
Report of the Bilingual (English and French) West Africa New-Year School: Health Policy Systems (HPS) and Women, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (WNCWA)

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2020, Ibis Hotel, Plateau, Abidjan, Cote D'ivoire



Acknowledgements

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International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Report prepared by COMCAHPSS Secretariat (<http://www.comcahpss.org>)
(Linda Lucy Yevoo, Grace Aye & Irene A. Agyepong)

Date of Report: 31st March 2020

General Overview

The one-week 2020 new-year school was held in Abidjan, Cote D'ivoire from 17^h to 21st February 2020 at the Ibis hotel in Plateau, Abidjan. It was the second module in two and a half years applied capacity building program for in countries in the West African sub-region, aimed at deepening participants understanding of policy processes, managing and leading change, communication in health and advocacy in the context of a complex adaptation health system.

Dr Eliane Mena of the University of the Catholic Alliance of Abidjan (UACA), who opened the weeklong training program, praised new-year school as a very noble initiative, and re-emphasis the important role the project would have on impacting on improving maternal, newborn, children and adolescent's well-being in the six countries.



Socio-demographic characteristics of New-year School Country teams

Unlike the mid-year school, (apart from Niger and Senegal) this new-year multi-professional and multi-institutional country teams, were strictly limited to 5 members each because of the budget constraints.

Figures 1 and 2 disaggregate participants by country and gender. Figure 2, further shows that most of the participants were males, whose ages are clustered around three age ranges (see Figure 5). Even-though participants were drawn from various governmental and non-institutions, the majority of them came from the Ministry of Health (See Figure 3).

