

**The World Bank**

West Africa Regional Disease Surveillance Capacity Strengthening (P125018)

Implementation Status & Results Report

West Africa Regional Disease Surveillance Capacity Strengthening (P125018)

AFRICA | Western Africa | Health, Nutrition & Population Global Practice |
 Recipient Executed Activities | Investment Project Financing | FY 2014 | Seq No: 7 | ARCHIVED on 01-Aug-2016 | ISR24689 |

Implementing Agencies: WAHO

Key Dates**Key Project Dates**

Bank Approval Date:22-Oct-2013

Effectiveness Date:11-Dec-2013

Planned Mid Term Review Date:12-Feb-2016

Actual Mid-Term Review Date:25-Apr-2016

Original Closing Date:30-Jun-2017

Revised Closing Date:30-Jun-2017

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

The project development objective is to strengthen regional disease surveillance and response system of ECOWAS (Economic Organization of West African States) member states.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

Components

Name

Regional Capacity Development:(Cost \$4.81 M)

Strengthening Human Resources:(Cost \$4.93 M)

Management Support:(Cost \$1.01 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	● Satisfactory	● Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	● Satisfactory	● Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	● Moderate	● Moderate



Implementation Status and Key Decisions

Implementation status

The implementation was slow at the beginning of the project. The procurement for goods and equipment for the project took longer than expected and therefore the IPs could not start implementing activities on time. The WARDS project was the first World Bank supported project to be implemented by WAHO. The Bank team had to support the capacity building of WAHO as the implementing agency and at the same time ensure that activities are implemented as planned in the PAD. The implementation was further delayed by the participation of the WAHO team in the Ebola response which took most of the WAHO management and technical staff away from the project.

At the time of the MTR, the project has disbursed 59 percent of the funds and all the remaining funds have been committed towards activities to be implemented by the IPs. Some IPs have been proactive in implementing their activities (CCISD, CDC, and the University of Oslo), while the Fondation Merieux has been lagging behind in implementing activities with only 15 percent of its funding having been disbursed by the time of the MTR. WHO did not submit activity and financial reports as required thus posing a challenge to judge about its performance.

The University of Oslo has already delivered on its mandate to put in place a regional data warehouse where all countries send in collected data for analysis and production of epidemiological bulletins. The two other big ticket IPs (CCISD and CDC) are on track to finalize the implementation of their activities as well as the University of Oslo. The top performers IPs (CCISD and CDC) have approximately 70 percent of the entire project envelop (US\$4.46 million and US\$2.54 million for CCISD and CDC respectively). During the MTR the Fondation Merieux agreed to take additional measures to make sure that they catch up as quickly as possible on lagging training activities.

Most of the activities under the WARDS project are training of health professionals in disease surveillance and laboratory techniques. All cohorts for the master's level training under the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) have been enrolled at the University of Ouagadougou (2 cohorts from Francophone countries, under CDC leadership) and at the University of Ghana (2 cohorts from Anglophone countries).

On the short term training side, participants from one third of the districts had completed their training by the MTR and the remaining two third were all enrolled in the short term training to be followed by formative supervision as planned.

Therefore there is no doubt that by most of the funds, if not all of it, will be disbursed by the closing date of the project. The progress will be assessed again during the next implementation support mission and the ratings accordingly updated.

Main findings of the MTR

Relevance of the PDO and project design

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen the regional disease surveillance and response system of ECOWAS member countries. Cognizant of its catalytic nature (US\$10 million project for 15 countries), since its inception, the objective of strengthening regional disease surveillance and response system mainly meant to strengthen the human capacity through short and long-term training and to strengthen the fiduciary and management capacity of WAHO.

The MTR mission reconfirmed that the PDO is rated **High** as it continues to remain highly relevant to ECOWAS member countries, especially in the light of the recent Ebola outbreak in the region, which exposed weaknesses in the current disease surveillance systems in many countries.

Despite the PDO being rated high, the MTR recommended to re-word the PDO in order to better reflect what the project is doing and can exactly contribute to with the project envelope of US\$10 million. The revised PDO will therefore read as follows: "the project development objective is to increase the human and technical capacity for disease surveillance at country and regional level in ECOWAS region".

Likewise the three project components (Regional Capacity Development (Component 1), Strengthening Human Resources (Component 2), and Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (Component 3)) remain relevant.

