

## FINAL EVALUATION



# EVALUATION OVERVIEW

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIC MONITORING OF MALARIA, TUBERCULOSIS AND HIV AND AIDS INTERVENTIONS IN WEST AFRICA

Evaluators: Roy WAKIM, Faustin DJAGBA - TeAM  
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### Key project data

- **Country:** Burkina Faso, Niger and Guinea
- **Budget:** €1,492,600.47
- **Lead organization:** Réseau Accès aux Médicaments Essentiels (RAME)
- **Start date:** 02/07/2018  
**End date:** 31/03/2022
- **Partners:** Nigerien network of people living with HIV and AIDS (RENIP+), Coalition des Femmes Leaders de Guinée (COFEL)

### Background

In Burkina Faso, Niger and Guinea, many challenges exist at all levels of the health care structure. These issues are even more critical when it comes to the response to the three pandemics (HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria) financed by the Global Fund. The first phase of the citizen observatory on access to health services (known as OCASS) implemented in Burkina Faso, Niger and Guinea between 2014 and 2017, which was supported by L'Initiative, showed that the citizen monitoring model provided strategic information to improve the quality of services for malaria, HIV and tuberculosis care and of the overall provision of care in health centers.

### Project leads and implementation approach

It was against this backdrop that in April 2018 RAME launched the second phase of the project entitled "Strengthening community-based strategic monitoring of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV and AIDS interventions in West Africa using new information and communication technologies" (OCASS II). The OCASS II model works with two donors, a sub-regional organization, local organizations (COFEL, and RENIP+) and community-based organizations.

### Project objectives

#### Overall objective

The primary objective of the project was to improve general population access, women and children in particular, to quality care through the strengthening community observatories in Burkina Faso, Niger and Guinea.



#### Specific objective 1

Strengthening the effectiveness and coverage of community healthcare access observatories in Burkina Faso, Niger and Guinea in the project's target health facilities.

#### Specific objective 2

Improving the quality of health services in general, and those relating to maternal and child health in particular, in the project's target health facilities.

## Evaluation results



### Relevance

Establishing community observatories is without doubt a contextually relevant model in the three target countries, wherein insecurity and political instability are commonplace, particularly as epidemiological indicators show that interventions are needed to curb the spread of the three priority diseases targeted by the project. The approach aligns with international and national strategies, and also complements the national programs for the three target diseases.

### Effectiveness

The project's effectiveness varies between the specific objectives. A digital mechanism was introduced in all three countries, but operationalization was delayed in Niger and Guinea and some pitfalls and difficulties related to data collections remained throughout the project. The majority of capacity strengthening activities with organizations and communities in terms of monitoring access to care and project management were carried out. The project has also made it possible to take some specific actions to resolve issues that were not working well that were observed. However, the project's ability to effectively influence decision-making remained weak. In terms of promoting human and gender rights in the provision of care, the level of achievement was relatively high. The community certification scheme for health centers was implemented late in the project. However, coverage of these activities and use of data generated remained relatively low.

### Efficiency

Overall, project efficiency was considered average. There was reduced efficiency due to poor management of financial resources by the project lead and due to the OCASS II operating model (two donors, one sub-regional organization (RAME), local organizations (COFEL, RENIP+) and community-based organizations), which is quite cumbersome and requires planning, technical and financial monitoring mechanisms that are aligned.

### Impact

The evaluation drew out some interesting project outcome/impact areas relating to CSOs (capacity strengthening), users (resolving various issues that were not working with health facilities, awareness of rights and responsibilities in terms of access to care, etc.), health centers (quality improvement) and ministries of health (using results from OCASS).

The system also generated data to inform Health Systems Strengthening indicators for Global Fund (GF) grants and through advocacy with ministries of health enabled countries to meet their commitments to the GF more effectively.

### Sustainability

The project demonstrated definite advantages in terms of sustainability: operationally (e.g. engagement of data collectors), financially (e.g. integrating observatories into GF grants in Niger, Guinea and Burkina Faso, receiving technical or financial support from other stakeholders, such as MSF in Guinea and the Ministry of Health in Burkina Faso.), institutionally (e.g. establishing a national platform on health democracy and citizen involvement -DES ICI) and politically (e.g. recognition and ownership of the system by key stakeholders).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The project is certainly relevant to the epidemiological context of the three countries and aligns with new GF policies as well as the health agendas of the various ministries of health. In addition, civil society actors considered that the mechanism contributed to existing activities and interventions, in a single well-organized structure. However, the impact of these observatories has fallen short of expectations after eight years of investment due to problems with project management and the limited capacity of the various organizations.

### In terms of recommendations,

- RAME, RENIP+ and COFEL would benefit from replicating good practices, strengthening the capacity of their teams and ensuring they always have a range of diverse donors to strengthen sustainability of the system.
- Ministries of health are encouraged to acknowledge and further integrate monitoring of reported data in all programmatic documents and are called upon to take action to strengthen existing mechanisms.
- Greater flexibility in the GF funding processes is needed to enable stakeholders to apply innovative practices that help to develop observatories.
- L'Initiative is encouraged to rethink financing of observatories, particularly as the type funding it provides is well suited to the way observatories work, compared to other donors. However, future funding needs to integrate considerations related to sustainability and "institutionalizing" observatories without losing their independence.



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