Figure 1: Participants by country

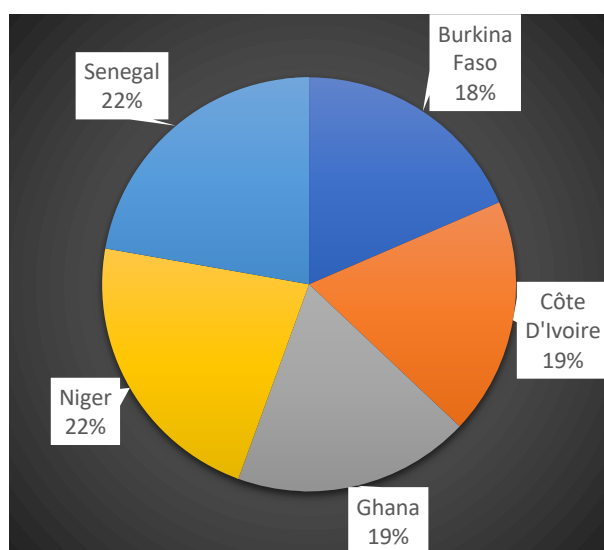


Figure 2: Participants and gender

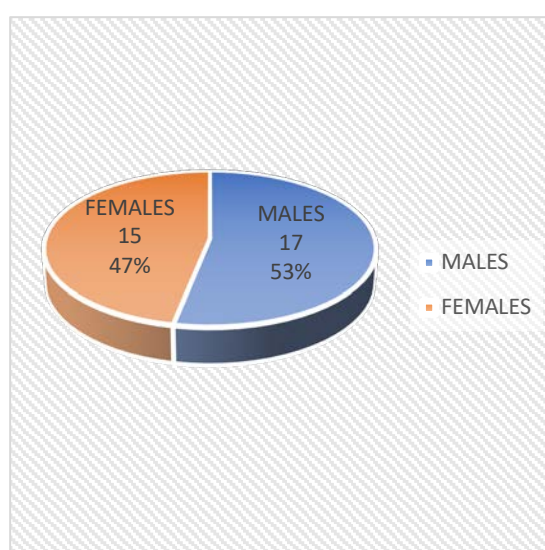


Figure 3: Participants by their institution

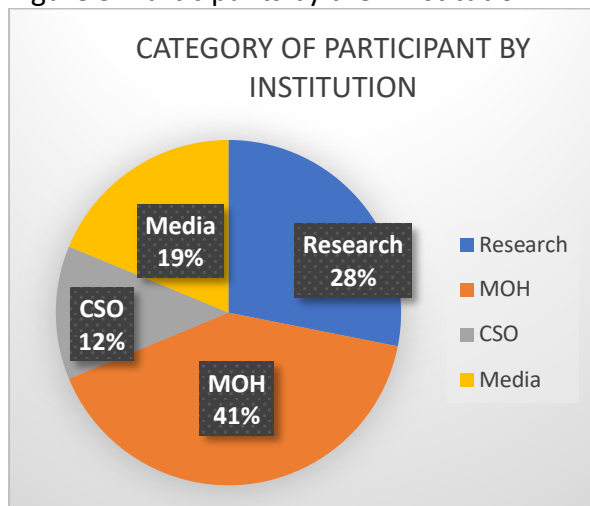


Figure 4: Participant gender by Institution

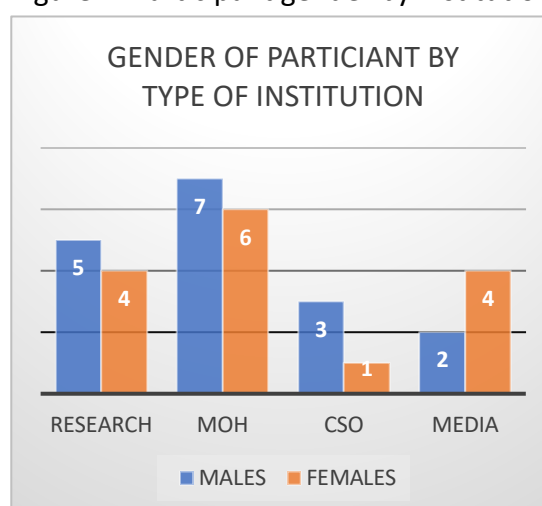
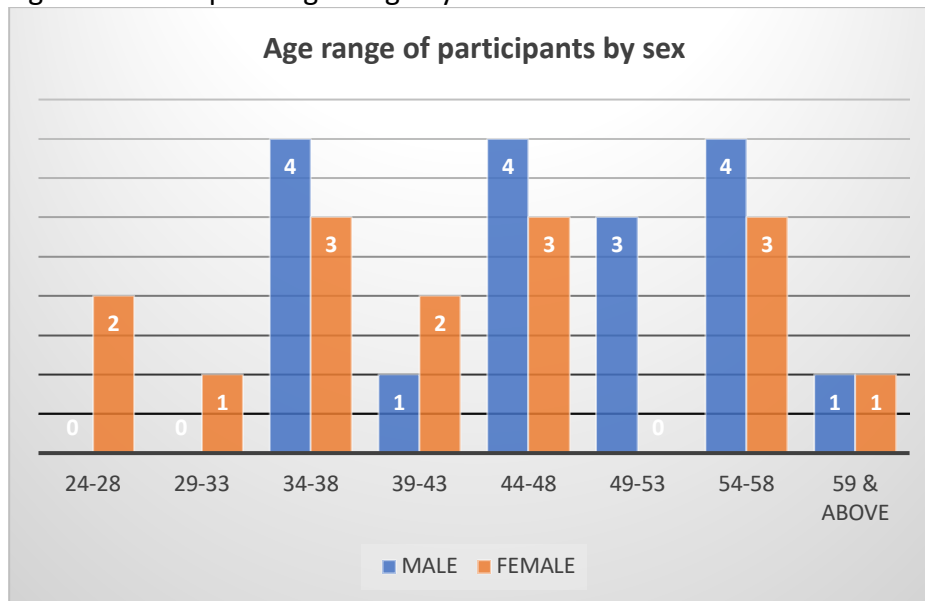


Figure 5: Participants age range by sex



Program Overview

Topics taught included: Application of relevant policy process theories to public policy advocacy and leading and managing change, effective communication and working with the media, and Policy Advocacy processes and tools, uses, strengths and weaknesses. The learning approach took the form of peer- to- peer discussions within the groups, between the teams as well as from peer to facilitators, was evaluated by the participants through a mailed questionnaire (see annex 2 for program time table). The week-long program started with countries presenting progress made since the mid-year school (in August 2019)

1) Country presentation of progress

Countries gave summary presentations on progress they had made on their identified WNCAW priority issues and the cross-country mini. Their presentations revealed that apart from the Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso teams, that had made significant progress into the mini-project, the rest of the countries at various stages of their work, due diverse country specific challenges, misunderstanding and funds transfer related issues. Suggestions and clarifications were given on way forward towards improvement.