Relevance of implementation

The relevance of the implementation is rated **Moderate**. The implementation was slow at the beginning of the project. The procurement for goods and equipment for the project took longer than expected and therefore the IPs could not start implementing activities on time. The WARDS project was the first World Bank supported project to be implemented by WAHO. The Bank team had to support the capacity building of WAHO as the implementing agency and at the same time ensure that activities are implemented as planned in the PAD. The implementation was further delayed by the participation of the WAHO team in the Ebola response which took most of the WAHO management and technical staff away from the project.

At the time of the MTR, the project has disbursed 59 percent of the funds and all the remaining funds have been committed towards activities to be implemented by the IPs. Some IPs have been proactive in implementing their activities (CCISD, CDC, and the University of Oslo), while the Fondation Merieux has been lagging behind in implementing activities with only 15 percent of its funding having been disbursed by the time of the MTR. WHO did not submit activity and financial reports as required thus posing a challenge to judge about its performance.



Progress towards achievement of the PDO

The PDO rating at MTR was rated Moderately Unsatisfactory because all five PDO outcome indicators are below their targets at MTR. The five PDO Indicators are:(i) Percentage of targeted districts CES which submit complete and on-time reports for selected priority diseases using the standard reporting format; (ii) Number of health personnel receiving training; and (iii) Completion rate of FELTP trainees by gender and country of sponsorship), (v) Percentage of short term trainees in field epidemiology or laboratory skills who are working at district 12 months after completing training and (vi) Semi-annual regional disease surveillance bulletins published by WAHO and disseminated to ECOWAS Member States.

Also, all five intermediate results indicators are below their targets at the MTR. One of them (Number of regional simulation exercises for outbreak response by WAHO) will be dropped because the related activity could not be carried out due to insufficient funds.

Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E design

The M&E design for the WARDS project was simple with outcome indicators relevant to the PDO. They all relate to human and technical capacity building. The wording of the PDO however, is too broad, and not aligned with the scope of support provided by US\$10 million.

Data collection

Tools for data collection on all indicators were developed and used regularly to inform on the progress of the project. The results framework has been updated at regular interval during supervision support mission.

The MTR mission assessed the relevance of the PDO and intermediate results indicators in the Results Framework: three indicators are expected to be achieved by the end of project targets and two remaining indicators are expected to be partially achieved.

All intermediate results indicators, except one (Number of regional simulation exercises for outbreak response by WAHO), which will be dropped because the related activity could not be carried out due to insufficient funds, are on track to be achieved by the end of the project.

Collected data was used to inform the respective IPs on their performance in order to help them improve their implementation. Data was also used to publish a bulletin on selected diseases of importance for the West Africa region. The bulletin is disseminated to all countries once validated.

Key decision

Project restructuring is needed in order to (i) change the wording of the PDO in order to better reflect what exactly the project is and can contribute to; (ii) to amend the Results Framework in order to revise end of project targets for PDO Indicator “percentage of short term trainees in the field epidemiology or laboratory skills who are working at district 12 months after completing training, by gender and country of origin” and PDO indicators “semi-annual regional disease surveillance bulletins published by WAHO and disseminated to ECOWAS member States”; and to drop the intermediate indicator on “number of regional simulation exercises for outbreak response by WAHO”.

Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	--	● Substantial	● Substantial
Macroeconomic	--	● Moderate	● Moderate



Sector Strategies and Policies	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	--	● Low	● Low
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Fiduciary	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Environment and Social	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Stakeholders	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Other	--	--	--
Overall	--	● Moderate	● Moderate

Results

Project Development Objective Indicators

- Percentage of targeted districts CES which submit complete and on-time reports for selected priority diseases using the standard reporting format (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	30.00	85.00
Date	12-Sep-2013	11-May-2016	21-Jul-2016	30-Jun-2017

- Health personnel receiving training (number) (Number, Core)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	292.00	292.00	404.00
Date	31-May-2013	11-May-2016	21-Jul-2016	30-Jun-2017

- ▲ Of Which percent female (Percentage, Custom Supplement)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	5.00	20.00	20.00	25.00



- Percentage of short term trainees in field epidemiology or laboratory skills who are working at district after completing training, by gender and country of sponsorship. (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00
Date	31-May-2013	11-May-2016	21-Jul-2016	30-Jun-2017

- Completion rate of FELTP trainees by gender and country of sponsorship (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.00
Date	31-May-2013	11-May-2016	11-May-2016	30-Jun-2017

- Number of Semi-annual regional disease surveillance bulletin published by WAHO. (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	1.00	1.00	7.00
Date	31-May-2013	11-May-2016	21-Jul-2016	30-Jun-2017

