

# Healthmet

A pilot project on climate and  
health in West Africa

Amman (Jordan), November 2015



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## Outline:

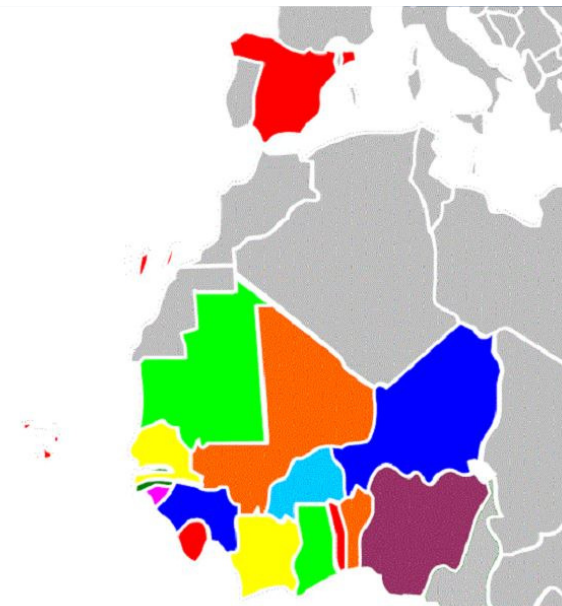
- Background. AFRIMET.
- 2009-2011: Initial development phase.
- 2012-2014: Difficulties in moving forward.
- 2015: Reactivation of the project. Redesign of plans.
- Conclusions and lessons learned.



# Background: AFRIMET, Conference of Directors of the West African National Meteorological and Hidrological Services



[www.afrimet.org](http://www.afrimet.org)



Conference of Directors of the West African National Meteorological and Hydrological Services

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October 27, 2015

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- HEALTHMET: 1st Africa/Middle-East Expert Meeting and Workshop on the health impact of airborne dust.
- HEALTHMET: Information of interest on PM10 data from the Sahel.
- OTHER NEWS: Climate and Disaster Resilience Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa.
- OTHER NEWS: Reports from the Third Session of the AMCOMET are now available.
- LINKS: New link to AMCOMET website.
- OTHER NEWS: Saharan dust outbreak over Senegal and Cabo Verde.
- AFRIMET NEWS: Meeting of the members of the AFRIMET Conference
- OTHER NEWS: African Ministers and Meteorologists Seek to Boost Resilience to Climate Change
- OTHER NEWS: Momentum for change initiative.
- OTHER NEWS: WMO Issues The Climate in Africa in 2013.
- OTHER LINKS: EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa web site.
- OTHER LINKS: Climate change and human health .
- OTHER NEWS: WMO and WHO establish joint office for climate and health .

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Name	Description	Date	Action	Type
EN_Prediction_Evaluation_Meningitis_Incidence_Trend_in_Burkina_Faso_for_2014.pdf	PREDICTION OF MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS INCIDENCE TREND IN BURKINA FASO FOR YEAR <a href="#">More...</a>	12/02/2014	HEALTHMET	TEC-RPT (Technical Report)
FR_Prediction_Evaluation_Tendance_Incidence_Meningite_facteurs_climatiques_au_Burkina_en_2014.pdf	PREDICTION DE LA TENDANCE DE L'INCIDENCE DE LA MENINGITE CEREBRO-SPINALE AU BUR <a href="#">More...</a>	12/02/2014	HEALTHMET	TEC-RPT (Technical Report)
Prediction_Evaluation_meningococcal_meningitis_epidemic_in_Burkina_Faso_and_Niger_for_2013_Engl-20130311-192501.pdf	PREDICTION OF MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS INCIDENCE TREND IN BURKINA FASO AND NIGER <a href="#">More...</a>	11/03/2013	HEALTHMET	TEC-RPT (Technical Report)
Prediction_Evaluation_epidemie_de_meningite_CS_au_Burkina_et_au_Niger_en_2013_Fr-20130311-100445.pdf	PREDICTION DE LA TENDANCE DE L'INCIDENCE DE LA MENINGITE CEREBRO-SPINALE AU B <a href="#">More...</a>	11/03/2013	HEALTHMET	TEC-RPT (Technical Report)
projet_healthmet_Burkina_faso-20121218-141120.pdf	projet_healthmet_Burkina Faso	18/12/2012	HEALTHMET	MGT-MOM (Memorandum)

Who we are
 Activities
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 Links

