

Strengthening Data use, analysis and Supervision in rural USAID Action HIV-supported regions of Zambia under PEPFAR-USAID

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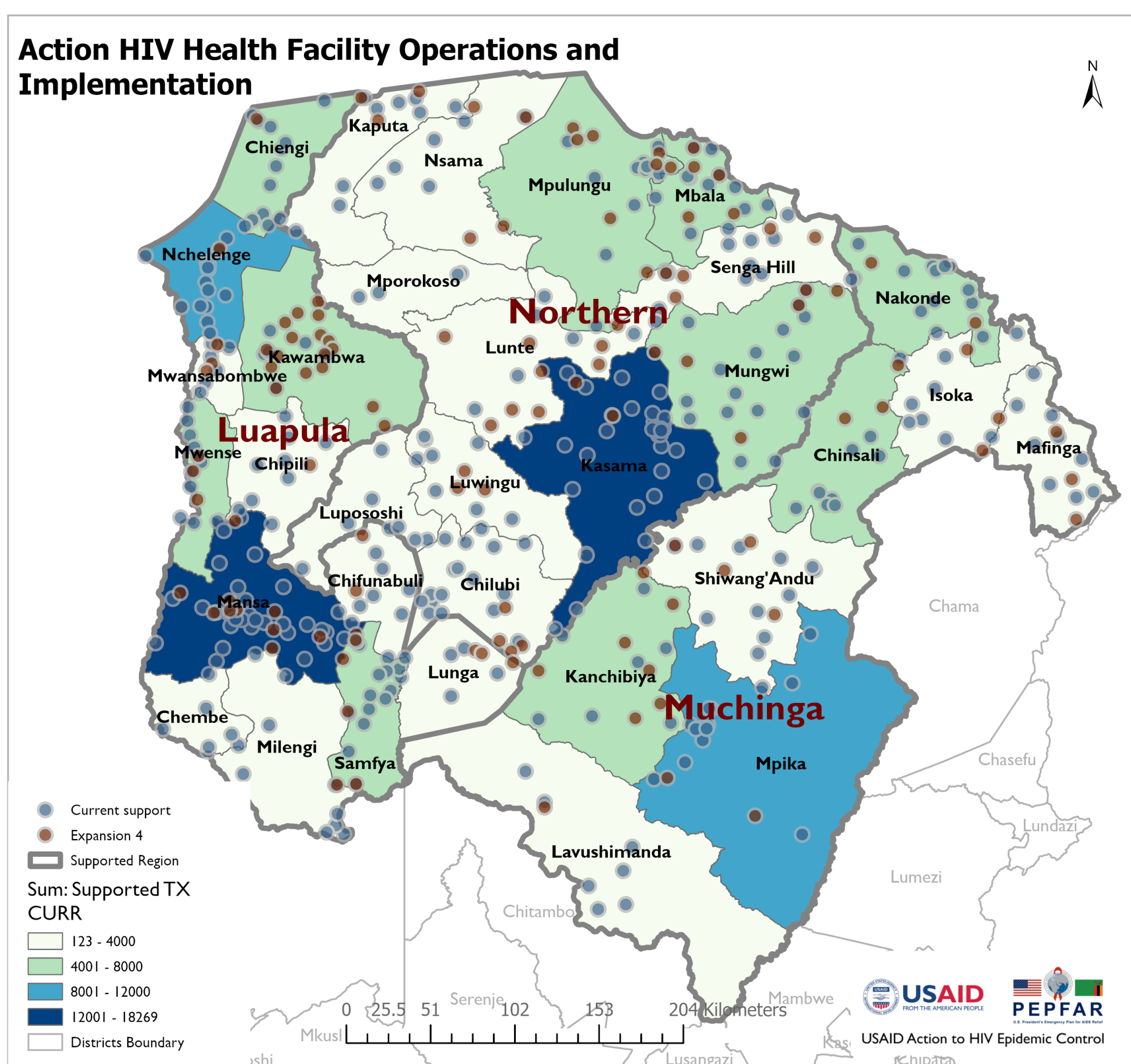
The joint review of the data improved the quality-of-service delivery, improved collaboration between the technical and M&E teams, fostered a Data-Informed Decision-Making Culture and improved program ownership and accountability.

BACKGROUND

Right to Care Zambia is implementing the USAID Action HIV project in the rural provinces of Luapula, Muchinga, and Northern. During a recent assessment of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, we discovered that M&E staff at the USAID Action HIV-supported facilities had limited knowledge in key areas such as indicators, data analysis, interpretation, and presentation. This gap led to poor data quality and hindered the effective use of data to enhance program delivery. To address this, we launched a comprehensive data quality improvement strategy aimed at boosting data accuracy, analysis, and its application for better decision-making.

METHODS

Data quality improvement activities were initiated through weekly check-in meetings with the district and provincial M&E teams. These meetings provided a platform for regular engagement, guidance, orientations, and the promotion of a data-driven culture. In addition, training sessions, orientations, and mentorships were conducted to clarify indicator definitions and interpretations, and to provide on-the-job training in data collection, focusing on ensuring the quality of submitted reports. Data quality audits were made routine to enhance data accuracy, ensure adherence to standard procedures, and promote accountability.

