

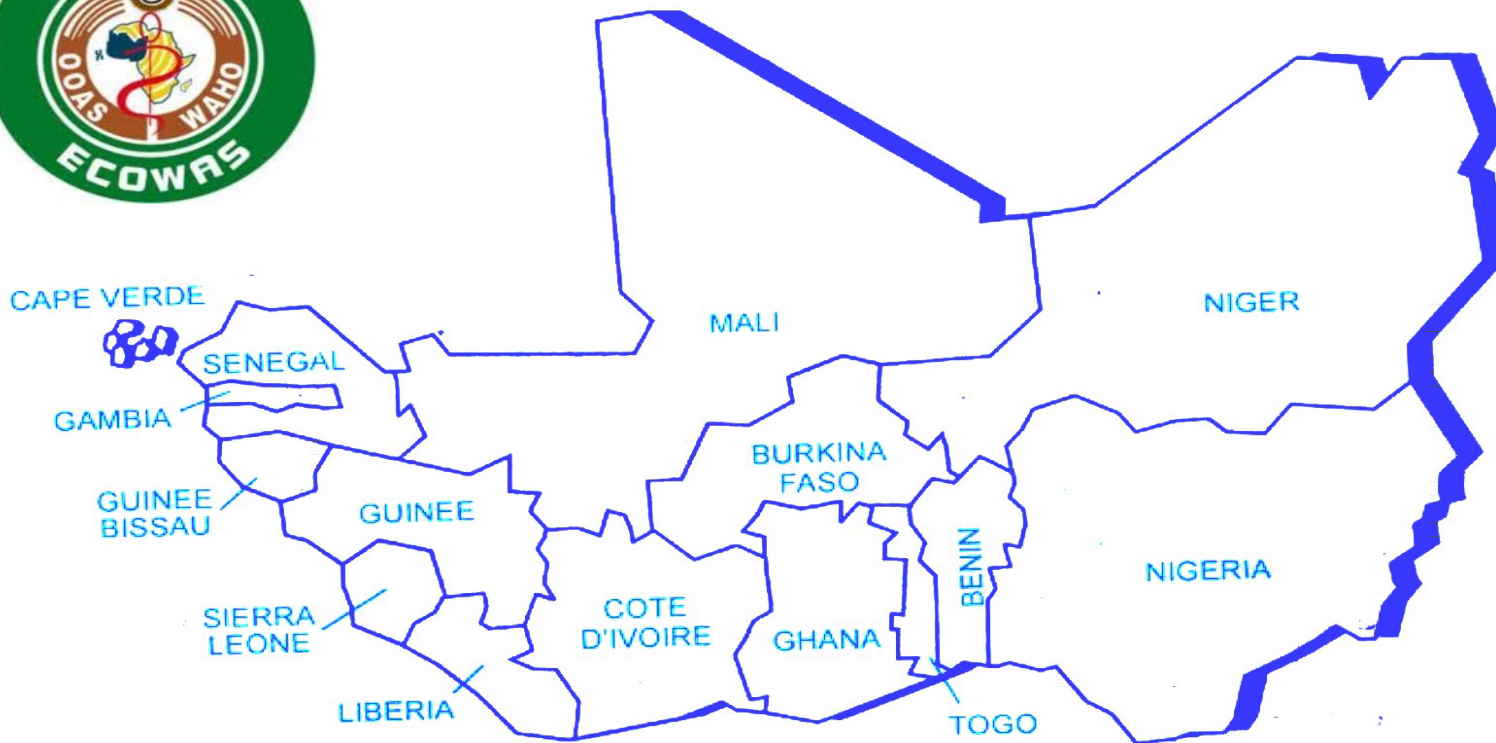


REGIONAL APPROACH TO RESEARCH FOR  
HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING USING  
INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.

THE WEST AFRICAN STORY THUS FAR WITH  
WAHO, IDRC AND COHRED

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ORGANIZAÇÃO OEST AFRICANA DA SAÚDE  
WEST AFRICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION OUEST AFRICAINE DE LA SANTÉ





# BRIEF HISTORY

- **November 1984:** ECOWAS Council of ministers approves creation of WAHO
- **July 1987:** The Heads of State adopt protocol A/P2/7/87 (Abuja) as a merger of OCCGE and WAHC
- **October 1998:** The Heads of State adopt, by decision A/Dec.9/10/98, to make **Bobo-Dioulasso**, Burkina Faso the headquarters of WAHO and appointed the **DG and DDG**.
- **March 2000:** Actively operational





# POLITICAL STRUCTURE

- **The authority of Heads of State and Governments** : Decision-making body of ECOWAS and WAHO.
- **The council of Ministers of ECOWAS** recommendations to the Authority of ECOWAS
- **The Assembly of Health Ministers:** the powers of this body are principally limited to health matters, particularly the technical aspects
- **The General Directorate** is charged with executing the programmes and activities of the Organization.