Course presentations

2) Topics taught in this new-year school included: Application of relevant policy process theories to public policy advocacy and leading and managing change, effective communication and working with the media, and Policy Advocacy processes and tools, uses, strengths and weaknesses, and another any suggestion they had for future modules (See annex 3 for presentation slides).

3) Participants evaluation of the program topics and presentations

Participants views on their assessment of module’s sessions were sought after the program through mailed interviews. Their views were sought on what they liked and what they felt could be improved in future presentations. A total of 21 (65.6%) participants returned the evaluations forms, although 32 participated in the new-year school. The analysis in this section hence, is based the 21 returned questionnaires. Analysis of responses showed a general trend of the majority of respondents failing to make any comments on the various presentations. The presentation of results according the program topics.

1) Respondents assessment of application of relevant policy process theories to public policy advocacy Leading and managing change presentations

Although, 24% of the participants failed to make any comment of this module, majority (38%) of the participants found the presentation very useful (Figure 6). Their reasons were that the presentation used both theory and practical examples, that made it easy to understand and relate to the issues discussed real life situation. The participants however, expressed a few concerns, for which they suggested improvement for future presentations (See figure 7)

Figure 6: Perceptions of the course presentation

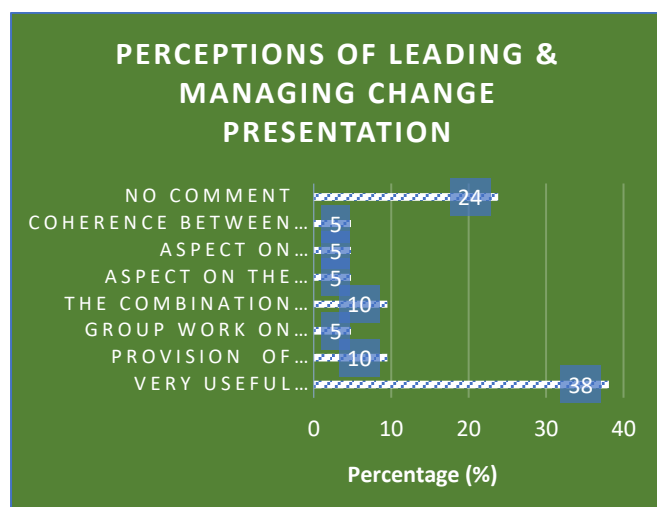
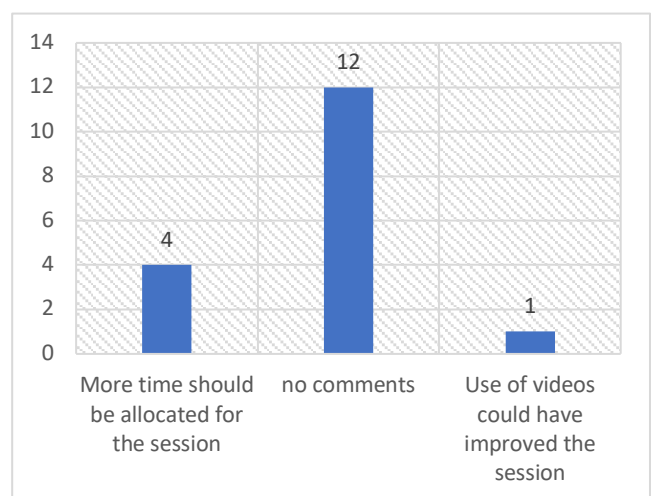
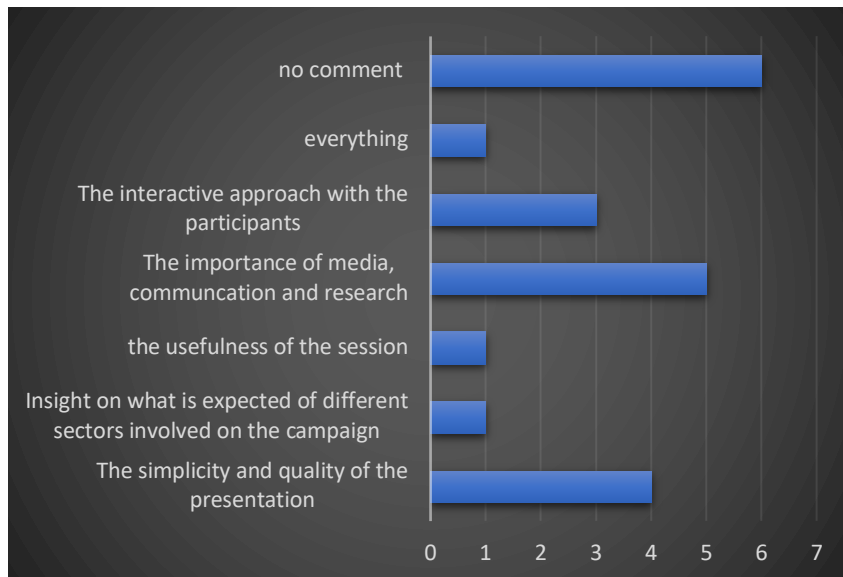


