

# Promoting knowledge transfer and culture of evidence use for health systems strengthening in West African

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**CONTEXT**

**West African Health Organisation's (WAHO) mission**



"the attainment of the highest possible standard and protection of health of the peoples in the sub-region through the harmonisation of the policies of the Member States, pooling of resources, and cooperation with one another and with others for a collective and strategic combat against the health problems of the sub-region"

**Innovating for Maternal, Newborn and child Health in Africa (IMCHA) initiative**



WAHO was selected as Health Policy & Research Organisation (HPRO) with 3 roles:  
 -Enable national level ownership  
 -Build coherence and facilitate mutual learning across IMCHA  
 -Strengthen individual and institutional capacities in implementation research and research use

**Study Objective:** to describe the process and preliminaries results of promoting the culture of evidence use for health system strengthening in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sub region by WAHO as an HPRO

**PROCESS**

**1- Grey & scientific literature review**

**2- Situational analysis in 6 countries & at regional level**  
 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria Senegal)

**3-Development of regional intervention framework (below)**

	Individual level	Organisational level	Institutional level
WAHO	• Capacity strengthening	• Guidelines on evidence use • Strengthen library	• Resolution to AHM on evidence use in decision making process • Request evidence-based memos and evidence-based policy proposals
MOH	• Capacity strengthening • Study tour	• Guidelines on evidence use • Promotion of policy brief • Collaboration decisions makers and researchers research-to-policy forum	• Text or law on evidence use in decision making process
IRTs	• Capacity strengthening	• Collaboration decisions makers and researchers research-to-policy forum	• Advocacy for better collaboration decisions makers and researchers

**CONCLUSION**

The promotion of knowledge transfer and the culture of using evidence in policy making is possible in the ECOWAS region. The future evaluation will inform on its contribution to health systems strengthening in West Africa.

**RESULTS**

**Political will**

In June 2017, the Assembly of Health Ministers of ECOWAS adopted the resolution on "the use of Evidence in Developing Health Care Policies, Plans, Standards and Protocols in the ECOWAS region"

**Awareness on evidence use in policy-making**

- National stakeholders engagement with sensitisation about 450 persons on evidence use in 6 countries and regional level
- Production of evidence on status of evidence use and Knowledge Transfer (KT) in MNCH in 6 countries
- Quarterly newsletter on evidence use in West Africa (MEP News)

**Enhancement of individual capacities in evidence use**

- 174 persons trained in West Africa
- Joint training sessions for researcher & policymakers
- Training topic: evidence-based decision making, knowledge transfer, gender, social media use in KT
- Development of practical guideline on evidence-based policymaking

**Researchers-policymakers collaboration platforms**

- Establishment of MNCH stakeholders platforms in Nigeria and Senegal at the Ministries of Health
- Establishment of stakeholders platform around each implementation research team (Bauchi, Benin City, Ibadan)
- Establishment of "Nigeria Research RMNCAYH Days"

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