

Question 2: What are effective and sustainable mechanisms or processes to integrate local, community, sub-national, national, and regional voices, priorities, and contributions into health system strengthening efforts?



Enabling decision making using multisectoral data for the One Health approach in Burkina Faso

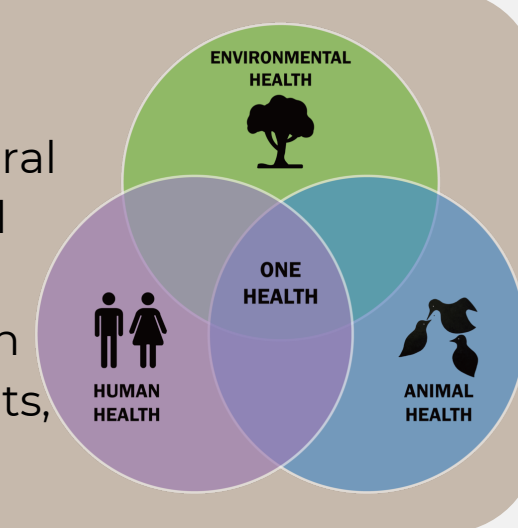
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Context

After outbreaks of Ebola and other infectious diseases that have affected West Africa, Burkina Faso needed an information system to help them create a comprehensive and effective response to key human and zoonotic health threats. To address this need, USAID supported the development of a One Health information system for the country and continues its support through the Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) program.

What is One Health?

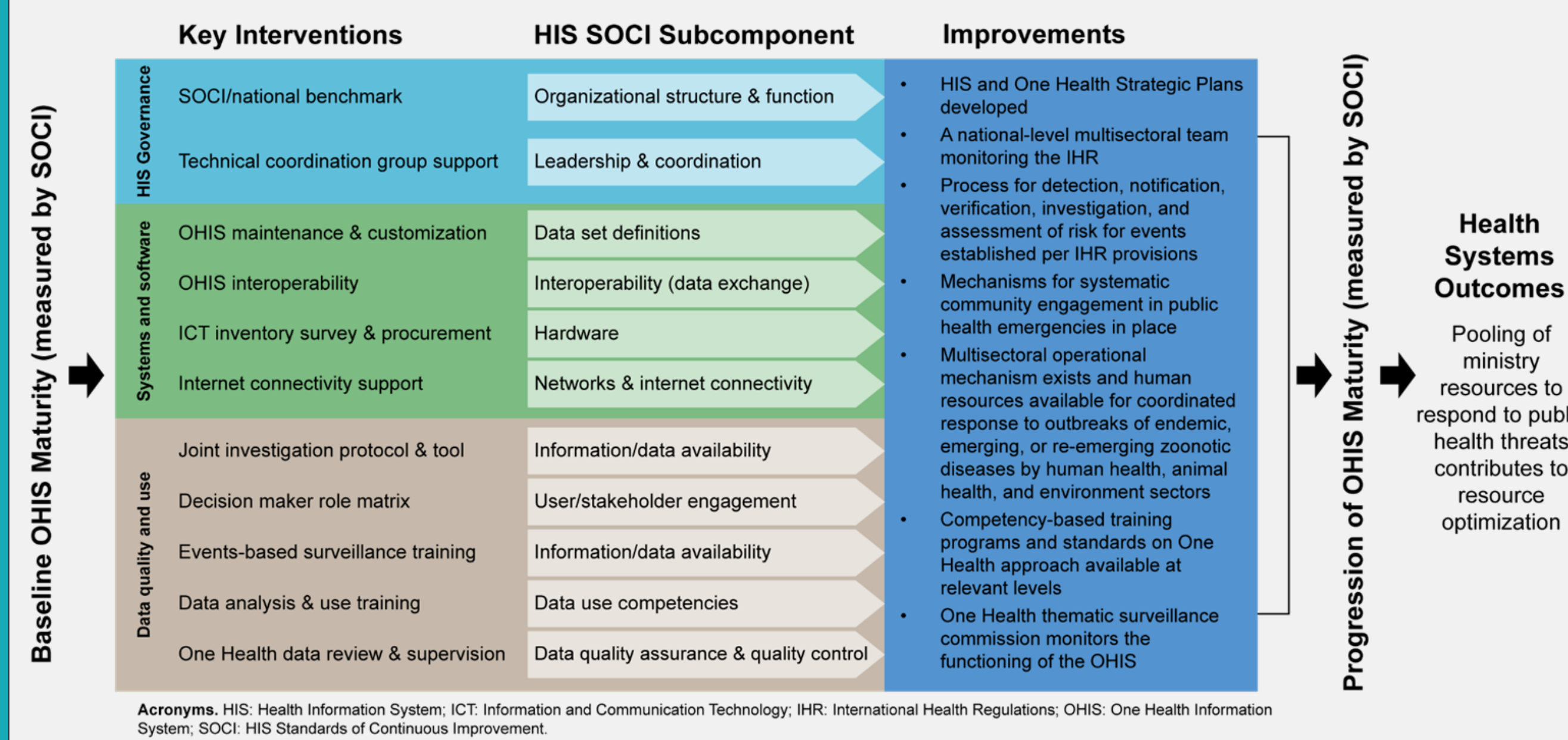
A collaborative and multisectoral approach to achieving optimal health outcomes which recognizes the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.



