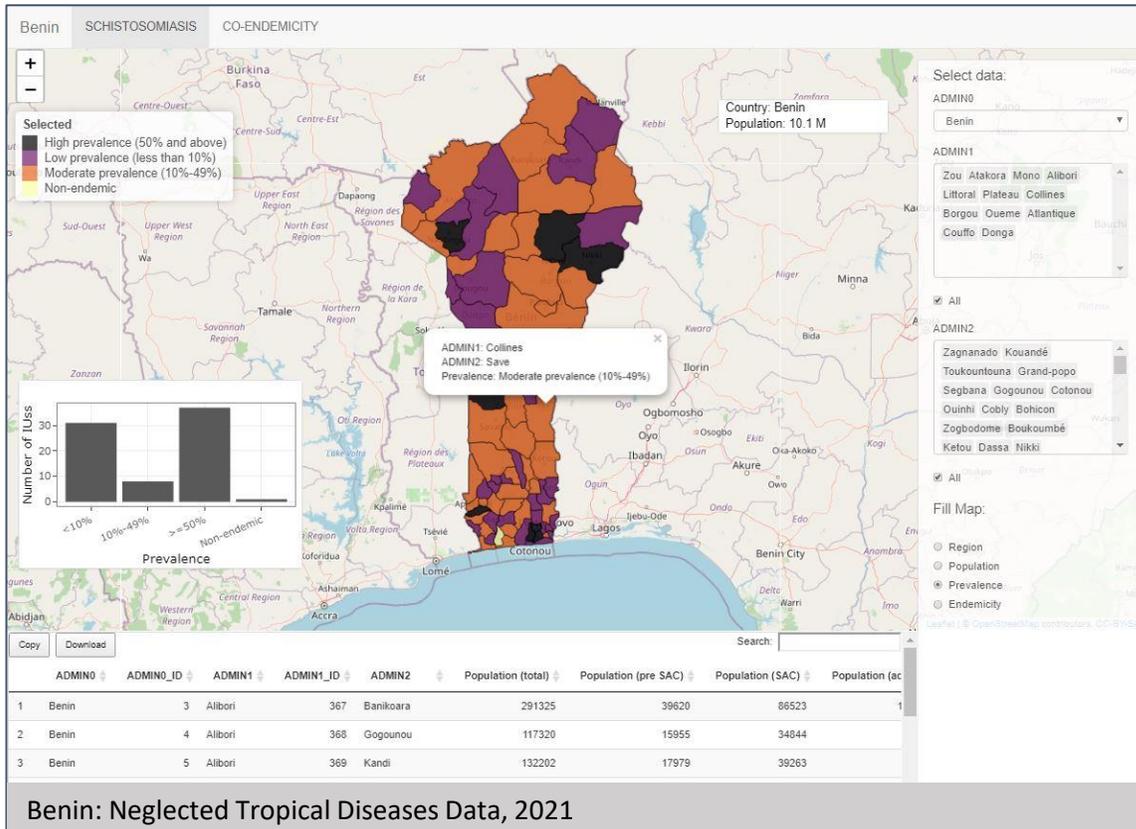


The Challenge

The use, or lack thereof, of digital tools that facilitate planning, implementation, and reporting is currently a major limitation of health programmes in low and middle-income countries. While tools of varying quality and flexibility used for data collection (eg ODK software), reporting (eg DHIS2), and other programmatic tasks do exist, ministry-managed tools that enable the effective planning of programmes do not. There is an urgent need to develop standardised, yet flexible digital tools to optimise the use of existing programmatic data in resource-poor settings and to engage policy makers and programme managers by encouraging evidence-based decision making.



OGH's Solution

OGH is prioritising the development of easily accessible, no-cost/open-source interactive tools that combine the analysis of complex and often sparse and disjointed datasets with spatial statistics in such a way that policy makers and programme managers can interact with their data in real time. Such tools can help bring government and partners together with a single narrative, while rapidly identifying gaps in programme coverage, opportunities for efficiencies in delivery, and supporting an understanding of historical programme coverage and future NTD programme resource needs and activities.

Most recently, OGH has been working with ministries and national programmes to develop an interactive Shiny web app using the open-source R statistical software. The tool combines necessary information for programmatic decision making across multiple diseases to help engender the integration of service delivery and information systems.

The Impact

The result is an enabling environment for policy makers and implementers in which the use of digital tools provides national health programmes greater insight into their programme needs, allowing a single narrative between government and partners, and facilitating optimal data use for decision making. Additionally, the ability to interact with and export data and plots in real time provides an invaluable resource for programme planning, report writing, and partner communication.