Figure 7: Recommendations



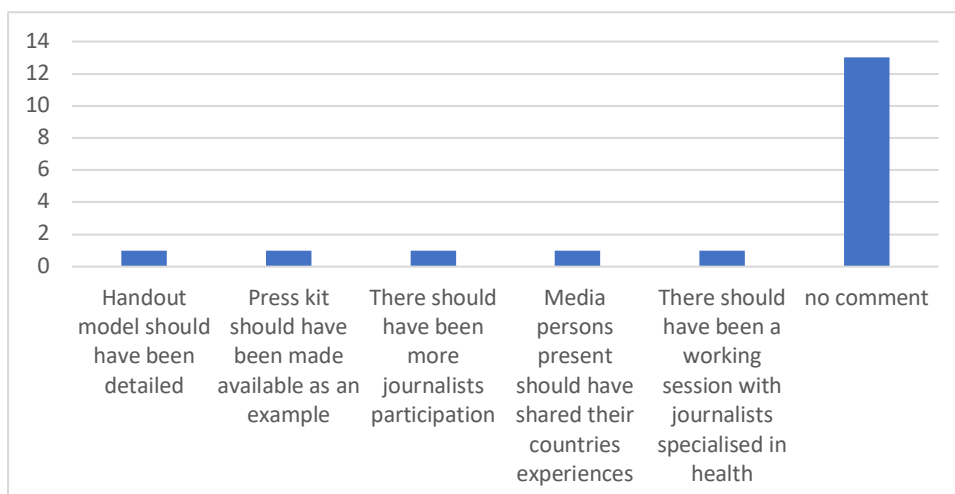
2) Effective communication and working with the media

Figure 8: Participants view of the session



The majority of the program participants found this presentation was very relevant for the training programs and the relevance that underscore the focus of this training. Following that, the participants were impressed the facilitators style of presentation because of its simplicity and interactive nature of the presentation (see figure 8). Similar to the previous session, as shown in figure 9, participants raised some concerns, and thus made suggestions to address them

