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The Mali Learning Hub (November 2022–December 2025), known in French as *Centre d’Apprentissage pour l’équité en vaccination* (CAPEV), is led by [GaneshAID](#) with the [Center for Vaccine Development-Mali](#) (CDV-Mali) and the [University of Bamako](#).

The Learning Hub Focuses on Four Districts:

District	Context	CSCOM
Ségou	Urban/peri-urban	Pelengana Nord, Cinzana Gare
Yorosso	Conflict	Boura, Karangana
Bougouni	Other populations (internally displaced persons, refugees, islanders, migrants, nomads, gold miners)	Bougouni Est, Kologo
Niono	Rural/remote	Niono Central, Ndebougou

Grants in Mali

- **Equity Accelerator Funding (EAF):** 2024–2027; funding being dispersed by government as of September 2024
- **Health System Strengthening (HSS-3):** 2024–2029

National Strategies to Reduce Zero-Dose Children in Mali

The political and institutional will to reach zero-dose (ZD) children is reflected in the national vaccination strategy under development and the full portfolio planning (FPP), which includes 79 interventions across 44 districts and began implementation in mid-2024:

- Interventions include **extending times for immunization sessions, microplanning, “rolling logistics” for island districts that are adaptable to changing circumstances, and leveraging community platforms to address gender barriers**, such as the strategy to work with women’s groups to address gender related barriers and identify and reach ZD children in urban areas (see [Collaborating with Women’s Groups: A Promising Approach to Identify and Reach Zero-Dose Children in Urban Mali](#)).
- **Interventions for conflict zones**, including paying community health workers to vaccinate, integrating vaccination into a community care program, and establishing partnerships with NGOs and humanitarian agencies.
- **Quarterly mobile clinics** for districts with internally displaced populations.

Implementation Research

The Mali Learning Hub conducted baseline data collection for its implementation research evaluating two supply-side interventions: e-LMIS (Medexis) and Coach2PEV.

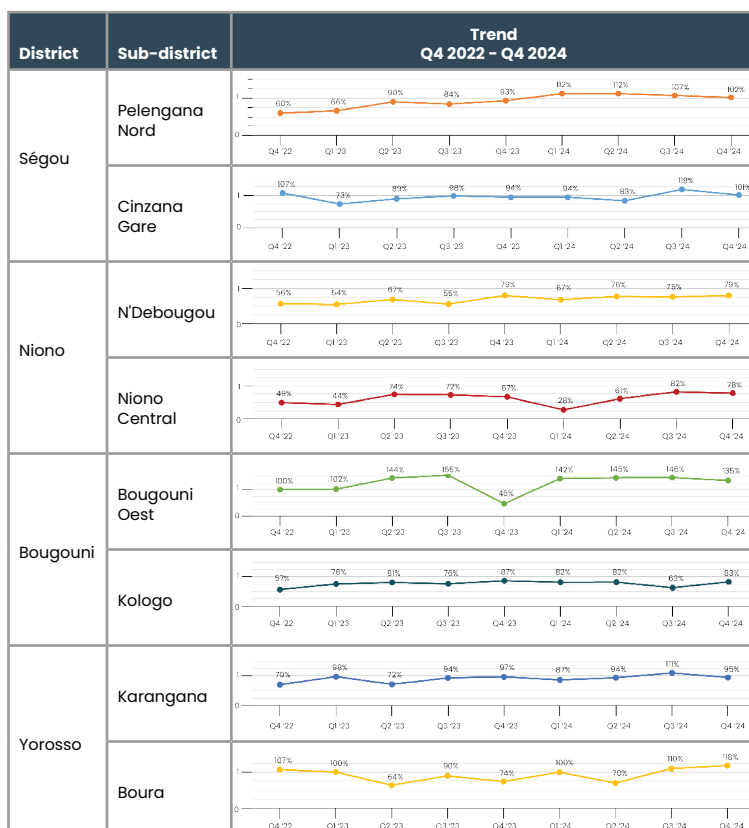
The study gathered data through a household survey involving 1,146 caretakers of children segmented into two age cohorts—18 weeks to 11 months and 12 to 23 months—across six health facility catchment areas. The survey included a review of vaccination cards to assess immunization status and incorporated questions around behavioral and social drivers, along with demographic characteristics.

The qualitative research component comprised in-depth interviews with decision-makers and health care staff at the central, regional, district, and facility levels to explore the barriers to and acceptability of the interventions. It also included focus group discussions with religious and community leaders to understand demand- and supply-side barriers to immunization in the specified catchment areas.

