



INNOVATIONS

- Le renforcement de capacité des jeunes sur les thématiques liées à la santé sexuelle et reproductive par les leaders religieux pour animer les sessions les dialogues communautaires, causeries éducatives, mini-conférences sur santé sexuelle et reproductive en faveur des autres jeunes
- Mise en place du système digital d'alerte précoces en matière de VBG animé par les jeunes
- Engagement des jeunes pour le dialogue intergénérationnel au sein des communautés pour l'amélioration de la communication entre les parents et leurs enfants ainsi qu'entre les parents eux-mêmes
- Forte implication du Ministère en charge de la santé pour l'intégration effective de la PF dans le **paquet d'activités du secteur privé.**

#RAP02024

GENERAL REPORT

OF THE 13TH
OUAGADOUGOU PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

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INTRODUCTION

The Ouagadougou Partnership Annual Meeting (OPAM) 2024, held in hybrid format from December 3 to 5, 2024 in Senegal, brought together around 100 face-to-face and 578 online participants.

This year's OPAM focused on real progress made by countries and lessons learned in terms of interventions to achieve the objectives of the Ouagadougou Partnership (OP). The aim was to foster the exchange of knowledge and experience between participants, discuss current challenges and opportunities, and reinforce synergy of action between countries and stakeholders.

This report presents the highlights of the meeting, the main conclusions of the sessions and future prospects for the OP.

ABOUT OPAM 2024

Hybrid and interactive format:

OPAM 2024 adopted a hybrid and reduced format to meet the needs of participants, allowing face to face interaction and virtual interaction. A key moment for which the Ouagadougou Partnership Coordination Unit (OPCU) has created a framework to deepen experience sharing between countries and actors in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights /Family Planning (SRHR/FP); the aim being to facilitate learning between actors and regional success.



Country Focus:

The focus was on exchanges with and around countries, highlighting progress, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing Reproductive Health/Family Planning (RH/FP) interventions to achieve the OP's objectives. Each country presented its experiences, successes and challenges in light of national specificities and the OP's regional momentum.

Progress presentation:

This session is a must for OPAMs. It presents countries' annual progress in terms of additional new users and other indicators tracked towards the OP's 2030 target. On the basis of data analyzed by Track20 and approved at national level, progress made at country level was shared by the OPCU Director and submitted for discussion. The OP community was keen to congratulate Guinea and Togo, through their Ministries of Health and their Mother and Child Health Departments in particular, for having exceeded their annual target for the first time since the inception of the OP.

Synergy strengthening:

OPAM 2024 contributed to strengthening the synergy of actions between countries and actors involved in family planning. Beyond the sessions, this event continues to serve as a platform for networking, connecting and collaborating senior and youth RH/FP actors and organizations at both national and regional levels.

THE OP, 13 YEARS LATER...



Thirteen years after its creation, the OP has evolved significantly. The results, initially timid, have gradually improved in terms of indicators on maternal and child health and the use of FP with the Budgeted National Action Plans. The OPCU Director likens this progress to a race: a slow start followed by constant acceleration. If we are to achieve our objectives, we need to maintain this cruising speed until 2030.

"The OP is similar to athletics, where sprinting and long-distance running have altered. The sprint was the launch of the partnership, and from 2021 onwards we started a long-distance race. We need to return to sprinting to achieve the 2030 objectives."

Marie Ba,
Director OPCU

For me, the PO represents an artistic activity because each time there is continuity, innovation but above all the strength to mobilize community players. It's really something !"

Seniya Yarahallah,

Civil Society Focal Point - Mauritania



I'd compare the PO to a soccer championship because it's played over time. It's not a single match that wins the championship. You have to be enduring, winning match by match. Soccer because it's a collective sport but nurtured by individual talent."

Dr. Thierry Lawalé

Director of Mother and Child Protection and Obstetric and Nursing Care - Benin



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ouagadougou Partnership Coordination Unit expresses its sincere thanks to the Senegalese Ministry of Health and Social Action through the Mother and Child Health Department for hosting this 13th edition of OPAMs. Our deepest gratitude also goes to the entire OP community, technical and financial partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), religious leaders and young people for their growing commitment to the access and use of RH/FP services for all and in all contexts.

This year, the focus on sharing between countries was particularly relevant. This sharing enabled us to celebrate the successes of each country, to recognize persistent challenges, particularly those we share, and to explore ways of overcoming them. This momentum from the community reassures the OPCU in its role, and encourages it to redouble its efforts to bring actors together, facilitating the mobilization of the resources necessary for countries to achieve their respective objectives.