Background Members Organization

Projects Photos Afrimet Brochures

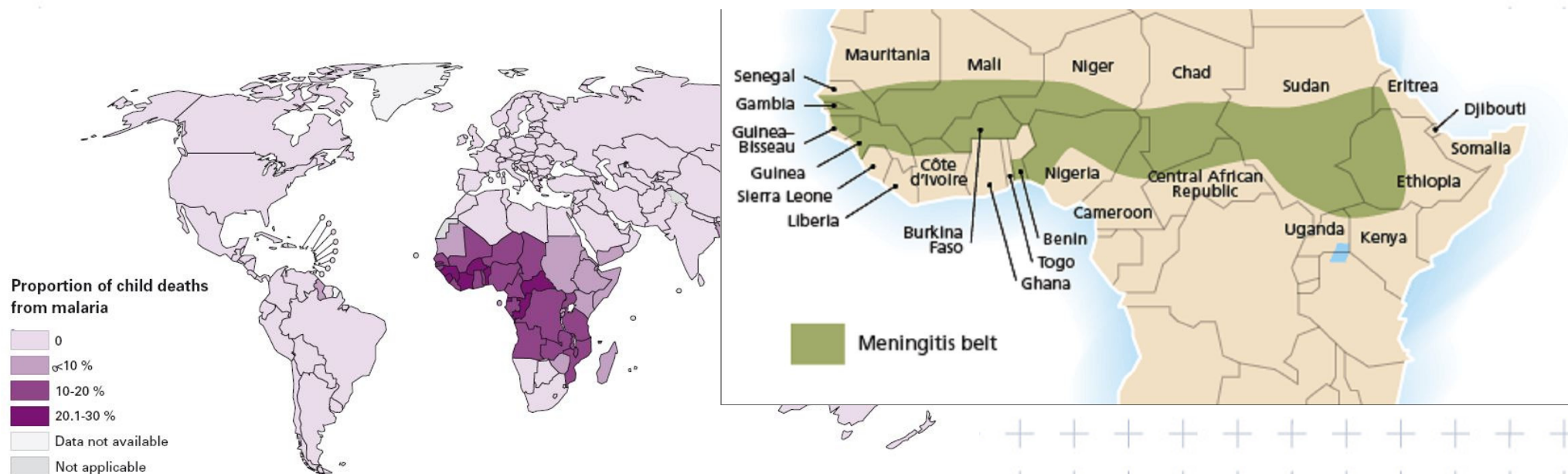
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- AFRIMET Conference (Niamey, Niger, Nov 2008) included in its Plan of Action a Pilot Project for strengthening the links between meteorological, climatological and health services.
- ✓ Importance of climate-sensitive diseases like malaria and meningitis in the region.
- ✓ Similar experiences of WMO in Madagascar and Ethiopia.
- ✓ Support of the Public Weather Service at WMO.



Estimates of the percentage of mortality in children aged under 5 years that was related to malaria cases in 2010<sup>3</sup>

2009-2011: Initial development phase.



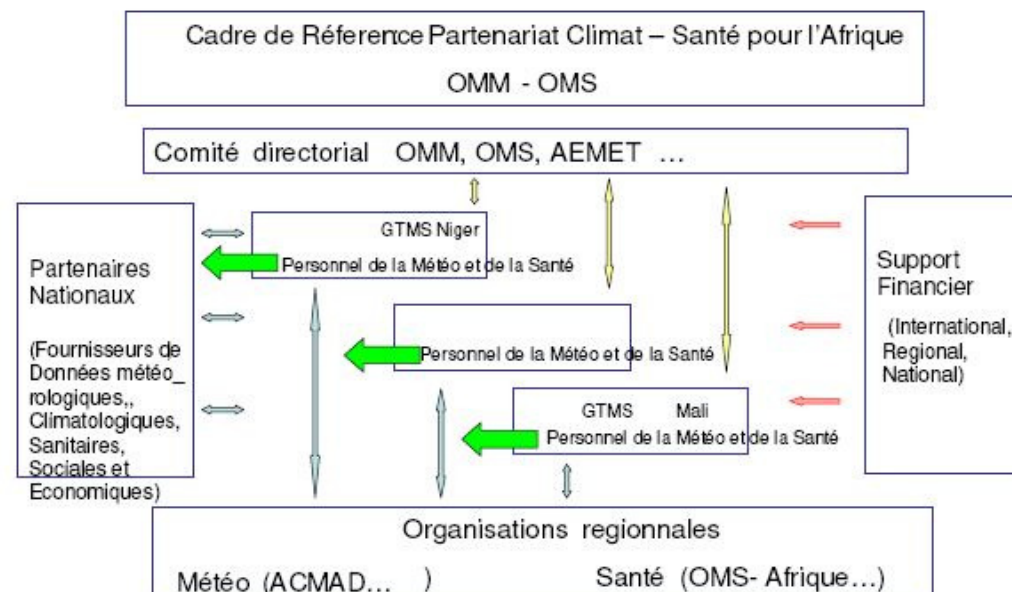
Niamey, Oct'09: Holding of the 'Workshop on strengthening capacities for the establishment of links between weather, climate and health services'.

