



## Message of the WAHO Director General

Dr. Xavier CRESPIN

Dear readers,

After two years of publication, we started the turning point in the improvement of our newspaper to adapt it to the final vision of the MEP project which is to improve production, dissemination and the use of evidence. The objective in our next issues is to share with you some evidence generated by the Western Organisation African Health Organisation, its partners or researchers. Likewise, we would also like you to associate with the actions carried out by our institution to assist in the use of evidence for the purpose of to improve health in our region and foster brings the evidence to potential users . This issue of the new form focuses on the status of the transfer of maternal and child health knowledge in West Africa and the actions undertaken by WAHO in the field.

I wish you a good reading.



ORGANISATION OUEST-AFRICAINNE DE LA SANTE

## Status of knowledge transfer and the use of health evidence and children in West Africa

In Nigeria, the results of the skills assessment have shown that a large number of stakeholders evaluated were aware of the availability of the existence of evidence bases accessible by internet, had the skills to use the internet and had the capacity to identify and obtain data evidence. The participants had knowledge and skills to use evidence in policy development, on the other hand, their institution had limited capacity to support the use of evidence-based.

In Burkina Faso, the same assessment showed weak skills and capacities among stakeholders to identify, access and use evidence by maternal and child health.

A comparative analysis of the skills and capabilities of stakeholders in maternal and child health in the six countries of West Africa :( Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal) has shown a better ability and skills to identify and use evidence in English-speaking countries in relation to French-speaking countries.

Needs assessment, barriers and facilitators to evidence-based policy development evidence from health stakeholders and children was driven. Thus according to the participants the main barriers to the use of evidence in policy development included inadequate organisation to undertake research tailored to policy needs, inadequate budget allocation for studies relevant to policy, the indifference of decision-makers for the search for evidence, the low dissemination of evidence to decision makers and the lack of a framework for interaction between decision-makers and researchers.

The main facilitators for the use of data by decision makers was the strengthening of the capacity to use evidence in the policy formulation, appropriate dissemination evidence to decision makers, involvement of decision makers in research design and execution and taking into account the needs of decision-makers such as common thread of the research.

Finally, the best ways to promote the use of evidence included for stakeholders improving the capacity of decision-makers to use new technologies communication, the use of evidence, analysis, communication and advocacy.

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A review of implementation research in maternal health and child labour conducted in Nigeria identified 14 searches who evaluated the implementation of several interventions community and training levels sanitary facilities. The results of this research have made it possible to demonstrate the effectiveness of improvement interventions access and use with an impact in improvement maternal and child health indicators. He there was a need to scale up interventions across the country. The results of this work contributed to the development of policy documents of the country.

Evaluation of interventions undertaken in Nigeria to engage decision-makers and other stakeholders to promote evidence-based decision-making showed that the main tool was training workshops. Positive results in terms of improving knowledge and skills in the use of evidence in the process the importance of a more effective and efficient these training workshops.

### WAHO's Actions

This information generated has enabled the West African Health Organisation to build a regional platform with activities to strengthen individual, organisational and institutional capacities in states and the region to improve knowledge transfer and the use of evidence in policy making. In order to strengthen the institutional framework for the use of evidence in health policy making, a resolution was proposed and adopted by the Assembly of Ministers ECOWAS Health Conference held in June 2017 in Abuja.

To build skills and capacity to use evidence from maternal health stakeholders, training courses were organised in the six countries at national and local levels. To improve dialogue between decision-makers and researchers in maternal health and children, frameworks for dialogue have been put in place in Nigeria and Senegal around four projects of research and national level. A follow-up mechanism, assessment and learning was put in place to draw lessons and share them. Training evaluation carried out by WAHO in Benin City state, Nigeria showed an improvement in participants' knowledge.

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