Figure 9 : Areas needing improvement



3) Policy Advocacy processes and tools, uses, strengths and weaknesses

advocacy process and tools

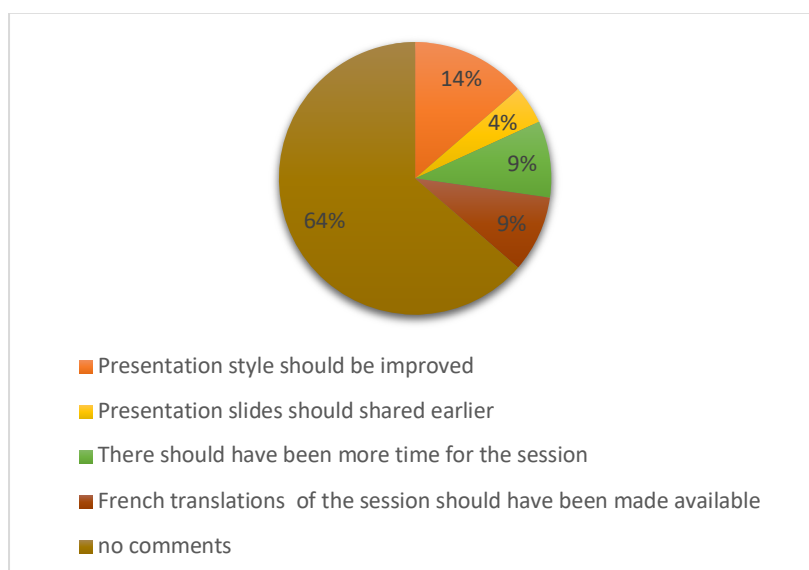
The program participants view on this subject were varied. Though those who had nothing to state, who were in the majority, several of the participants found different aspects of the presentation interesting and relevant (see figure 10). They found the group work, process of advocacy, explanations and use of examples during the presentation, elevator speech etc., interesting. Also, an equal number of participants, found the subject area and the topic very relevant.

Figure 10: Perception on policy advocacy presentations



In spite of the divergent views, participants mentioned some concerns, which are depicted in figure 11 below. The main recommendation had to do with improvement the presentation style in future training sessions.

Figure 11: Perception on how to improve future presentations



Annexes

Annex 1

New Year School Participants and Facilitators

Participants

BURKINA FASO TEAM

Dr. Maurice Yaogo, UCAO-UUB

Dr Sandrine Konsimbo, Ministère de la santé, DSF

Mr. Jacques G. Saré, ABBEF, Bobo-Dioulasso

Mr. Dankoita Dofini, ISSP, Ouagadougou

Dr Sabine Léa Somé, INSS, Ouagadougou

COTE D'IVOIRE TEAM

Dr. Blibolo Februarye Didier, Université Félix Houphouët Boigny.

Dr. Annick Nouffan Tiemele, Ghana College of Surgeons and Physicians

Mr. Yowélé Martin, Formation Sanitaire Urbaine à Abidjan

Ms. Grogouri Okpo Ange Marina, Association Ivoirienne de Santé Publique

Mme YAOUA Kouman Honorine, Independent Journalist

NIGER TEAM

Dr Elhadji Dagobi Abdoua, LASDEL

Dr. Ali Bako Mahaman Tahirou, LASDEL

Dr Ibrahim Souley, Ministère de la santé publique, Niger

Dr Halima Moumouni, Ministère de la santé publique (DSME), Niger

Ms. Fatouma Idé, Office national de presse (ONEP)

Ms Mariama Abdou Gado, Réseau des parlementaires pour la Santé de la Reproduction,

SENEGAL TEAM

Dr. Abdoulaye Diaw, Division du Système d'Information Sanitaire et Sociale (DSISS),
Ministère de la Santé et de l'Action Sociale-Senegal

Ms. Bineta Demba Sarr-ONG « Action et Développement »

Ms. Ndiaye Oumy CREG/CREFAT

Mr. Niassy Idrissa- DIRECT-INFO, Senegal

Mr. Sall Massamba Thioro , Maternal and Child Health Directorate

Dr. Samba Corr Sarr, MOH, Senegal

SIERRA LEONE TEAM

Ms. Baindu Agatha Kosia, Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS)
Dr. Francis Moses, Directorate of Reproductive and Child Health, MOHS
Mr. Cyrus Sheriff, Integrated Health Planning and Administrative Unit (IHPAU)
Ms. Zainab Joaque, Awoko Newspaper
Mr. John Adeyemie Darlton, Health Alert Sierra Leone

GHANA TEAM

Ms. Linda Lucy Yevo, GHS DHRC
Ms. Gifty Ofori Ansah, GHS, Ningo Prampram DDHS
Mr. Isaac Nyampong, Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR)
Ms. Eunice Menka, Women in Media and Change (WOMECE)
Mr. Samuel Mayeden, GHS HQ PPMED

Facilitators

- Dr. Irene A. Agyepong (IAA) – GHS RDD /GCPS, Ghana
- Dr. Andy Ayim (AA) – GCPS, Ghana
- Ms. Vicky Okine - Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR)
- Dr. Charity Binka – Women in Media and Change (WOMECE)

