

## QUARTELY LINKING ORGAN



### Director General of WAHO

Prof. Stanley OKOLO, PhD

Fellow readers,

Networking and platforms for sharing research results and successful experiences are strategies for bringing health innovations to the entire population of our sub-region. The Nigeria Research Days in MNCH, Nigeria's collaborative researcher-decision maker platform, is an example of an innovative intervention for promoting researcher-decision maker dialogue and the uptake of research results. WAHO will endeavour to document and share the results of this experience with other countries. Capacity building is also a key strategy for ensuring the effective success of health interventions and programs. In research, this includes the ability to disseminate research results to the general population, in order to affect the population in terms of both information and behaviour change. In this issue of MEP News, we share with you a synthesis of the first edition of Nigeria Research Days on the MNCH and the results of capacity building in knowledge transfer.



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### Nigeria Research Days in MNCH:

*Platform for promoting policy dialogue for the use of research  
for decision-making and practice in Nigeria*

After a feasibility study conducted in 2017, the first edition of the Nigeria Research Days in MNCH was held from 11 to 13 July 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria under the leadership of the Family Health Directorate of the Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria. The approximately 80 participants were composed of researchers involved in the ISMEA initiative, representatives of Professional Associations (gynaecologists, paediatricians and midwives), delegates from research centres, decision-makers from various regions of the country, decision-makers from the Federal Ministry of Health and representatives of technical and financial partners and WAHO. The research results presented served as a basis for creating a researcher-decision maker-practitioner dialogue on mechanisms for the use of research in decision-making and practice. This first edition of the "Nigeria Research Days in MNCH" conference concluded with the production of a final communiqué, which included recommendations to facilitate the use of the shared results and for the improvement of future editions of the event, such as the extension of the focus to adolescent health and nutrition.



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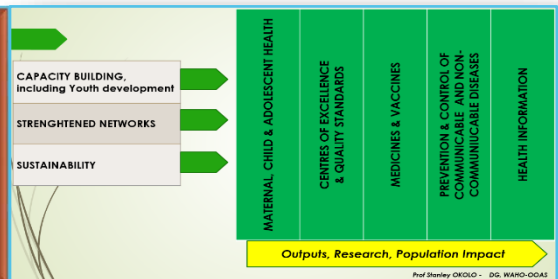
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## The Director General's New Vision for WAHO

In June 2018 in Banjul, the ECOWAS Assembly of Ministers of Health, at its 19th ordinary session, approved the DG's vision for action for WAHO. Represented by the framework opposite, the vision consists of **three intervention strategies** in **five priority areas** designed to produce immediate short-term **outputs** and long-term **population health impacts**, as well as **contribution to research knowledge**.



## News from Implementations Research Teams (IRTs)

### Training in Knowledge Transfer for Ministry of Health staff and research teams in Burkina Faso

From 9 to 13 July 2018, the first training session on knowledge transfer was held in Ouagadougou for the benefit of managers from the Ministry of Health and research teams in Burkina Faso. The first of a series of three sessions, this training is in response to the needs expressed by the officials of the Family Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health of Burkina Faso on capacity building in the use of evidence in decision-making. The seventeen participants were program managers at the Family Health Directorate, officers from the Knowledge Management and Transfer Unit (UGTC) and IMCHA research teams (SERSAP, AGIR). The training provided by Professor Christian Dagenais focused on i) the principles of Knowledge Transfer, ii) the policy brief, iii) knowledge brokering and iv) the development of a knowledge transfer plan. The training was delivered through lecture presentations and group work. At the end of this first training session, the participants expressed their satisfaction with the topics taught. The next session is scheduled for the first week of October.



### WHARC Benin City Nigeria

#### Capacity building on the use of social media for knowledge transfer

Social media is nowadays a powerful information and engagement tool that can be used in implementation research. Their use in knowledge transfer of research results was the subject of a capacity building session for the Women Health & Action Research Centre (WHARC) research team. This training, carried out with the technical and financial support of WAHO, was held on 26 and 27 July 2018 in Benin City, Nigeria. The forty participants included WHARC staff, Edo State health authorities, health workers and community leaders from the project intervention sites and the UCH Ibadan research team.



#### Follow-up visit of the project interventions in Okpekepe

The rural community of Okpekepe, located about 160 km from Benin City, is one of the intervention sites of the WHARC research project. On 28 July 2018, the project team conducted formative supervision for health workers. It also took part in a meeting to share research results with the community. The mobilization of the populations, from the various community leaders at the Royal Palace, is evidence of the effective commitment and leadership of the King of Opkepe. The opportunity was used not only to raise awareness of the current community health insurance coverage, but also to share testimonies and discussed future actions.



### Research Team Publications

- ✓ Yaya, S., Okonofua, F., Ntoimo, L., Kadio, B., Deuboue, R., Imongan, W., & Balami, W. (2018). Increasing women's access to skilled pregnancy care to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality in rural Edo State, Nigeria: a randomized controlled trial. *Global Health Research and Policy*, 3, 12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41256-018-0066-y>
- ✓ Okonofua, F., Ntoimo, L., Ogungbangbe, J., Anjorin, S., Imongan, W., & Yaya, S. (2018). Predictors of women's utilization of primary health care for skilled pregnancy care in rural Nigeria. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 18(1), 106. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-018-1730-4>
- ✓ Cockcroft, A., Omer, K., Gidado, Y., Gamawa, A. I., & Andersson, N. (2018). Impact of universal home visits on maternal and infant outcomes in Bauchi state, Nigeria: protocol of a cluster randomized controlled trial. *BMC Health Services Research*, 18(1), 510. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-018-3319-z>
- ✓ Abekah-Nkrumah, G., Issiaka, S., Virgil, L., & Ermel, J. (2018). A review of the process of knowledge transfer and use of evidence in reproductive and child health in Ghana. *Health Research Policy and Systems*, 16(1), 75. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-018-0350-9>



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