	Household Survey (Quantitative)	In-Depth Interviews (Qualitative)	Focus Group Discussions (Qualitative)
Participants	1,146 caretakers	18 decision-makers and health care staff	16 religious and community leaders
Age Cohorts	18 weeks–11 months, 12–23 months	–	–
Geographic Focus	Bougouni Est, Kologo, Pelengana Nord, Cinzana Gare, Niono Central, Ndébougou	Bougouni Est, Kologo, Pelengana Nord, Cinzana Gare; Niono Central, Ndébougou Boura, Karangana	Bougouni Est, Kologo, Pelengana Nord, Cinzana Gare, Niono Central, Ndébougou Boura, Karangana
Methods	Structured interview, vaccination card review	Individual interviews	Group discussions
Data Collected	Immunization status, behavioral/social drivers, socio-demographics characteristics	Perceptions, experiences, barriers, acceptability of interventions	Perceptions, experiences, barriers, community dynamics
Analysis	Statistical analysis	Thematic analysis	Thematic analysis

Study Sub-Districts in Mali: Trends in DTPI Coverage from 2022 to 2024

(Source: Mali DHIS2 reported in Mali CLH Quarterly Progress Report)



Data Interpretation: This figure presents sub-national data from Mali's DHIS2 system on DTPI coverage from Q4 2022 to Q4 2024. Trends across the eight sub-districts targeted by the Learning Hub study reveal notable differences between locations. For example, Pelengana Nord shows increasing DTPI coverage over the two year period, exceeding 100% in each quarter of the past year (Q1-Q4 2024). Cinzana Gare displays relatively high and stable coverage with recent fluctuations over 100% in Q3 and Q4 2024. Likewise, coverage in N'Debougou is relatively stable and increasing over time, ranging from 54% to 79% during the two year period. Niono Central exhibits substantial fluctuations, with a notable drop to 28% in Q2 2023 from a previous high of 74% in Q1 2023, then a recovery to 78% by Q1 2024. The sharp drop in Niono Central might indicate specific local challenges or disruptions in vaccination services.

In contrast, Bougouni Oest maintains very high coverage rates throughout the reporting period, except for a very sharp drop to 46% in Q4 of 2023 that rebounds to 142% the next quarter. Notably, coverage rates in this sub-district often exceed 100%, reaching as high as 155%, indicating potential data quality issues or underestimated target populations. The most dramatic fluctuations are observed in Boura, with coverage swinging from 64% to 118%, which may reflect significant challenges in vaccine delivery or inconsistencies in data collection.

Note that these coverage rates were calculated using a denominator (the number of children under one) based on extrapolated data from the 2009 Mali census. Although a census was conducted in 2022, only a preliminary report is available, and the full data has not yet been released.

Please note that Wisemart/eJRF data for the period of April through September 2024 are not yet available for this semiannual update and will be incorporated in the next report (October 2025).

The Collaborative Intelligence Platform

The Learning Hub has developed a Collaborative Intelligence Platform (CIP) to connect local immunization stakeholders—including CNI, WHO, UNICEF, World Vision, and Dalberg—to design, implement, and monitor ZD activities across Mali. One of the platform's goals is to track and review the implementation and advancement of activities specified in the FPP and identify any obstacles or facilitators along the way, which should help Gavi to improve monitoring implementation of FPP-funded interventions. The Mali Learning Hub is also collaborating with these stakeholders to identify key research findings and lessons that will then be converted into various learning products like webinars, infographics, guidance notes, and case studies. These resources will be shared via the CIP, social media, and community outreach channels.

Improving Vaccine Equity through Better Use of Data: An Exploratory Study

The Learning Hub is undertaking a comprehensive review and analysis of existing immunization data sources. This study will also involve gathering primary data through interviews and focus groups with key immunization stakeholders and seek to develop methods for enhancing data accessibility and improving data triangulation.

The ultimate goal of this study is to construct analytical models that can leverage the various data sources to effectively identify pockets of ZD children throughout Mali. This information can then be used to enhance decision-making processes in vaccination programs, with the ultimate objective of increasing both the coverage and equity of vaccination across the country. This study is especially critical given the recent decision by the U.S. government to withdraw funding from USAID, which has historically played a central role in funding surveys and strengthening information systems. In the absence of such external support, the capacity to produce and use high-quality, locally generated data will be crucial to maintaining momentum and ensuring that all children are reached with life-saving vaccines.



Key Insights, Decisions, and Use of Learning

- **Adapting data collection to conflict settings:** The inability to conduct household surveys in Yorosso, a conflict-affected district, leaves a gap in the Learning Hub's efforts to understand vaccination status and behavioral and social drivers of vaccination in conflict zones, including barriers to vaccination that are specific to populations living in these areas. This challenge underscores the necessity for developing alternative data collection methods tailored for conflict-affected areas where security concerns may not allow data collectors to safely conduct surveys, particularly in countries like Mali where many regions are similarly impacted. These methods would ensure that critical insights about populations in these areas are not overlooked, enabling more targeted interventions.



- **Addressing data quality and fragmentation in immunization:** The Mali Learning Hub has discovered considerable fragmentation within the systems used to capture immunization data, often characterized by redundancy across several systems and issues with data quality. The Learning Hub's ongoing efforts to map these data sources and determine how they can be used to provide more reliable, real-time data on ZD children are crucial for developing tailored and effective immunization strategies to reach ZD.



- **Translating research into actionable strategies:** Collaborating closely with stakeholders, the Mali Learning Hub is translating important research findings and lessons learned into accessible learning products tailored for key audiences. Moving forward, it will be essential for the Learning Hub to not only track the dissemination of these materials but also monitor their impact on shaping policies and practices, ensuring that the disseminated knowledge leads to tangible improvements in immunization programs. To this end, the Learning Hub has developed a knowledge translation plan that includes indicators that track knowledge acquisition and application.