Overall Comments

Intermediate Results Indicators

- Total Number of Centers of Epidemiological Surveillance (CES) established by the project. (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	20.00	20.00	60.00
Date	31-May-2013	11-May-2016	21-Jul-2016	30-Jun-2017



► Total Number of candidates who completed long-term FELTP training, by gender and country of sponsorship. (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.00
Date	31-May-2013	30-Oct-2015	21-Jul-2016	30-Jun-2017

► Total number of persons who completed short-term training in field epidemiology and laboratory skills, by gender and country of sponsorship. (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	48.00	48.00	350.00
Date	31-May-2013	11-May-2016	21-Jul-2016	30-Jun-2017

► Number of regional simulation exercises for outbreak response by WAHO (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Date	31-May-2013	11-May-2016	21-Jul-2016	30-Jun-2017

► Direct project beneficiaries (Number, Core)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	325.00	325.00	410.00
Date	31-May-2013	30-Oct-2015	21-Jul-2016	30-Jun-2017



▲ Female beneficiaries (Percentage, Core Supplement)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	5.00	20.00	20.00	40.00

Overall Comments

Data on Financial Performance

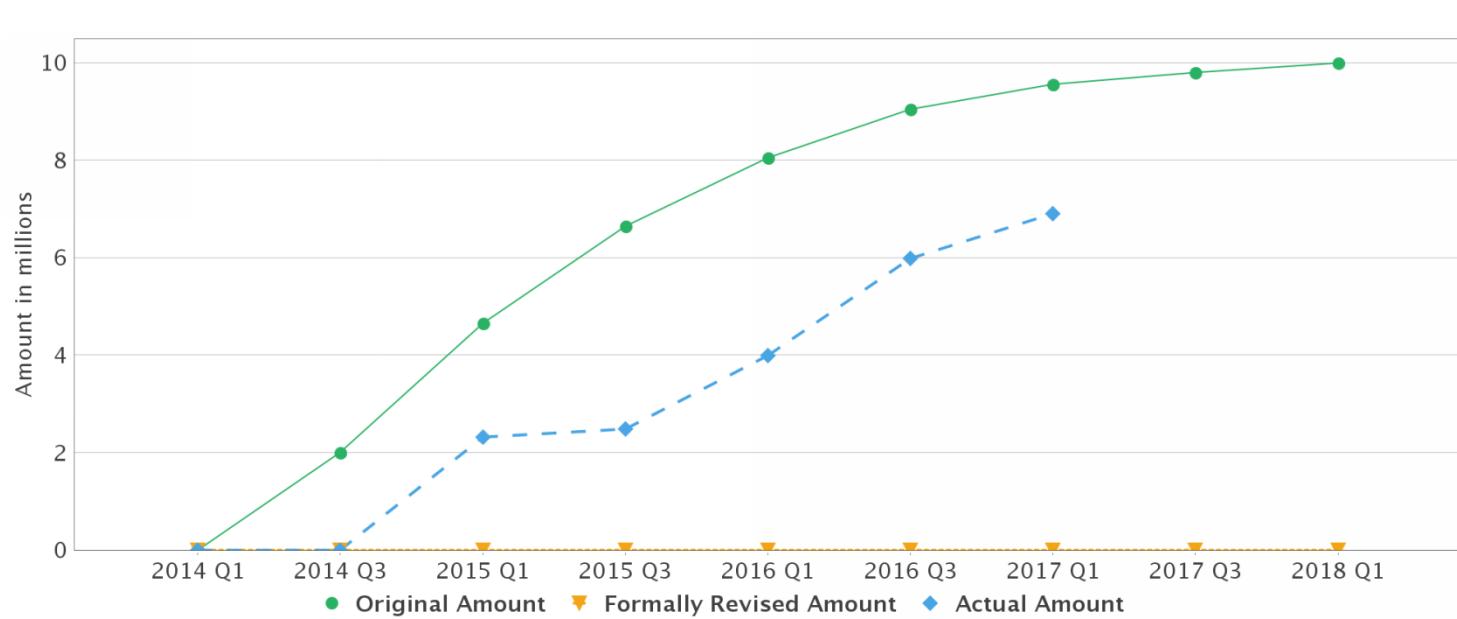
Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	Disbursed
P125018	TF-14785	Effective	USD	10.00	10.00	0.00	6.90	3.10	<div style="width: 69%; background-color: #2e7131;"></div> 69%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P125018	TF-14785	Effective	22-Oct-2013	22-Oct-2013	11-Dec-2013	30-Jun-2017	30-Jun-2017

Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

There are no related projects.