Annex 2

Time Table

DATE	TOPIC AND TIME	SESSION CHAIR(S) /FACILITATORS
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 17/ 2/20</p>	<p>Morning session (8 :45am – 11 :30am)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome – Prof. Coulibaly Issiaka 8.45am • Introductions – 9.00am • New Year School aims, objectives and expected outputs – Prof. Irene Agyepong - 9.30am • Presentation and discussion of progress and activities since the Mid-Year School in August (15 minutes /country team) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Burkina Faso – Maurice Yaogo ○ Cote D’Ivoire – Auguste Blibolo ○ Ghana – Linda Lucy Yevo ○ Niger – Ali Bako ○ Senegal – Abdoulaye Diaw ○ Sierra Leone – Cyrus Sherriff 	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Andy Ayim /Dr. Samba Cor Sarr</p>
COFFEE /TEA /COCOA BREAK 11.30am		
	<p>Afternoon session 1 (12:00pm – 2:00pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and discussion of progress on country formative assessments and any preliminary data by country teams - 12.00pm • Presenting situational analysis data on the WNCWA area selected to address with public policy advocacy 	<p style="text-align: center;">Prof. Irene Agyepong /Dr. Samba Cor Sarr</p>

DATE	TOPIC AND TIME	SESSION CHAIR(S) /FACILITATORS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Burkina Faso – Maurice Yaogo ○ Cote D'Ivoire – Auguste Blibolo ○ Ghana – Linda Lucy Yevo ○ Niger – Ali Bako ○ Senegal – Abdoulaye Diaw ○ Sierra Leone – Cyrus Sherriff 	
LUNCH BREAK 2.00pm		
	<p>Afternoon session 2 (2:00pm – 6:00pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of relevant policy process theories to public policy advocacy (Weible et al) – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing deep knowledge ○ Building networks ○ Participating for extended periods of time • Leading and Managing Change (Kotter 8 step process) 	Prof. Irene Agyepong / Dr. Andy Ayim
CLOSE OF DAY 6.00pm		
Tue sday 18/2/20	<p>Continuation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of relevant policy process theories to public policy advocacy (Weible et al) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing deep knowledge ○ Building networks ○ Participating for extended periods of time • Leading and Managing Change (Kotter 8 step process) 	Prof. Irene Agyepong / Dr. Andy Ayim

DATE	TOPIC AND TIME	SESSION CHAIR(S) /FACILITATORS
CLOSE OF DAY 6.00pm		
Wednes day 19/2/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and working with the Media • The WOMEC interventions under WNCAW and the relevance /linkages to the country teams 	Dr. Charity Binka, WOMEC
CLOSE OF DAY 6.00pm		
Thu rsday 20/2/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Advocacy processes and tools, their uses, strengths and weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy Briefs ▪ Policy Dialogues • The ARHR interventions under WNCAW (score card assessment) and the relevance /linkages to the work of the country teams 	Ms. Vicky Okine, ARHR
CLOSE OF DAY 6.00pm		
Frid ay 21/2/20	<p>Group Policy Change Practicum – Country teams finalize their presentations</p> <p>Morning session 1 (8am – 10.00am)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing country team policy advocacy plans • Developing a policy change advocacy plan with implementation timelines and budgets • Presentation by country teams 	All facilitators
COFFEE BREAK 10.00 – 10.30am		
	<p>Morning session 2 (10.30am – 12.45pm)</p> <p>Country team presentations: 30 mins /team with 15 mins questions and clarifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Burkina Faso – Maurice Yaogo & team ○ Cote D'Ivoire – Auguste Blibolo & team 	

DATE	TOPIC AND TIME	SESSION CHAIR(S) /FACILITATORS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ghana – Linda Lucy Yevo & team 	
LUNCH BREAK 12.45pm		
	<p>Afternoon Session (1.45pm – 4.00pm) Country team presentations: 30 mins presentation /team with 15 mins for questions and clarifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Niger – Ali Bako & team ○ Senegal – Abdoulaye Diaw & team ○ Sierra Leone – Cyrus Sherriff & team 	All facilitators
CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS. REFRESHMENTS /COFFEE BREAK		