Participating countries: **Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger** with ACMAD, WMO and AEMET

Outcomes (in french):

- CHWG's ToR
- Memorandum of agreement & partnership for studies and research on climate&health
- Report

## Structure du Projet





2009-2011: Initial development phase.



- AFRIMET Conference (Banjul, The Gambia, Feb'10): Approval of the **HEALTHMET Project**, with the aim of promoting **National Climate-Health Work Groups (CHWG)** Two more countries were included in the Project: **Mauritania and Nigeria**.
- Appointment of two **Local Focal Points** per country. A representative of the NMHSs and another from the National Health Authority.
- Specialized training on *Climate Information for Public Health* of two **Regional Experts** at the IRI (*International Research Institute for Climate and Society*) Summer School, New York, May'10.
- Training course on WMO **SDS-WAS Products** at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center for all five Local Met Focal Points , Nov'10.

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2009-2011: Initial development phase.



- AFRIMET Conference (Sal, Cape Verde, March'11): Approval of the launch of NCHWG in Mauritania and Burkina Faso, and continuation of local and regional training in climate and health.
- Workshop for the creation of the Mauritanian NCHWG, Nouakchott, 28th and 29th June'11.
- Workshop for the creation of the Burkina Faso's NCHWG, Ouagadougou, 15th and 16th Dec'11.
- Regional training: Attendance to the *2nd. WMO SDS-WAS Training Course on satellite and ground observation and modelling of atmospheric dust*, Antalya, Turkey, 21-25 Nov'11. Three representants of AFRIMET's National Weather Services: Senegal, Cape Verde and Burkina Faso.



## Creation of the Mauritanian national Climate-Health Work Group

On the 28 and 29 of June the workshop for the launch of the Mauritanian national Climate-Health Work Group (CHWG) was held in Nouakchott (Mauritania), being Mauritania the first of the countries participating in the project HEALTHMET that sets up the CHWG.

Project HEALTHMET encourages the establishment of links between health and meteorological authorities in five pilot countries, by means of the creation of national Work Groups whose mission is to promote the use of meteorological and climatological information to improve the prevention and the fight against epidemiological diseases sensitive to climatic variations. Diseases such as meningitis, malaria and Rift Valley fever have a great human and economic cost in these countries and it is known that they are related to environmental and climatic factors.

The General Secretaries for the Ministries for Equipment and Transport and the Ministry of Health presided over the opening ceremony along with the Director General of the National Meteorological Office, the Mauritanian representative of the WHO and representatives of the WMO and AEMET (Spanish Meteorological Agency).

Around 40 people attended the workshop, representative of various authorities and organisations related to health services, meteorologists, universities and NGOs. Also present was a representative of the Spanish *Oficina Técnica de Cooperación* (Technical Cooperation Office) in Mauritania.

A work plan has been produced that will be developed over the coming 12 months.

The presentations and documents produced from the workshop are available in the website program file.

- ➔ Information
- ➔ Photos of the workshop



Participants - Creation of the Mauritanian national Climate-Health Work Group

## HEALTHMET: Creation of the Burkina Faso national Climate-Health Work Group



On the 15 and 16 of Decembre 2012 the workshop for the launch of the Burkina Faso National Climate-Health Work Group (NCHWG) was held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), being Burkina the second of the countries participating in the project HEALTHMET that sets up the NCHWG.

Project HEALTHMET encourages the establishment of links between health and meteorological authorities in five pilot countries, by means of the creation of national Work Groups whose mission is to promote the use of meteorological and climatological information to improve the prevention and the fight against epidemiological diseases sensitive to climatic variations, with particular attention to meningitis and malaria.

The Director of the National Civil Aviation Agency of Burkina Faso, on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Posts and Numeric Economics, presided over the opening ceremony along with the Director General of Meteorology, and representatives of the Ministry of Health, the WMO and AEMET (Spanish Meteorological Agency).