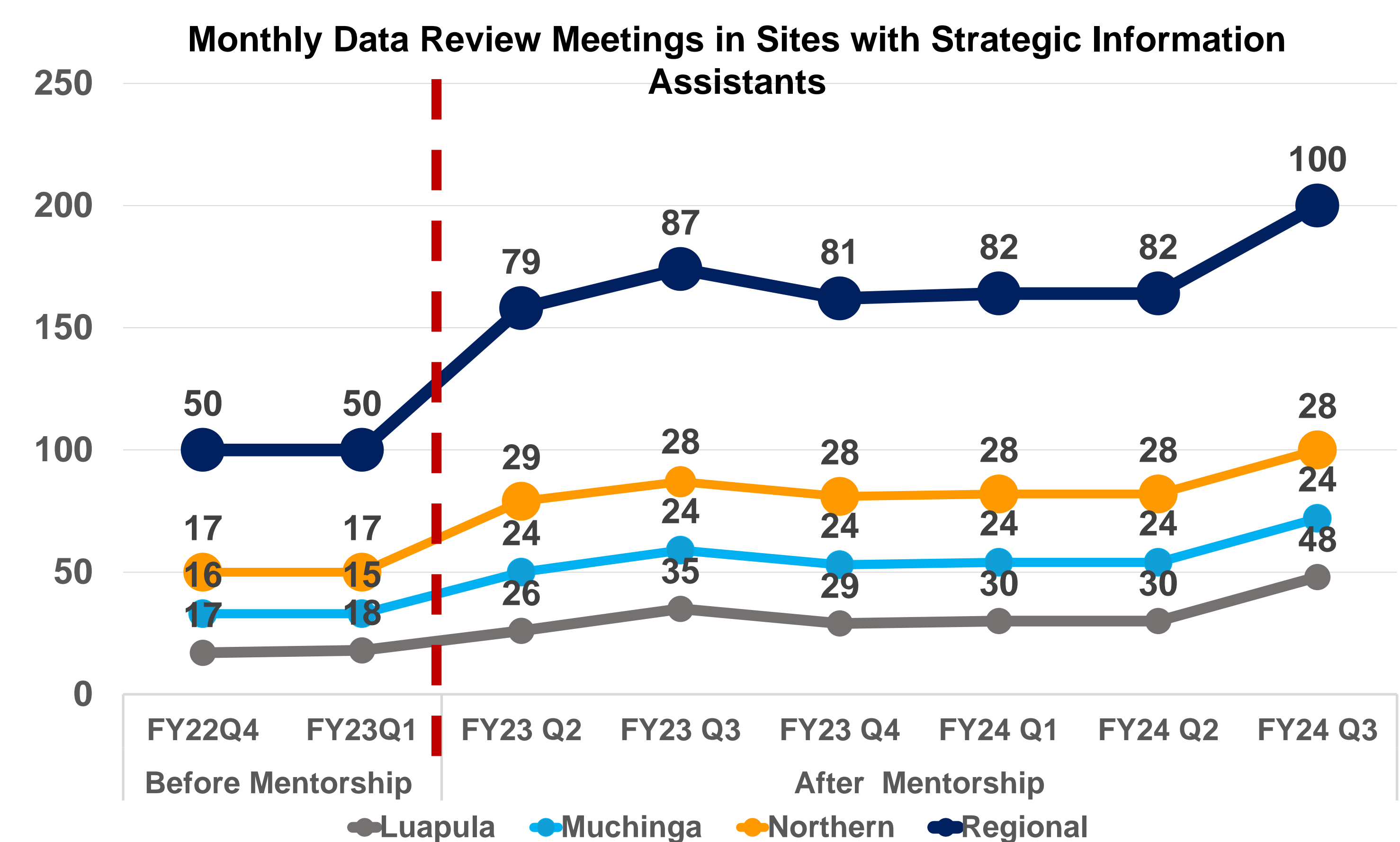


RESULTS

The number of facilities successfully implementing data review meetings and independently analyzing and presenting data increased by 58% (from 50 to 79). Routine mentorship activities enhanced staff skills in data analysis, enabling them to identify areas needing improvement and effectively communicate these needs to the relevant teams.

RESULTS CONTINUED

The quality of the data (accuracy, completeness, timeliness, and reliability) improved due to regular data verification, validation, and consistent feedback provided to the team. The routinization of data review meetings improved overall project performance across all indicators and provided targeted technical support at every level.



CONCLUSIONS

The Joint data reviews aimed at enhancing the quality-of-service delivery, improve collaboration between the technical and M&E teams. This process fostered a data-informed decision-making culture and increased program ownership and accountability. The data review meetings served as a platform for continuous communication and engagement with stakeholders, including MOH, USAID, and other implementing partners. Continuous capacity-building sessions on data analysis and use were held during regular check-in meetings, and Data Champions were identified to offer guidance and share best practices with underperforming sites. These efforts are crucial for boosting data demand, informed decision-making, and overall program performance improvement.

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

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