Welcome to the AI**4**PEP bi-weekly News Brief.
This week we bring you some exciting updates from Team Africa: **Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, & Senegal.**

Welcome on Board!

- Congratulations to Dr. Emmanuel Musa who recently joined the AI4PEP Secretariat as the new Network Manager. Unveiling the Manager at the last bi-weekly meeting, Prof. Kong announced that he was a renowned Medical practitioner, and global health specialist with a well-rounded portfolio. Musa had reportedly served as a pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response specialist at the World Health Organization (WHO) in different parts of the Global South. He is committed to use his expertise, experience, and networks to advance the AI4PEP agenda.

Resource Mobilization

- Prof. Kong conveyed his thanks and appreciation to Dr. Gelan Ayana, the Principal Investigator of Polio-Antenna (Jimma University) in Ethiopia for rising at taking leadership in coordinating the publication of the first ever joint publication of the AI4PEP-Africa cohort. He also acknowledged the leadership and sacrifice that Prof. Ayana demonstrated over the holidays when he led the resource mobilization process where the African cohort was bidding for a $4 million worth grant on Science & Innovation in Africa.

Publication

- Prof. Kong further thanked Prof. Mellado (South Africa) and Prof. Kwenteyim (Cameroon) for stepping up and volunteering to coordinate the writing process for a joint paper that would be submitted to the Frontier Journal. Prof. Kong encouraged the team to tighten their collaboration efforts, citing that IDRC was part of the Editorial team for the publication. He underscored the strategic nature of the opportunity to write and pitch their ideas directly to the donor and emphasized the need to seize the opportunity with both hands.

Administrative Updates

- Prof. Kong acknowledged that it was time for the next batch of funding to be processed from York University's end. He committed to write an email within the next couple of days to communicate the requisition process and the requirements thereof. He mentioned that he anticipated the process to be smooth going forward because all the administrative issues had been handled during the first disbursement. The requirements for the second disbursements were as follows:

- 1.A **Narrative report;** *detailing activities implemented, successes and challenges. Where applicable; partners were encouraged to share links to events and publications.*

- 2.A **Financial Report;** *detailing expenditures of the first tranche of funding.*

- *3. **Receipts.***

- *For further details about closing the first tranche of funding and requisitioning for the second, Sheriff would be in touch with the different teams, they were also encouraged to email the secretariat for support where*

necessary.

Ghana One Health Conference

- Prof. Badu reported that he and his team had hosted a successful One Health Conference that brought together different experts from Ghana, Chad, Nigeria, and Germany to tackle various themes under the auspices of One Health. He mentioned that the conference was a resounding success as it successfully convened over 300 participants & ultimately linked them with different partners within the field. Exchanging ideas with the different players proved to be very useful, and the team agreed to make it a long-term platform for networking and exchange of knowledge on One Health and Pandemic Preparedness and response.

Ethiopia- Prof. Ayana's Protegee Shines at COP 28

- Dessalew Yohannes attended the COP28 conference in Dubai & recently won IDRC's spotlight via a recent article that was published on their website.
- English: https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/news/fostering-participation-young-researchers-cop28
- French: https://idrc-crdi.ca/fr/nouvelles/favoriser-la-participation-des-jeunes-chercheures-et-chercheurs-la-cop28

Senegal

- The team at Revocap announced that they would be hosting a

Masterclass on AI, One Health and Community Engagement. This event will feature a panel of experts who will provide their insights on the different themes and generate discussion with participants. The event is scheduled for the 27th January 2024.

South Africa- Article on the Deployment of Air Quality Monitoring devices

- Prof. Mellado reported that their milestone on the deployment of the Air Quality Monitoring devices had been published on the IDRC website following an article that the Communication Officer put together to highlight the successes of the project. While there was huge progress given the deployment of the devices next to mining dumps and high traffic spots, there had been

lingering issues of the safety of the devices. Prof. Mellado was happy to report that he had been engaging the Min. Of Education for support in housing the devices in nearby schools where they would be secured. https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/news/researchers-south-africa-champion-device-ai-powered-air-quality-monitoring