Around 35 people attended the workshop, representative of various authorities and organisations related to health services, meteorologists, environment and university.

As a result, the composition of the NCHWG, including goals, tasks and expected outcomes have been defined and a work plan has been produced that will be developed over year 2012.

The presentations and final report produced from the workshop are available in the Afrimet program's website files.

Photos of the workshop ➔



Program, presentations, reports -including plans of work- available at  
AFRIMET public files,  
[http://www.afrimet.org/control/Ficheros\\_Afri\\_Public\\_list.php?language=English](http://www.afrimet.org/control/Ficheros_Afri_Public_list.php?language=English)

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<http://sds-was.aemet.es/materials/2nd-training-course/presentations-of-the-participants>



- 2nd Training Course Documentation
- > **Presentations of the participants**
- > Movies for Dust
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**Latest News**

- [Link to NGAC dust forecasts](#)  
Oct 16, 2012
- [The NCEP-NGAC model joins the WMO SDS-WAS dust model intercomparison](#)  
Oct 10, 2012
- [II Lectures on Atmospheric Mineral Dust. A few seats are still available](#)  
Sep 28, 2012

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## Presentations of the participants

by [Enric Terradellas](#) — last modified Dec 01, 2011 03:23 PM

The participants were required to prepare a short presentation to be delivered during the training course. This is the a compilation of them.

Sara Abdelmajed (Sudan): [Republic of the Sudan](#)

Ayman AlBar (Saudi Arabia): [On the Dust Storms over KSA](#)

Abdullatif Alhadaa (Yemen): [Dust / Sand Storms Affecting Yemen](#)

Abdullatif Alhadaa (Yemen) Movies: [8 July 2008](#) [15-22 Jun 2011](#) [24-28 March 2011](#)

Ahmed Awd (Egypt): [Dust and Sand Storms over Egypt](#)

Ziyad Balasmeh (Jordan): [Dust over Jordan](#)

Feyissa Beyene (Ethiopia): [Ethiopia](#)

Sahar Chouikh (Tunisia): [Sand and Dust Storm in Tunisia](#)

Hanane Daki )Morocco): [Wind Sand in South of Morocco](#)

**Mariane Diop Kane (Senegal): Forecasting Dust in Sahelian Countries**

**Raquel Gonçalves (Cape Verde): Saharan Dust Events**

Mohamed Mimouni (Algeria): [Events of Wind Sand and Haze in Algerian Sahara](#)

**Mamadou Savadogo (Burkina Faso): Dust Forecast over Part of West Africa**

Ayşe Yildirim Cosgun (Turkey): [Air Quality Assessment in Turkey](#)

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2012  
2013  
2014

- AFRIMET Conference, Boadilla, Spain, Oct'12 proposed:
  - Consolidation of the project in Mauritania and Burkina F.
    - ✓ Analysis of needs and available resources.
    - ✓ Training and/or technical support.
  - Extension of the project to another countries.
    - ✓ NIGER: preparing a meeting for all users sectors. Specific activities for health sector are expected to be outlined.
    - ✓ MALI: start of activities postponed until safer political situation.
    - ✓ NIGERIA and rest of Afrimet countries: depending on circumstances, activities could be programmed in next steps.

*Expected financial support: AFRIMET, WMO (through Public Weather Services Programme), other donors coming fom fund raising activities.*
- Regional training: Attendance of **Gambia** to *II Lectures on Atmospheric Mineral Dust*, Barcelona, Spain, **Nov'12** and of **Gambia, Niger and Togo** to *4th Training Course on WMO SDS-WAS products*, Casablanca, Morocco, **Nov'14**.



2012-2014: Difficulties in moving forward.



2012  
2013  
2014

## MAURITANIA:

- ✓ NCHWG formally constituted (2011) with participation of eleven national institutions.
- ✓ Preparation of a form intended to collecting information about climate-sensitive diseases among health agents (2012).
- ✓ Participation of a member of the meteorological service in the *International Training Course on Climate Change and Human Health: Health Impacts and Policy Implications in Africa*, Nouna, Burkina Faso, 4-15 Nov'13.
- ✓ Proposals of training and acquisition of some equipment.

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2012-2014: Difficulties in moving forward.