# WAHO's MISSION

- Attainment of the highest possible standard and protection of health of the peoples in the sub region through the harmonization of the policies of Member States, pooling of resources, cooperation with one another and with others for a collective and strategic combat against the health problems of the sub-region.





# WAHO'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Facilitating the flow of health resources in the sub region;
- Avoiding that countries become the victims of health problems originated in other countries due to the free movement of people;
- Sharing and pooling resources in order to undertake operations difficult to carry out by a single Member State.





# WAHO'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

- Unique political mandate.
- Direct line of communication with decision-makers from Member States,
  - Ability to motivate the harmonisation of health policies
  - Ability to facilitate inter-country exchange of information, health personnel, resources and policy alignment
- Establish partnership with health-related entities in the sub-region
- Capacity to collect, manage and disseminate health information specific to West Africa





# WAHO'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2013

1. Coordination and Harmonization of Policies:
2. Health Information
3. **Development of Research**
4. Promotion and Dissemination of Best Practices
5. Development of Human Resources for health
6. Medicines and Vaccines
7. Traditional Medicine
8. Diversification of Health Financing Mechanisms
9. Institutional Development and Capacity Building
10. Monitoring and Evaluation







# WAHO'S HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME

- **Strategic Objective :**
  - To facilitate health research in the ECOWAS sub region.
- **Expected Outcome :**
  - Network of ECOWAS researchers established
  - Operational Research Centers of Excellence promoted.
- **Intermediate Results:**
  - Inventory of research capacity and ongoing research programmes in the sub-region compiled
  - Human and infrastructural capacity compiled and strengthened
  - The impact of development projects on health identified and disseminated





# MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE HEALTH RESEARCH UNIT

- Support strengthening of National Health Research System
- Financing Health Research Project
- Creating and sustaining resources (individual and institutional level)
  - Launching West African health Research Network 2010
- Support research dissemination activities





# PROCESS OF COLLABORATION

- Discussion of opportunities of collaboration with COHRED (Bamako 2008)
- Contact with IDRC Team during Bamako Forum (Nov 2008)
- WAHO DG and PO Research discuss with IDRC regional team (March 2009)
- WAHO DDG and PO Research visit COHRED Headquarter (May 2009)
- MOU (Nov 2009)





# PROCESS OF COLLABORATION

- WAHO R4H Assessment Meeting (Ouagadougou, Dec 2009)
  - Coordination, governance and management structures, policy framework, utilization of results
  - Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Mali
- R4H System Strengthening (Dakar, Mar 2011)  
WAHO, IDRC, TDR, COHRED
  - Designing action plans tailored for each country
  - National Research for Health System Maps





# BROAD EXPECTATION

Each Country should:

- Create a functional governance mechanism for the coordination of research in general
- Create a functional governance mechanism for the coordination of health research
- Take concrete action to build institutional and human resource capacities for research; research governance, research management and research utilization.





# BROAD EXPECTATIONS

- Take action to fulfill their commitments to spend at least 2% of their health budgets and 5% of external project aid on health research. Each country should consider:
  - The difference between current expenditure on health research and the expected expenditure based on the commitments by the countries articulated in the Algiers Declaration; and
  - The importance of research in decision making to improve the health of the population.





# WAHO'S BROAD EXPECTATION

- Serve as a hub for regional action to strengthen research capacity in ECOWAS countries.
- Create a mechanism to support countries to establish and maintain strong health research coordinating structures
- Establish a financing mechanism to support the strengthening of health research capacity in ECOWAS countries
- Facilitate a health research network in the ECOWAS region to enhance mobilization of resources, information sharing and use of research findings for decision making





# FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Analysis of National Health Research System in Ecowas Countries (December 2009)
- Identification of priorities actions for strengthening NHRS
- Recommendation: WAHO to help countries to develop their NHRS