Who is involved in One Health activities?

People at all levels of society, including community agents, traditional and religious leaders, three One Health government ministries—Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, and Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change—and other contributing ministries (including the Prime Minister's office and Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation) and agencies.

Activity Impact



Facilitators



Presidential decree establishing the ES-One Health, mandating which ministries would work together on it, and naming seven thematic technical commissions.



Coordination of key partners. The ES-OH coordinates all technical and financial partners as well as the many directorates involved in One Health.



Capacity strengthening of stakeholders at all levels. Training-of-trainer sessions empowered stakeholders to share information more widely.

Activity Description

CHISU supports Burkina Faso's One Health initiative in the following areas:



HIS Governance

- Support to the One Health Executive Secretariat (ES-OH) to finalize regulations, reinforce thematic technical commissions, and coordinate International Health Regulations Joint External Evaluations.
- Development of joint investigation protocol which outlines the standards for multisectoral visits by the three One Health ministries to the site of the public health event to determine the causes and mitigation measures.
- Support for conducting joint investigations since 2021, including: one into the deaths of fish and cattle in Mohoun in 2021; two into poultry deaths in Boucle de Mouhoun region in 2022; one into the deaths of two people from rabies in Sabou in 2022; and one into massive fish mortalities in the Mouhoun River in 2023.



Systems and Software

- Support administration and maintenance of the One Health information system (OHIS), including expansions in functionality e.g. adding COVID-19 reporting in 2020.
- Customization of joint investigation forms in the OHIS enables harmonized reporting on zoonosis investigations for all three One Health ministries.
- Support for interoperability between One Health applications, e.g., getting the OHIS and RapidPro community data management system to capture priority zoonoses and to exchange data.
- Providing tablets and internet connectivity for stakeholders to access and use OHIS.
- Customization of decision support to provide targeted alerts for public health events for decision makers based on their role.