SRHR/FP PROGRESS FIGURES

As usual, the OP's progress in FP was presented by the OPCU Director. In 2024, countries registered an additional 433,000 users. This brings the total number of modern contraceptive users to around 7.6 million, with a target of 13 million users by 2030. If current trends continue, the OP should reach 10.2 million users by 2030, short of the initial target. This figure calls on us all to redouble our efforts and increase our efficiency.

Overall results :

Between June 2023 and July 2024, nearly

433,0

additional contraceptive users were registered.

Performance par pays :

- **Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea** exceeded their targets.
- **Côte d'Ivoire and Togo** reached 90% of their target.
- **Benin, Mauritania et Senegal** achieved between 70% and 75% of their target, while Niger is at 40%.

Contraceptive use trends between 2011 and 2024:

- The prevalence rate to increase by an average of 0.6% of a point each year (11% to 19%).
- Unmet need continues to decline slowly (24% to 18%).
- Demand met with modern demand has been steadily increasing since 2011 and now exceeds 50%.
- mCPR growth is around half a point a year in most countries, over one point in Burkina Faso and stagnating in Niger.

The modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) has increased by a percentage every year. Unmet need for contraception continues to decline, while demand for modern methods has been steadily increasing.



SESSION SUMMARIES

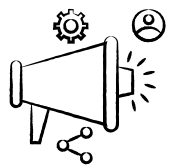
National Directors: What if... ?



Interactive, country-focused sessions providing an overview of successes, success factors, challenges and proposed solutions.

Resource mobilization:

Innovative solutions were explored, including the mobilization of domestic and private sector resources. Countries presented several examples in this area. Senegal is exploring the mobilization of domestic private sector resources via the Responsabilité Sociétale d'Entreprise (RSE - Corporate Social Responsibility) to make up for the lack of funding. Mali is in the process of mobilizing private sector resources in collaboration with employers. Mauritania has allocated a budget line of \$100,000 per year for FP until 2026. Lastly, Benin has indicated that it has the financial resources needed to scale up proven practices, in particular the endogenous solutions identified through research carried out by LASDEL as part of the OP's research agenda.





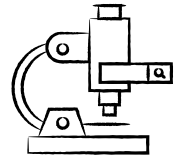
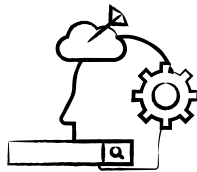
Regional collaboration:

At this annual event, FP stakeholders once again emphasized the importance of experience sharing and collaboration between OP countries to identify obstacles and co-build sustainable solutions. Embarking on the same dynamic to achieve the movement's 2030 objectives, mutually drawing on each other's practical experience is more than necessary.



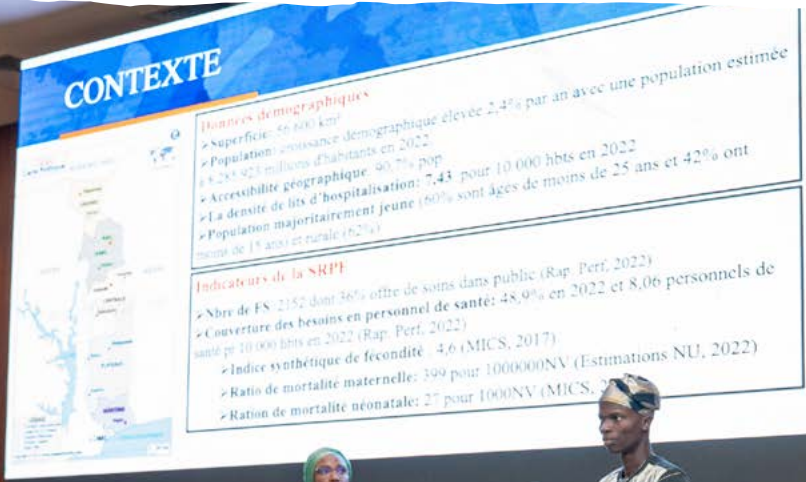
Innovation:

Countries addressed this point with a focus on identifying and promoting innovative approaches to improving access to FP services. From one country to another, new approaches have been used and innovative strategies developed.



Research:

Policy-makers and institute representatives have looked back on the research supported by the OP's Research Agenda, exploring opportunities for using the results in policy and programmatic change. The importance of collaborating with researchers and adapting solutions to socio-cultural realities was particularly emphasized by Benin. Guinea has already appropriated the results of this research, in particular to feed into a process of setting up a free-of-charge policy in collaboration with civil society.



Successes, success factors and challenges in our countries



At the end of the experience-sharing sessions, a panoply of challenges, potential solutions, successes and recommendations was shared, most of them common to all countries.

