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Performance evaluation of the use of the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS 2) by health facilities in the city of Maroua in Cameroon

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Introduction: The Health Information System (HIS) is a process of collecting health information at the peripheral, regional and central levels of the health care system, storing it, processing it for the production of results and finally transmitting it to the organisations authorised to make decisions. In Cameroon, the Ministry of Public Health has adopted the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) as a digital tool for managing HIS data. The objective of this study was to identify the different factors that could be associated with the performance of health facilities (FOSA) in the city of Maroua in using DHIS2.

Methods: This was an analytical cross-sectional study conducted between April and May 2021 in the health facilities of the city of Maroua. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analysed with STATA 14 software. Multiple logistic regression was used to determine the factors associated with the performance of the health facilities. P-values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results: Of the 42 facilities surveyed, 28 (66.67%) were in the public sector, and 31 (73.81%) were health centres. The age of the respondents ranged from 20 to 55 years; 76.19% (32) were men; 42.50% (17) were nurses; and 50% (20) were nurses. The poorly performing facilities represented 59.52% (25); 78.75% of which were male-run facilities (P=0.029). Other factors associated with poor performance of the facilities were lack of training (OR=10.66; CI= (1.21; 93.69); P=0.007); non-permanent electrification (OR=13.09 (1.40; 122.23); P=0.006); knowledge of DHIS2 (OR=2.8 (0.7; 11.08); P=0.013), message writing in DHIS2 (OR=7.5 (1.77; 31.68); P=0.004), and analysis of data on priority programmes (OR=5.71(1.44; 22.62); P=0.01). Conclusion: The health facilities in the city of Maroua had poor performance in the use of DHIS2. It would be advisable to schedule training sessions and supervisions in order to strengthen the capacities of DHIS2 data management staff.