



MAY 2018

QUARTELY LINKING ORGAN



Director General
of WAHO
since March 2018

Prof. Stanley OKOLO, PhD

Director General of the West African Health Organization, I would like to welcome the initiative to promote research to improve maternal and child health in Africa especially in our region where indicators are not acceptable for development.

I am committed to contributing to the implementation of the "Moving of Maternal New-born and Child Health Evidence into Policy in West Africa" project through the mobilization and engagement of policy makers with researchers, training colleges, professional association, civil society organizations thereby promoting a culture of evidence use in decision-making in West Africa.

Finally, I would like to thank IDRC, the Health Research Institutes and Canada's Ministry of Global Affairs for their trust in WAHO.



ORGANISATION OUEST-AFRICAINE DE LA SANTE

Mid-term evaluation of MEP Project:

Perspectives for achieving the culture of evidence use for MNCH in the ECOWAS region

Two years after the project was launched, WAHO conducted its mid-term evaluation. An external evaluator specializing in the evaluation of health programs, Dr. Jaak Labeeuw conducted this evaluation.

A formative evaluation of implementation was conducted. It took place from January to March 2018 with a literature review and stakeholder interview (WAHO staff, implementation research teams, decision makers, and IDRC team and resource persons). The consultant used the framework of Langer et al (2016).

It was found that all stakeholders had a positive perception of the project in terms of relevance and implementation. For its institutional anchoring, stakeholders recognized WAHO's key role.

Current strengths of the project are: support to capacity building of research teams and policy makers, creation/activation of collaborative researcher-decision makers platforms, knowledge transfer activities, high-level advocacy for the use of evidence in the ECOWAS sub-region; including the adoption by the ECOWAS Assembly of Ministers of Health in June 2017 in Abuja, Nigeria of a resolution on the use of evidence in the development and implementation of health policies and strategic plans.

The areas for improvement are the mechanism for monitoring collaboration between researchers and decision makers, and communication.

This information will help to better plan and monitor/document future project interventions. The planning will take into account the context, the actors, the best implementation strategies and the vision of better communication between the different stakeholders.

Cont'd on P2

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Project Team: Prof. Issiaka SOMBIE, Dr. Ernel JOHNSON, Mr. Moukaïla AMADOU, Dr Yves MONGBO, Dr Aissa BOUWAYE, Dr Namoudou KEITA, Mr Mahamadi ZONGO, Mr Mactar TRAORE

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Please send your suggestions and comments to jernel@wahooas.org (Dr Ernel JOHNSON, Implementation Officer)

About Prof. Stanley OKOLO, DG of WAHO

Professor Stanley Okolo holds postgraduate degree in Obstetrics & Gynecology from the UK. He has a PhD in Endocrinology from the University College London and is a Fellow of both the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in the UK. Professor Okolo is a strong visionary leader and executive coach, motivated by the pursuit of excellence, corporate social responsibility and deep personal values. [More](#)

News from Implementation Research Teams (IRTs)

Scaling Up Care for Perinatal Depression for Improved Maternal and Infant Health (SPECTRA) in Nigeria project of UCH, Ibadan, Nigeria

From 22 to 23 March 2018, The WHO Collaborative Centre research team in Ibadan, Nigeria, held a training workshop on Implementation Research lead by Professor Oye Gureje. Organized as part of the Rapid project, the training introduced 30 health professionals and other stakeholders to implementation research. Different concepts, frameworks, strategies, design and conduct of intervention research were developed. Participants were introduced to aspects of qualitative research and research evaluation. Facilitators included Dr Daniel Kojo Arhinful from the Noguchi Medical Research Institute in Ghana, Dr Ian M. Bennett from the University of Washington and Neda Faregh from Douglas Mental Health University Institute, Montreal.



Participants of the training

Results-Based Financing Project of MISELI team, Mali:

As part of the first quarter 2018 activities, the research team is currently analysing data from two Outcome-Based Financing (OBF) studies, namely the distribution of EBF grants and community audit. Similarly, six surveys are being finalised on the Medical Insurance Scheme (RAMED), covering the effectiveness of targeting the indigent, the process of targeting the indigent, the quality of prescriptions, the use of the National Health Information System (NHIS), the profile of RAMED beneficiaries, and the funding of ASACOs.

In terms of documentation and valorisation of results, one scientific article published, three others submitted to journals for publication. Four policy briefs initiated and still being finalised. Below are some publications


Coulibaly A., Gautier L., Touré L., Ridde V., 2018, « *Le financement basé sur les résultats au Mali : peut-on parler d'émergence d'une politique publique de santé ?* » (Sous à la revue : International development policy).

Touré L., 2018, Emergence et formulation d'une politique publique sociale au Mali : Le Ramed (Régime assistance médicale), Rapport de recherche MISELI

Coulibaly A., 2018, Analyse de la mise en œuvre du FBR dans les centres de santé communautaire au Mali, Rapport de recherche MISELI.

Zitti T., 2018, Analyse de la mise en œuvre du FBR dans les centres de santé de référence au Mali, Rapport de recherche MISELI.

Documentary film on the IMCHA mid-term workshop

Held from 22 to 24 April 2017 in Dakar, Senegal, the international mid-term workshop of the Innovation for Mother and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) initiative brought together all researchers, policy makers and institutions involved in the initiative. WAHO has made a documentary film accessible here 



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