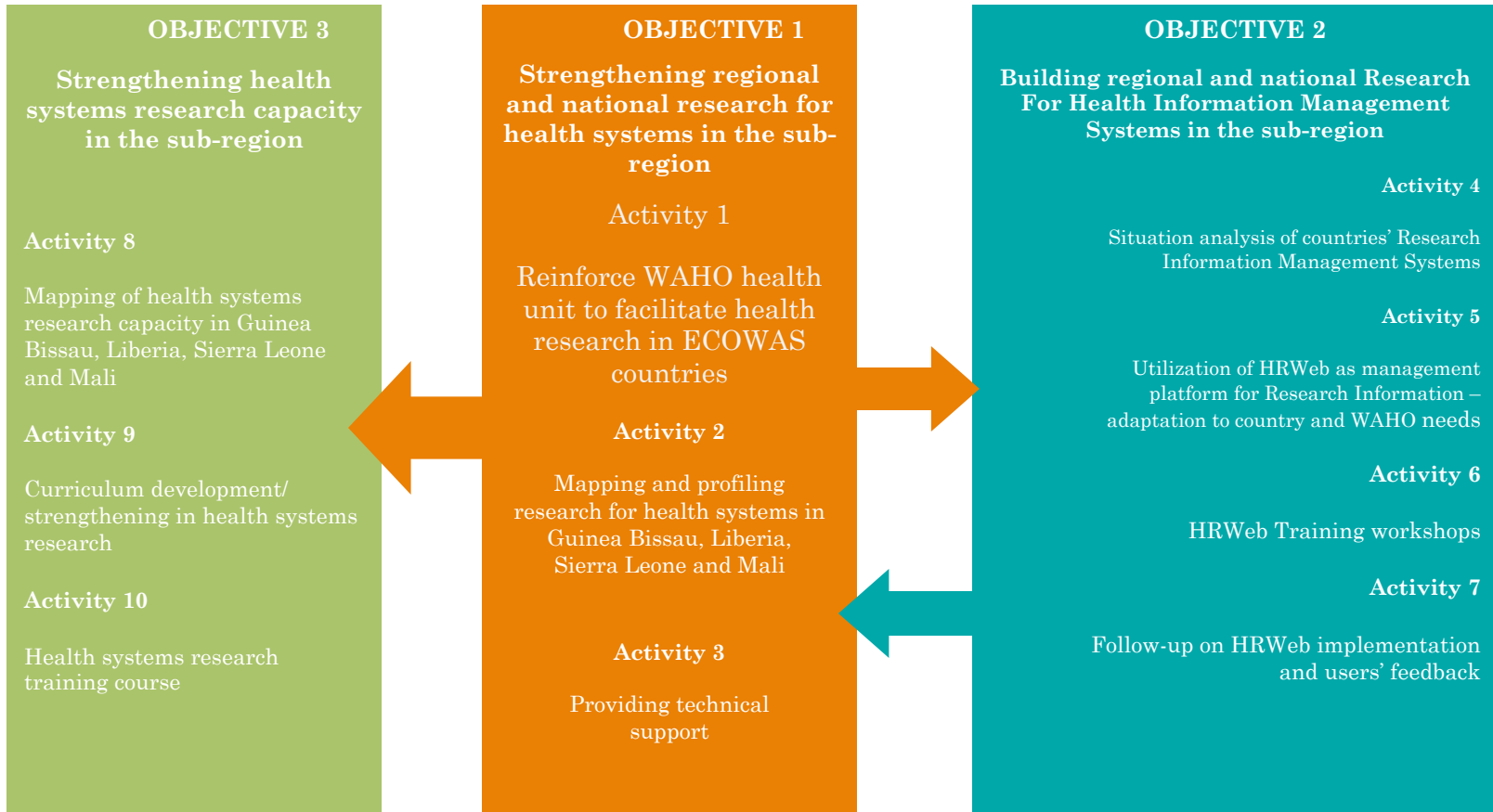
# REGIONAL R4H PROJECT

- To strengthen regional and national research for health systems in the sub-region;
- To build national Research For Health Information Management Systems in the sub-region;
- To strengthen health systems research capacity in the sub-region.





# PROJECT METHODOLOGY





# PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- WAHO health research unit strengthened
- Essential information about the research for health systems in Guinea Bissau, Mali, Liberia and Sierra Leone is available.
- Plans of work for strengthening the research for health systems in the four countries are developed.
- Key aspects of the systems are strengthened.
- The '*Health Research Web*' online platform is adjusted and adopted to WAHO's and countries' needs.
- WAHO and country partners are trained in the use and quality control of their Research For Health Information Management Systems.





# PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- The Research For Health Information Management System contains key information on research for health for the four countries.
- Health system research capacity and needs are mapped for the four countries.
- A training course on health system research harmonised and health workers trained in each country
- Specific national/regional institutions are able to conduct the data surveys, manage the HRWeb site pages and provide capacity building support [through a course and research mentoring/supervision]
- WAHO Health research programme development implementation improved





THANK YOU

*Obrigado!*

*Merci*

