



AI4PEP (SSA) News Bulletin 2 - August 6 to August 20, 2023



Welcome to the AI4PEP bi-weekly News Brief. This week, we bring you the latest updates from the AI4PEP initiative, showcasing the remarkable strides made by our partners in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, and South Africa. From forging strategic alliances to enhance community-based surveillance to developing an algorithm for their One Health Approach to Health, we delve into their achievements, challenges, and collaborative efforts.

In the recent bi-weekly meeting of the AI4PEP initiative, partners from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, and South Africa gathered to share their progress and challenges.

Team Cameroon reported their preparations for a national launch, focusing on developing an app for patients, an algorithm for their One Health Approach to health, and investigating the zoonosis interaction of humans, ecology, and animals.

Ethiopia managed strategic alliances to enhance community-based surveillance, community participation, and maternal health approaches. The team had also recorded substantive progress in their social media engagement, and they had been actively engaging with their newly found AI4PEP Network.

Team Ghana reported that they had been featured in a panel to present about their work on malaria. This opportunity provided them the opportunity to network with other key players in the field, including the Director of Public Health in Ghana. One member had also been invited to a Climate Change conference at the University of Cape Coast.

Team South Africa secured a grant for device production, advanced their communication protocols, and worked on impactful research papers. Specifically, Team South Africa reported that they had received a grant from the University of Witwatersrand to aid their production, and it enabled them to off-set their production, with between 50-60 devices successfully made. They had also successfully created their algorithm for the Lo-ra Communication protocol.

Dr. Katharina Laurer from Arfinity presented their global efforts in forecasting infectious diseases, utilizing diverse data sources. The partners discussed potential collaborations with Arfinity and explored opportunities for joint papers on Data Governance, aligning with a UN call for consultancy. Dr. Gelan Ayana volunteered to lead the submission of a joint paper for the Africa region. Additionally, there were discussions about establishing a WHO Open Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Africa, mirroring the initiative in Berlin.