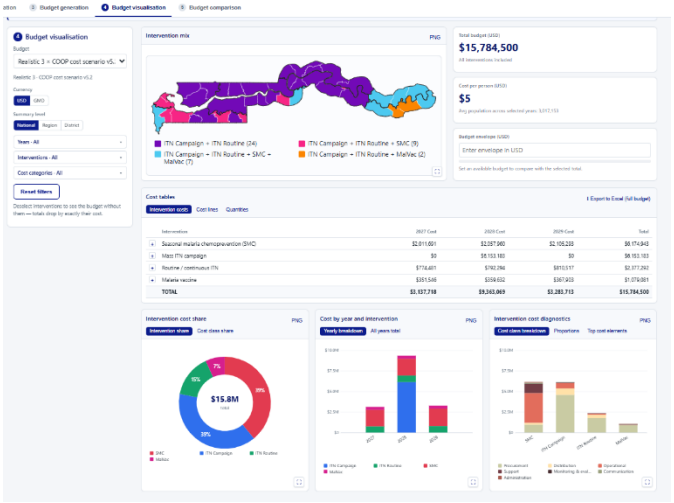
Similarly, in the Central African Republic (CAR), **Saint-Omer Acko** developed and deployed a needs assessment questionnaire to inform the design of a data analysis capacity-building program for NMEP staff, Ministry of Health personnel, and partner organizations. The assessment generated valuable insights into existing analytical capacities and training needs, helping to ensure that future learning interventions are aligned with program priorities and workforce requirements.

SNT and Resource Planning

Fellows contributed to strengthening evidence-based planning, prioritization, and resource mobilization efforts across malaria programs during the quarter.

Benson Mwelwa supported the preparation and coordination of the Sub-National Tailoring (SNT) Workshop held from July 21 to 23, 2026, in Zambia. The workshop strengthened the capacity of provincial and district health teams to understand and apply SNT methodologies, interpret malaria risk classifications, and use stratification findings to inform the targeting of malaria interventions in the country.

In The Gambia, **Sarja Jarjusey**, with support from his mentor, developed a “COOP Budgeting Tool” for the NMCP. The tool supports the development of cost-optimized plan budgets for donor engagement and enables the creation of multiple resource mobilization scenarios, thereby strengthening financial planning and decision-making.



Screenshot of budget visualization from the Gambia COOP Tool.

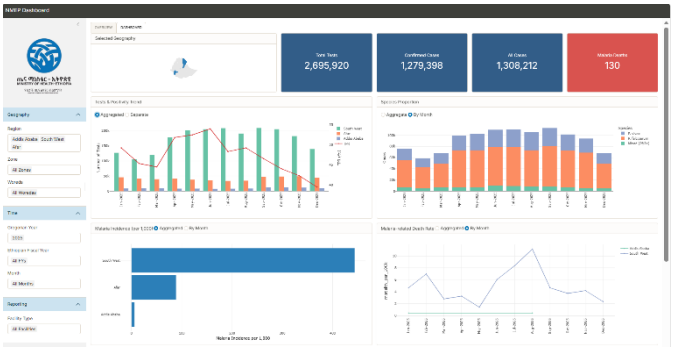
The data fellows in Nigeria, **Oluwatobi Olatunbosun** and **Oluwapelumi Olukeye**, supported budget visualization training for NMEP staff. They subsequently facilitated ongoing office-hour sessions to reinforce learning and provide hands-on support.

Capstone Projects Progress

As a core requirement of the Data Fellowship Program, each fellow undertakes a capstone project designed to

synthesize the technical skills acquired during the fellowship while delivering a sustainable data analytics product that addresses a priority need of the NMP in their respective countries.

In Ethiopia, **Dr. Enku Demssie** finalized reports for her two respective capstone project outputs: "*Comparative Analysis of HMIS Malaria Service and Disease Reports in Ethiopia"* and "*An HMIS-Driven National Malaria Elimination Program Dashboard."* Both reports were submitted for internal review, enabling peer and mentor feedback to strengthen the analyses, interpretations, and final deliverables. Preparations are ongoing for the formal handover of the projects and associated outputs to the NMEP, supporting their long-term use.



Screenshot of Ethiopia's HMIS-driven NMEP dashboard.

Sarja Jarjusey, in The Gambia, completed the first phase of his two-phase capstone project, *"Evaluating the Timeliness and Completeness of Malaria Case-Based Surveillance in The Gambia."* As part of this work, he developed and published a dashboard for monitoring malaria case-based surveillance, improving the visibility of surveillance performance indicators and supporting data-driven decision-making by the NMCP and its partners.

In Zambia, **Benson Mwelwa** made substantial progress on his two capstone project outputs: "*Strengthening Malaria Program Data Use Through Harmonized Health Facility Geolocation*" and "*Routine Malaria Bulletin Development in Zambia."* He completed the geolocation component of the project, conducted data quality assessments of health facility coordinates, and provided validation feedback to health facilities to improve data accuracy. In addition, he created detailed project documentation and developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) to support the sustainability and institutionalization of the project outputs by the NMP.

Knowledge Management and Sustainability

A Quarto-based platform to showcase MACEPA Data Analytics Fellowship outputs in Ethiopia was developed by **Dr. Enku Demssie**. The platform serves as a centralized repository for fellowship products, including interactive NMEP dashboards, monthly malaria bulletins, operational research outputs, and capstone project reports. By consolidating these resources in a single location, the platform has improved the visibility, accessibility, and long-term sustainability of fellowship-generated knowledge products, while promoting institutional learning and continued use of evidence for malaria program planning and data-based decision-making.

Program Evaluation

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), **Remy Ngoy** conducted an analysis of malaria mortality data from 51 health zones and 49 health facilities to identify factors contributing to variations in the reporting of malaria-related deaths within the DHIS2 platform. The analysis highlighted areas for improvement in mortality reporting practices and data quality management. Findings from the study are expected to inform corrective actions aimed at strengthening the completeness, accuracy, and reliability of malaria mortality reporting and supporting ongoing efforts to enhance routine health information systems.

Dr. Enku Demssie completed an evaluation of the impact of the "Targeted Cluster Initiative (TCI)" on key malaria indicators in Ethiopia. The assessment examined changes in malaria outcomes associated with the implementation of the initiative. The findings provide valuable insights for program managers and stakeholders seeking to optimize intervention strategies and improve malaria control outcomes.

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