



ACTIVITY AT-A-GLANCE

Capacity Strengthening of Local Institutions to Accelerate the Ouagadougou Partnership Research Agenda

Situation

Since 2011, the Ouagadougou Partnership has brought together an array of stakeholders to coordinate efforts to increase the availability and use of modern contraception, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and improve the overall health and well-being of women and children in nine Francophone countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. As part of the Ouagadougou Partnership “Beyond 2020 Strategy,” a 2022 Research Agenda was developed, and is supporting three West African research institutions and their partners to generate evidence and inform future investments in family planning and sexual and reproductive health programs and policy efforts. As a member of the Research Advisory Board, the USAID West Africa Regional Office catalyzed support for this initiative with a two-year, field-supported activity led by USAID’s Agency for All Project.

Snapshot

Location: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo

Duration: 2023–2025

Consortium Partners: Center on Gender Equity and Health, UC San Diego; EVIDAF; Makerere University; Sambodhi

Funder: USAID West Africa Regional Office

Other Partners: Ouagadougou Partnership Coordination Unit

What We’re Doing

Agency for All will support the Research Agenda by providing comprehensive training and mentorship to the research institutions via a co-created work plan. Expected outcomes include: (1) research institutions’ enhanced capacities to generate new/strengthen evidence on effective strategies to improve family planning, reproductive health, and maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes; and (2) elevated leadership and expertise of local institutions in bridging research-policy gaps.

Approach

Consortium partners adopted a research lifecycle approach that prioritizes co-design, localization, and collaboration to provide training and support that strengthens research and advocacy capacities.

What We’re Learning

Results from our Baseline Capacity Assessment indicated that all grantees reported high levels of credibility within the policy landscape in their respective countries. However, common capacity gaps include resource mobilization, strategic planning, partnership management, and communicating evidence into actionable recommendations for decision-makers. These gaps can be mitigated by building on existing assets together with trainings and mentorship.

Impact

By the end of this activity, we will ensure research institutions have the procedures, structures, and standards necessary to (1) independently conduct high-quality research, and (2) translate research findings into policy and practice. Accomplishing these two goals will accelerate progress in meeting country- and region-specific priorities.

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