

Youth Leading the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Movement in West Africa: Lessons Learned



Event Agenda & Speaker Biographies

Event Agenda

	Topic	Speaker
1	Welcome & Introductions	Mohamed Ly
2	Opening Remarks	Janet Holt
3	Project Overview	Maïfoux Nassirou
4	Introduction to the Youth-Led Organizations	Gérardine M. Songbe
5	Côte d'Ivoire: Women & Resilience Consortium	Salematou Balde
6	Burkina Faso: Youth Power Consortium	Stévie Yameogo
7	Benin: FND-JVS-ROAJELF Consortium	Mariette Montcho
8	Summary	Gérardine M. Songbe
9	Questions & Answers	Gérardine M. Songbe
10	Perspectives & Next Steps	Maïfoux Nassirou
11	Closing Remarks	Gérardine M. Songbe

Thursday, April 20, 2023
9:00 to 10:00 AM EDT
1:00 to 2:00 PM GMT



EngenderHealth

Speaker Biographies (listed alphabetically)

Salematou Balde, Actuelles

As the Executive Director of the feminist organization Actuelles, Salematou is a graduate in audiovisual journalism. She is also the president of the Women and Resilience consortium and a member of the collective of Activists against Gender-Based Violence and the Ivorian League for Women's Rights. Salematou has been supporting activities focused on educating young girls on menstrual hygiene and promoting free distribution of hygienic protection kits in schools.

Janet Holt, Fondation Hewlett

Janet Holt is program officer for the Hewlett Foundation's gender equity and governance program, supporting grants that aim to expand reproductive health services for women, particularly in Francophone West Africa. She previously served in the Peace Corps, where she supported volunteer programs around the world in maternal and child health, water and sanitation, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Janet has worked in Africa and Asia with a range of organizations, from small non-governmental organizations to bilateral and multilateral agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank. Janet holds a master of arts in international comparative education and a bachelor of science in human biology, both from Stanford University.

Mohamed Ly, EngenderHealth

As regional director for West and Central Africa, Mohamed is responsible for leading EngenderHealth's operations in the region and contributing to global strategic objectives. He brings more than 10 years of experience in monitoring, evaluation, and research, and providing technical leadership to governments and nongovernmental organizations in West and Central Africa. Mohamed earned a professional master of demography from the Institute of Training and Demographic Research of Yaoundé in Cameroon and a master of economics from the University of Bouake in Côte d'Ivoire.

Mariette Montcho, West African Network of Young Women Leaders of Benin (ROAJELF)

Mariette is the Executive Director of the ROAJELF and leads the FND-JVS-ROAJELF consortium. With a master's degree in risk and disaster management, she is an expert in sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as gender and social inclusion. Mariette, brings 11 years of professional experience in sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence in West Africa, particularly in Benin. She has always worked toward the respect of rights of adolescents and young people and the empowerment and leadership of girls and women.

Maïfoux Nassirou, EngenderHealth

Maïfoux manages EngenderHealth's work in Benin, including initiatives focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights advocacy, gender-based violence, meaningful youth participation, and safe abortion. He brings over 10 years of experience in Francophone Africa and has expertise in adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights, comprehensive abortion care, family planning, and policy advocacy. Maïfoux earned a master of arts in human rights from the Université d'Abomey-Calavi in Benin and a master of arts in communication for development from the Institute for Advanced Economic Studies in Belgium.

Speaker Biographies (listed alphabetically)

Gérardine M. Songbe, Young Volunteers for Health Association in Benin

Gérardine is passionate about sexual and reproductive health and rights and the well-being of young people. She has nine years of expertise working on sexual and reproductive health and rights issues and the empowerment of women and girls. A committed activist on these themes, she is a project manager with the Young Volunteers for Health association in Benin. This association uses art as vectors of sexual and reproductive health and rights information and demand creation for family planning and reproductive health services and the empowerment of young people.

Stévie Yameogo, Organization of Young People Committed to Citizen Participation and Sustainable Development (OJEPC)

A sociologist by training, Stévie is a young activist who has been involved in sustainable development, youth empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender equality initiatives for more than 10 years. She is the Vice President of the National Network of Young Ambassadors for Reproductive Health and Family Planning in Burkina Faso as well as the co-founder of OJEPC, which is a member of the Youth Power consortium supported by EngenderHealth.