


CURRICULUM VITAE: Dr BOUREIMA HAMA SAMBO

Family name (surname): Hama Sambo First/Other names: Boureima	
Gender: Male	
Place and country of birth: Niamey, Niger	Date of Birth 02 / 02 / 1960
Citizenship: Niger	
If you have ever been found guilty of violation of any law (except minor traffic violations) givefull details: Not applicable	
Civil status: Married	Number of dependents: 4

Statement of vision, priorities, and strategies

My vision is for a healthy, prosperous, and safe African region – where everyone, everywhere in the region - enjoys a healthy and productive life.

Need for a renewed vision for the African region – the “Why”

The African region stands at a critical juncture. The past decade has brought substantive changes resulting in more people living longer and healthier lives. Despite these advances, the region’s health confronts a diffuse set of challenges that have been exacerbated by the recent poly-crisis – climate-related issues, COVID-19 pandemic, and mounting conflicts.

As countries strive to reap the benefits of green and sustainable growth, African ministries of health have an opportunity to contribute to realizing their country’s full potential – through improving health and well-being of its populations.

Priorities to accelerate the momentum – the “What”

In pursuit of this vision, I will support countries in achieving tangible and sustainable progress towards the Africa Health Strategy 2016-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

My priorities will be to provide intensified support on **five key areas** with gender and equality at its heart.

1. Address the main drivers of the disease burden

The African region has historically been disproportionately affected by infectious diseases and neglected tropical diseases. Over the past two decades, the region has seen a surge in the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), injuries and mental health disorders. Despite progress, many countries of the region have the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the world. In addition, increasing antimicrobial resistance and re-emerging infectious diseases has put security and lives of people at risk.

My focus will be to provide support towards building capacities of national and local health systems to effectively deliver equitable access to integrated packages of proven cost-effective health interventions for all ages.

2. Improve quality of life and promote healthier living

In the African region, the high disease burden coupled with frequent emergencies, natural and human-made disasters, add pressure to the fragile health systems. Additionally, all countries in the region are vulnerable to the health consequences of climate change.

Four key risk behaviors for NCDs—tobacco and harmful alcohol use, physical inactivity, and unhealthy diet—are on the rise especially among young Africans.

My priority will be to focus on equipping political leaders, health leaders and providers with innovative solutions, information, and tools that they need to advocate effectively for health across all other government sectors.

3. Universal access to quality health services

Underpinning the region's capacity to cope with health emergencies, infectious diseases and chronic conditions is a resilient and sustainably financed health system, with the required infrastructure and qualified health workforce.

In collaboration with the African Union (AU) and other partners, my priority will be to share evidence and good practices on effective health systems reforms that are context specific and based on revamped primary health care.

4. Enhance health security and achieve self-reliance

Each year, the African region reports more than 100 acute public health events. In many cases, these emergencies are preventable or controllable.

My priority will be to work closely with Africa CDC, AUDA-NEPAD, and other partners to prevent, detect, and respond to the Region's wide range of emergencies, with the objectives of addressing the immediate health needs, tackling underlying vulnerabilities, building system resilience, and progress towards self-reliance.

5. Foster partnerships for local solutions

Considering the scale, addressing the regional challenges will require strong collaboration across sectors and geographies.

Promoting "African solutions to African problems" will require strong south-south cooperation that is supported by local research initiatives.

My focus will be to work with the AU and partners to coordinate regional initiatives, deepen collaboration, and strengthen institutional capacities to generate evidence and cultivate homegrown solutions.

Operationalizing the vision through partnership and change – the “How”

Addressing the health challenges of the region is as important as it is complex and will require innovative ways of thinking, stronger alliances and effective partnerships, as well as the adoption of technological advancements. Accordingly, I will leverage WHO’s unique value proposition of health leadership, analytic, normative, and technical cooperation to support countries.

I will adopt the following ways of working.

Advocacy and policy support. Support countries in identifying emerging challenges and opportunities, such as investing in health systems to improve resilience to pandemics, reducing the burden of diseases through equitable access to cost-effective interventions, tackling modifiable risk factors and addressing climate threats through multisectoral actions and community engagement. This will include policy dialogues at the highest level of government and support implementation through the development of country-focused frameworks and instruments.

Health system resilience and reform. Support countries in transforming their modes of governance, financing mechanisms, multidisciplinary workforce, and service delivery models built on the foundations of primary health care. My focus will be to help countries in scaling up effective and sustainable innovations, develop practical guidance and tools, and facilitate the south-south exchange of knowledge and experiences in policy implementation.

Innovation, digital transformation, and leapfrogging. Build country capacities to harness the power of science and innovations to drive health impacts. This will include leveraging on the advances in smartphone connectivity, data management policies, and data infrastructure in the region to boost health system performance and leapfrog.

Engage people in their own health. Work with the governments, healthcare providers and communities to inform people of healthier lifestyle choices, tools to support decisions about their health and wellbeing, and guidance on available healthcare resources.

