

Welcome to the AI4PEP bi-weekly News Brief.

This week we bring you some exciting updates from Team Africa: **Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, & Senegal.**

Special Acknowledgement

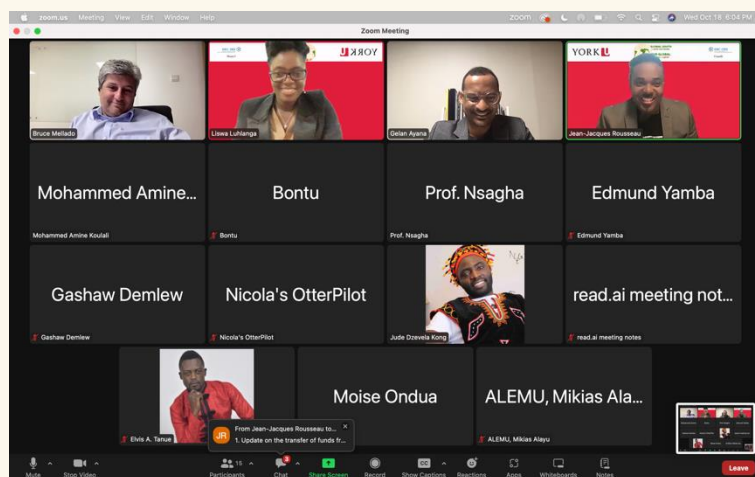
Prof. Kong emphasized his gratitude to Profs. Mellado and Ayana for their leadership, noting that they had taken leadership in the process of crafting the proposal.

Resource Mobilization

The team focused a great deal of their time and energy strategizing for the Grants Challenge call for proposal:

<https://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/strengthening-health-and-disease-modeling-public-health-decision-making-africa>

It was agreed that both the Gates Foundation and Wellcome Trust priorities were aligned with the AI4PEP mandate. There was consensus that the team should form a core team that will brainstorm and craft a proposal, either as the MENA collective or in partnership with the Africa cohort. Given the deadline, the team agreed to cooperate and ensure that all the necessary information was provided swiftly to support the vanguards in the writing process.



Cameroon

- The team reported that its App development process was at an advanced stage, and it will be ready for use within the next couple weeks.
- The team reported that they had successfully submitted 5 abstracts to the Yaonde One Health Forum, all of which were accepted. The forum was scheduled for the 2nd to the 3rd of November, 2023. In the main, the articles sought to explore the use of AI and a One Health Approach to inform Pandemic and Epidemic Preparedness and response.



- Dr. Nsangha and Dr. Kwenteyim also reported that they had been featured at the Chariot Radio station, and about 33, 000 students.
- The team stated that they would be attending the Annual General Meeting of the Regional University Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture to be held between the 28th October to the 2nd November, 2023. The theme of the event was “Transforming Higher Education to Sustainably Feed and Create Prosperity for Africa.”
- The DigiCare project provided that its launch date was set for the 9th November, 2023, at the University of Bue’s AMPHITheatre, and invitations were being disseminated.

Ethiopia

- A team member (Desselaw) was named a rising star at Dakar where a project that he leads was also granted some funding by the Gates Foundation.
- The project received an accolade from the Hon. President of Jemal Abafia of the Jimma University, and a website feature following the president’s endorsement of their work.
- The team submitted that it had successfully put together a joint grant proposal to the Gates Foundation. Team Ethiopia has demonstrated strategic leadership by stepping up to lead the cohort in this very fundamental process.
- Additionally, Prof. Ayana also successfully edited the UN paper into a manuscript on Decolonizing Global AI Governance.
- ance & it was going to be submitted to a journal on behalf of the cohort.
- They added that they had advanced their partnership with CORE Group, a like-minded local agency that works on community polio surveillance.
- The project had been featured on national television (*link not available at the time*).

Ghana

- The team reported that it has completed all the required administrative requirements and was ready to receive their funds and kickstart the project.
- Their project launch was projected for **December 2023**, and various stakeholders had been identified as potential invitees.
- In terms of research publications, the team reported that two of its research papers were in progress, and one was partially completed.
- **“1. Modeling Climate -Induced Changes in Malaria Vector Capacity for Enhanced Vector Surveillance and Control.”- 98% completed.**
- **“2. A Climate -based climate model for predicting malaria cases and burden.”- 30 % completed.** This is very useful for purposes of combating Malaria in Africa. Climate Modelling helps to predict Malaria cases. Most models predict vector density and their population distribution, but in the case of Africa, we build immunity, so it would be helpful to design an immunity model.



South Africa

- The team reported that it had achieved some technical progress towards several papers over the past two weeks.
- The first paper establishes connections between climate and Particulate Concentration (air quality concentrations) and paying particular attention to the addition or not of satellite data to the AI modelling.
- Meanwhile, the second paper provides an interplay between climate change and air quality concentration. One of the researchers in the team has suggested that the team pays attention to different locations within the corridor.
- On another note, Prof. Mellado reported that the high level preparations had finally come to fruition as the devices were primed to start gathering data. The university had also been nudged to offer logistical support.