



WEST AFRICAN HEALTH ORGANISATION  
 ORGANISATION OUEST-AFRICAINE DE LA SANTE  
 ORGANIZAÇÃO OESTE AFRICANA DA SAÚDE

Moving maternal newborn  
 and child health Evidence  
 into Policy IN WEST AFRICA



## FUNDING

Funding of the MEP project is as follows:

- firstly, a contribution of up to 2.6 million Canadian dollars by the program "Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa" of the Global Health Research Initiative (GHRI), which is a partnership of three Canadian Government Agencies:
  - ▶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada (MAECD)
  - ▶ The International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
  - ▶ The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).
- secondly, by the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), with a contribution of 1.5 million US dollars.

## BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

The scope of the MEP project is regional and could be extended to the 15 ECOWAS countries. However, research activities will take place in 6 countries namely: BENIN, BURKINA FASO, GHANA, MALI, NIGERIA and SENEGAL.



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## IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR MOTHER AND CHILDREN IN WEST AFRICA THROUGH EVIDENCE INFORMED DECISION MAKING

### GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Improve the demand for, the production of, and the use of research findings in decision-making in maternal, neonatal and child health programs and policies within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region.

### Specific Objectives

1. Conduct a situation analysis of the background to the production and use of research findings at national and regional levels in maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) within the ECOWAS region.
2. Strengthen WAHO's capacity to promote the use of health research within the ECOWAS region
3. Promote the use of evidence to improve decision-making around MNCH within the ECOWAS region
4. Strengthen the collaboration between MNCH researchers and decision-makers within the ECOWAS region.

### DURATION OF THE PROJECT

The duration of MEP Project is sixty eight (68) months, from November the 1st 2014 to July the 31, in 2020



Foreign Affairs, Trade and  
 Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce  
 et Développement Canada



International Development Research Centre  
 Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada



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Canada



## Moving maternal newborn and child health Evidence into Policy

The Canadian Institutions-championed and supported initiative “Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa” will help reduce maternal, child and infant mortality through the promotion of the use of evidence in decision making. From this initiative, the Project entitled “Moving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Evidence into Policy (MEP)”, implemented by the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) aims to achieve the following results:

1. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the production and utilisation of research findings within the ECOWAS regional context to improve or strengthen maternal, newborn and child health care (MNCH) are clearly understood and validated.
2. The capacity of WAHO to support the production, dissemination and utilisation of research findings for decision-making within the ECOWAS region is strengthened.
3. The ECOWAS MNCH decision-makers have a good understanding of the usefulness of research as a tool for decision-making in health.
4. The capacity of MNCH decision-makers to demand, take ownership of and use research findings in their activities (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) is strengthened within the ECOWAS region.

5. The capacity of researchers to produce useful research findings for MNCH decision-makers is strengthened within the ECOWAS region.
6. Reinforce/create a functional system of research findings dissemination to MNCH decision-makers within the ECOWAS region.
7. Reinforce/create platforms that would facilitate collaboration between MNCH researchers and decision-makers within the ECOWAS region.
8. The collaboration between decision makers and researchers in the planning, implementation and evaluation of MNCH programs within the ECOWAS region is improved.

In addition to the MEP project in West Africa, “Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa” will provide support to seven (7) research projects namely: promotion of integrated approach to care in pregnancy and childbirth, promotion of community education, promotion of results-based financing and equity of access to care, sponsorship of girls by individuals, management of postpartum depression, promotion of innovative and feasible interventions to improve mother and child health...