Leverage strategic partnerships for better health. Strengthen strategic coordination, collaboration and partnerships with the AU, the Africa CDC, United Nations specialized agencies and other global organizations active in the African region, health professional associations, civil society, youth, faith leaders and the private sector. This will include active engagement with the regional economic communities to prioritize investments in health systems including enhanced preparedness and response capacity to mitigate public health emergencies.

To deliver on the above-mentioned ways of working, I will ensure that WHO places emphasis on organizational agility, flexible and predictable financing, and a strong focus on driving impact in every country.

Degrees/Certificates obtained:

(Please indicate here the principal degrees/certificates obtained, with dates and names of institutions. Extra pages may be added)

01/1996–03/2003	Ph.D. in Epidemiology, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma, USA
07/1999–06/2000	Diabetology, Certificate of Completion, College of Medicine Endocrine Group, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, USA
08/1993–12/1995	MPH in Epidemiology, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, USA

06/1995–08/1995	Graduate Program in Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University, USA
08/1981–12/1988	Médical Degrée, Faculté des Sciences de la Santé, University of Niamey, Niger

Knowledge of languages

		Mother Tongue	Speak	Read	Write
<p>For languages other than the mother tongue, enter the appropriate number from the code below to indicate the level of your language knowledge. If no knowledge, please leave blank.</p> <p>Code 1: Limited conversation, reading newspapers, routine conversation.</p> <p>Code 2: Engage freely in discussions; read and write more difficult materials.</p> <p>Code 3: Fluent (nearly) as in mother tongue.</p>	English		3	3	3
	French		3	3	3
	Portuguese				

Positions held

Please indicate here your work experience and positions held during your professional career, with the corresponding dates, duties, achievements/accomplishments, and responsibilities. Extra pages may be added.

01/2023 – Present	<p>WHO Representative to The Democratic Republic of the Congo</p> <p>As Head of Mission, I've spearheaded critical health and humanitarian efforts in the country, preventing and responding to sexual misconduct, strengthening local capacities, and promoting public health.</p>
09/2019 – 01/2023	<p>WHO Representative to Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</p> <p>As Head of Mission, I successful lead WHO's support to the COVID-19 national response, supported the Grade 3 humanitarian assistance, led initiatives to build institutional capacities, strengthened progress towards UHC and disease control efforts, and improved operational management and country-level partnerships.</p>
11/2017 – 09/2019	<p>Director Climate and Other Determinants of Health, WHO HQ, Geneva</p> <p>Successfully advanced the WHO agenda on environmental health risk factors, and the impact of climate change on health.</p>
03/2013–11/2017	<p>WHO Representative to Gabon</p> <p>As Head of Mission, I lead the integration of traditional medicine and effectively launched District Health approach. Under my leadership, WHO played a pivotal role in combating infectious and parasitic diseases, control of NCDs, and progress in polio eradication.</p>

11/2011–03/2013	Programme Area Coordinator, NCDs, WHO AFRO, Brazzaville As the Regional Coordinator, I lead WHO's support in establishing and implementing national NCD prevention and control programs in African Countries.
06/2011–10/2011	WHO Representative a.i. to Rwanda As Head of Mission, I supported the development and implementation of national health policies capable of having a real impact on improving people's health.
10/2007-05/2011	Programme Area Coordinator, NCDs, WHO AFRO, Brazzaville Lead the coordination of the prevention and control of all NCDs in the WHO African region.
07/2006–09/2007	Medical Officer, WHO AFRO, Brazzaville I developed the conceptual framework for primary prevention of NCDs and co-initiated the use of physical activity and diet as entry point for NCD prevention and control.
10/2004-06/2006	Director, National Health Services, Ministry of Public Health, Niger Coordinated the implementation and the evaluation of national health strategies and policies.
03/2003–09/2006	Associate Professor of Diabetology and Epidemiology, University of Florida, USA
03/2001–03/2003	Assistant Professor, Clinical Research, University of Oklahoma, USA
02/2000–03/2001	Coordinator, Morbidity and Mortality Surveillance, University of Oklahoma, USA
08/1993–05/2000	Fellow, African Training for Leadership and Advanced Skills
10/1996–02/2000	SHS Morbidity Events Reviewer, University of Oklahoma, USA
06/1997–10/1999	Field Site Supervisor, Strong Heart Study, University of Oklahoma, USA
12/1991–04/1993	Director, Dosso Regional Hospital, Niger
02/1989–11/1991	Chief Medical Officer, Tera Medical District, Niger
12/1988–02/1989	Medical Officer, University Teaching Hospital, Niamey, Niger

Please state any other relevant facts that might help in the evaluation of your application. List your activities in the civil, professional, public or international domains.

Honors and Awards	
12/2002	Graduate Student Association Award, University of Oklahoma Health Science Center
06/2009	Award for academic achievement, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
04/1993	Fellowship of the African Training for Leadership and Advanced Skills, The Africa America Institute
10/1992	Performance award from Minister of Public Health, Niger

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Please list here major publications – especially the main ones in the field of public health, with names of journals, books or reports in which they appeared.

I have published widely on issues related to health, especially on prevention and control of NCDs, in reputable international journals.