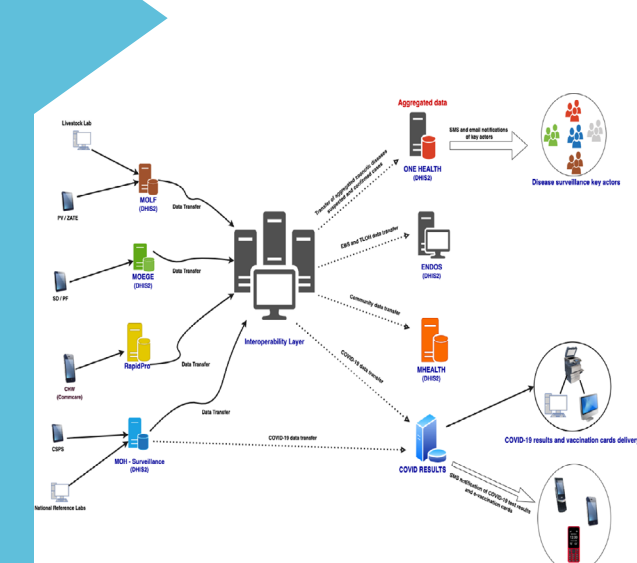
Data Quality and Use

- Development of image boxes for community agents' use to aid them in describing and identifying signs and symptoms of priority human and zoonotic diseases to prevent them from spreading.
- Training and supervision on disease surveillance according to the One Health approach at the regional, district, and point of delivery/community levels across all relevant ministries.
- Training on data use for decision makers at regional and central levels, including how to use the OHIS and how to interpret data on zoonoses and public health events in the OHIS.

Evidence

More interconnected systems

CHISU's systems approach enabled data exchange between applications through an interoperability layer. This allowed rapid adaptation for the COVID-19 response, incorporation of community data through RapidPro, and quicker and more efficient access to data for stakeholders.



Greater capacity at all health system levels

Community level: community-based health workers, volunteer village extension workers in animal and fishery resources, and eco-guards/trackers raise awareness about unusual health events and contribute to the notification of these events. District, regional, and provincial levels: training of trainers for additional community-level training and supervision. Central level: ES-One Health and decision makers from relevant ministries use the



Increased public awareness of health threats

After the joint investigation into the deaths of two people from rabies, CHISU supported the launch of a preventive vaccination and awareness campaign in Sabou. Following the investigation into the fish mortalities in the Mouhoun River, traditional and religious leaders raised awareness in their communities about the risks of handling and eating dead fish—and press releases and a radio program were used to raise public awareness as well.

Stronger multisectoral responses to public health events

After cyanide contamination of the Mouhoun River, the Boromo district health team disseminated awareness-raising messages on the health risks associated with consuming the water and dead fish, animal resources personnel incinerated cattle carcasses and suspended fishing activities, and the national water and sanitation agency stopped pumping water from the river and suspended supply service to the town of Boromo.

One Health Information System use			
1,538 community agents trained and actively using the system	147 health events notified using OHIS	119 reports on suspected cases of priority human illness	25 confirmed cases of priority human illness
Investigations conducted		Rabies vaccination campaign	
5 joint investigations into unusual health events		330 people attended campaign launch in Sabou	
		1,450 animals vaccinated in Boulikieumé province	

Challenges



Political instability

Supervision meetings and training of community agents (from the three ministries) in CHISU's target regions was difficult due to significant security challenges.

Financial resources

Implementing and scaling up the One Health multisectoral surveillance approach requires significant financial resources and other partners' support.

Staff turnover

Government staff at central and subnational levels in Burkina Faso are highly mobile, a barrier to the ownership and continued success of the One Health approach. Successors have to be trained to ensure the sustainability of activities.

Lessons Learned

Coordination must be multisectoral

Burkina Faso's experience using the One Health approach illustrates the importance of involving stakeholders from beyond the health sector to address pressing health threats.

Interoperable systems are crucial for seeing the big picture

Information system strengthening that creates multi-use platforms, such as the interoperability layer, makes the health system more flexible and resilient by providing a holistic view of human and zoonotic disease threats.

Communications must be creative

For public awareness and community surveillance in areas with security challenges, community actors make it possible to maintain these types of activities. In addition, radio messages and TV spots were disseminated to help reach the population located in peripheral areas with security issues.

Community engagement is key

Partnering with a variety of community members—including community health workers, traditional and religious leaders, volunteer village extension workers in animal and fishery resources, and eco-guards/trackers—was vital for reaching as many people as possible.

