



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
RESEARCH CENTRE



## DAKAR CALL OUT

### FOR THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL COALITION FOR HEALTH-RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This call is an outcome of the West Africa regional consultation for the implementation of health-related sustainable development goals (SDGs) co-organized by the West African Health Organization (WAHO), the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC), and the Consortium for Economic and Social Research (CRES) on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 at Dakar.

The participants in the regional consultation acknowledge the importance of achieving the SDGs for a sustainable improvement of the well-being of the populations, in particular the health-related SDGs (SDG 3). They acknowledge with satisfaction that significant efforts have been made by governments to achieve the health-related SDGs.

However, there are many remaining challenges that need to be addressed for achieving the health-related SDGs. These challenges are mainly related to:

- Governance and financing of health systems,
- Insufficient human resources in the field of health and statistics,
- Difficulties related to national and regional inter-sectoral coordination,
- Insufficient research and harmonized regional framework for the monitoring and evaluation of the indicators for the health-related SDGs,
- Difficulties related to rigorous generation and access to regional data,
- Inadequate use of research results and evidence in the national and regional decision-making process.

Furthermore, the health-related SDGs cannot be achieved without the involvement of all stakeholders, including government representatives, health research centres, Policy research institutions (think tanks), civil society, representatives of grassroots communities and the media.

Consequently, we participants to the Regional Consultation on the Implementation of the Health-related SDGs in West Africa:

#### **Invite the civil society, research organisations and the media to:**

- Set up a regional consultation framework, whose objective is to facilitate the production and the effective use of knowledge related to the achievement of health-related SDGs,
- Continue its monitoring and watchdog role in areas related to the health-related SDGs.

**Strongly urge West African governments, including ministries of health to:**

- Provide moral, technical and financial support for the forthcoming creation of a regional coalition for the achievement of health-related SDGs. The objective of this coalition would be to pool synergies at national and supranational levels, and to help strengthen countries' capacities in analysing and evaluating public policies, in particular those likely to influence progress on health-related SDGs,
- Work closely with health research institutions, think tanks and other research networks to promote the use of research results in the decision-making process.

**And finally, the participants invite the West African Health Organization to:**

- Ensure the regional coordination and monitoring for effective implementation of the Dakar recommendations,
- Provide necessary support for the creation and effective functioning of a strong regional coalition for achieving the health-related SDGs,
- Continue facilitating relationship with ministries of health in West African countries.

**Dakar, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**