



MEP News

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MNCH Evidence into Practice in West Africa

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Editorial by Dr Xavier CRESPIEN, DG, WAHO



Dear readers, release N° 2 of **MEP News** takes stock of activities of the project in the last three months and focuses on the Project situation analysis and participation in the Cochrane Africa Network meeting. I take opportunity of the season to thank all our African and Canadian partners who have helped WAHO in implementing the activities, and to wish them all a happy 2016.

Situation analysis

Project Activities

Since the beginning of August a situation analysis of the project has been underway, with a view to facilitating data collection on the status of knowledge transfer and use of evidence, factoring in gender/equity, and identification of enabling or inhibiting systemic factors in the area of maternal and child health. Nine consultants, of whom three regional (Pr. Ongolo, Pr. Agyepong and Ms. Lasron and 6 others (Mr. Balogoun, Mr. Zida, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Bagayoko, Dr. Uneke, Pr. Sall) from Benin, Burkina, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal, respectively, conducted the activity.

After carrying out the desk reviews and drafting the preliminary reports, a workshop will be held involving all stakeholders in each country to present the project, validate the data gathered by the consultant and to collect additional information individually.



Participants at the Mali Workshop (29-30 October, 2015)



Participants at the Nigeria Workshop (29 October, 2015)



Participants at Burkina Workshop (19-20 November 2015)



Participants at the Senegal Workshop (23-24 November, 2015)



Participants at the Benin Workshop (27-28 e2015)



ABOUT THE PROJECT

- **Project Number:** 107892-001
- **Name:** *Moving Maternal Newborn and Child Health Evidence into Policy* in West Africa (MEP)
- **Date of signing of contract with IRDC:** 1st November, 2014
- **Overall objective:** Improve demand for the production and use of research results in Mother and Child Programmes in ECOWAS
- **Components:** Strengthen the capacities of researchers and policy-makers in the area of evidence; creation of exchange platforms; capitalisation and institutionalisation of gains
- **Beneficiaries:** mothers and children of West Africa
- **Budget:** CAD \$2 600 000 financed by IRDC and ECOWAS
- **Duration:** 68 months
- **Intervention Countries:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal

Participation in the Cochrane Africa Network Meeting

Dr. Virgil LOKOSSOU represented WAHO at the meeting of the Cochrane Africa Network (CAN) held from 2nd to 7th November, 2015 in Cape Town (South Africa). As part of the event, training was provided in the areas of leadership, mentoring, the Cochrane review methodology, knowledge transfer mechanisms as well as facilitation techniques for systematic review training workshops. The event provided an opportunity to deepen discussions on the collaboration between WAHO and the Cochrane network.

The rapid response system: promoting the use of evidence in Burkina

Under the SURE (Supporting the Use of Research Evidence) project, a rapid response unit has been set up at the Ministry of Health, headed by Mr. Zida André, a WAHO consultant for Burkina Faso. The Unit provides support services in the areas of research and synthesized relevant information gleaned from scientific literature. Following a request from a person in a decision-making capacity, a staff of the Unit conducts research in specialised libraries, finds the relevant articles and summarises the information in two or five pages with bibliographical references. The document is then forwarded to the decision-maker as soon as possible for on-ward action. The Unit may also send the articles to the decision-maker when needed.

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