2012  
2013  
2014

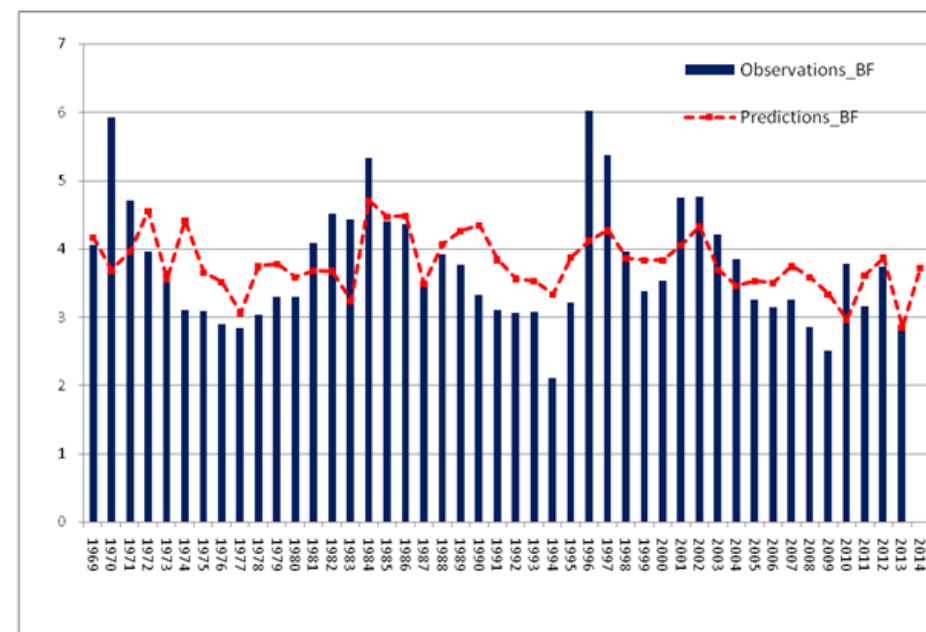
**BURKINA FASO:**

✓ NCHWG not formally constituted.

✓ Annual preparation of an analysis of the evolution of the number of cases of meningitis in Burkina F. (and Niger) and a prediction for the coming year based on statistical analysis techniques.

Available at AFRIMET Public Files,

[http://www.afrimet.org/control/Ficheros\\_AfriPublic\\_list.php?language=English](http://www.afrimet.org/control/Ficheros_AfriPublic_list.php?language=English)



**Graph n°3:** Meningococcal meningitis incidence rate predicted and observed in Burkina Faso from 1969 to 2014.

**Abscissa :** years

**Ordinate :** logarithm of mcm annual incidence rate

**Histogram :** Observed MCM logarithm incidence rate from 1969 to 2013.

**Curved line:** Predicted MCM logarithm incidence rate from 1969 to 2014

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2015: Reactivation of the project. Redesign of plans.



**OBJECTIVE:** to present to the next AFRIMET Conference a status report and a proposal for action aimed at the implementation of a climate-based public health EWS in the participating countries.

### STEPS TAKEN:

- Prepared a retrospective report of HEALTHMET project.
- Contacted the *WHO/WMO Climate and Health Office* for enrollment of HEALTHMET under CLIM-HEALTH Africa framework.
- Established collaboration and participation of representatives of Burkina Faso and Mauritania in *1st Africa/Middle East Expert Meeting and Workshop on the Health Impact of Airborne Dust*.
- Prepared a survey of situation in the agencies involved in the NCHWGs.

### NEXT:

- Draw conclusions of this workshop.
- Gather information from the survey.
- Preparation of a workplan to be presented to the AFRIMET Conference.

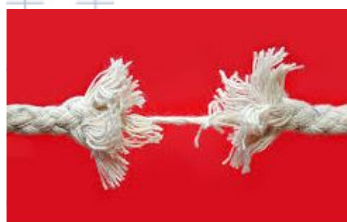
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## Conclusions and lessons learned.



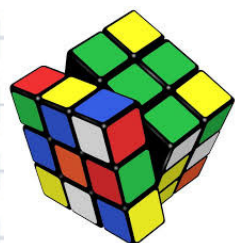
### ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Increased knowledge about
  - ✓ climate-health relationships,
  - ✓ access to remote sensing data and numerical models and
  - ✓ preparation of studies on climate & healthamong meteorological services in the region.
- Facilitated the establishment of contacts with the public health services and other stakeholders.



### WEAKNESSES:

- Instability of the staff of the meteorological and health services.
- Political instability in the region.
- Global economic crisis.
- Action plans have been vague and too general.



### CHALLENGES:

- Prepare an assessment of data and resources available at national level, as well as resources and training needs.
- Collaboration with WHO and other stakeholders to avoid duplication of work.





Thanks for  
your  
attention