It emerged that OP countries face difficulties in accessing care, in meeting the specific needs of vulnerable populations, and in adapting RH/FP programs to humanitarian crises.

Senegal mentioned the retention of health data, the need to mobilize domestic and private funding, and the challenges of welcoming young people to health facilities, with efforts underway to improve the quality of services. The RH law is being updated to include key articles, notably on access to services.

In Mauritania, FP 2030 commitments are underway, but funding and the lack of community health workers are a problem. Efforts are being made to train and motivate community relays, despite budgetary limitations.

In Benin, emphasis has been placed on the importance of endogenous solutions developed on the basis of local realities. Although these solutions are varied and can be adapted to specific contexts, they need to be popularized and scaled up to maximize their impact.

Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger raised a number of issues and solutions. For **Burkina Faso**, although free FP care has been adopted with a decree and research funding, the focus was on follow-up, communication with beneficiaries and the availability of inputs. **Mali** has discussed the mobilization of national funds and strategies for reaching adolescents in difficult environments, notably prisons, while integrating youth units into the health system. **Niger** is striving to adapt its reproductive health programs to its socio-cultural realities, with reflections underway on sex education, although RH/FP education health programs in primary and secondary classes have been suspended.



Logistical challenges, particularly in remote or crisis areas, are common to all three countries. Each country is developing specific strategies, such as a single supply chain in Niger, or the use of private traders in Mali. Discussions highlighted the importance of advocacy, collaboration between CSOs and the involvement of young people to sustain and expand access to services.

Togo, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire highlighted their FP-focused successes, challenges and strategies. Togo plans to increase the budget line allocated to FP. The country's FP-related successes are based on stakeholder commitment and free services, but managing rumors remains a challenge. As for **Cote d'Ivoire**, their success is underpinned by a political will expressed through the commitment to allocate 2.5 billion Fcfa annually to FP. However, slow disbursements and input shortages are a problem. Social change campaigns and innovative strategies are planned to accelerate progress. Lastly, **Guinea** plans to make progress on integrating FP into health centers, despite limited funding. Efforts are focused on service quality, behavioral communication and CSO engagement to mobilize resources and improve access.

Collaboration between young and senior civil society actors

To ensure that young people are formally included in decision-making bodies, that they are continually supported by senior staff, and that sustainable and functional synergies are created between CSOs to meet common challenges, OPAM brought young people and senior staff to the table.



From the outset, it was recognized that young people bring innovation, creativity and access to RH/FP information to hard-to-reach communities, while seniors offer expertise and mentoring. In this sense, initiatives such as training, strategic partnerships and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) reinforce the impact of youth CSOs.

Challenges have been identified and solutions proposed. These included the low level of involvement of young people in decision-making, which was constantly raised, inequalities in the distribution of budgets (20-25% for young people) and the lack of financial and organizational resources. In this sense, it was proposed to think about co-direction models, prioritize capacity building for youth CSOs, provide targeted funding for young people and set up intergenerational dialogue mechanisms for sustainable collaboration.

It was also recommended that partners allocate specific budgets to develop the skills of youth organizations, and that young people adapt to the requirements of donors in order to claim an equitable distribution of resources. The co-direction model and local initiatives such as the Mouvement d'Action des Jeunes (MAJ) were cited as inspiring examples.



Young people face administrative obstacles, such as the inability to obtain receipts to formalize their organizations. However, their leadership and commitment are supported by funding agencies and tailored training."

Reyhanath Toure

Young Leader - Togo

My vision is a collaboration where young people participate fully in decision-making processes, supported by organizational coaching from senior staff."

Imam Harouna Koné

President of Alliance Régionale des Religieux de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ARAO) - Cote d'Ivoire





Repositioning Research in country commitments

The session on research began with a video presenting OPCU's values and missions as well as the research journey of the OP community, and three key words emerged from the session: programming, collaboration and use of available means.

During the exchanges, research into sexual and reproductive health was highlighted as essential, and emphasis was placed on the experience of young people in the commitment process, revealing that capacity-building has been carried out to help them better understand the issues at stake

As for UNFPA, it is funding studies in several countries to advance towards development goals.



Donors need data to be convinced of the return on their investment

Regular evaluations are carried out to monitor programs, and a participatory approach is favored.

However, challenges have been identified and they revolve around the accessibility of disaggregated data due to the high costs of collection, as well as a lack of funding for research.

Recalling that funders need data to be convinced of the return on their investment, it was strongly recommended during this session that young people should be involved from the outset of program design to better met their needs, and that decision-makers should be involved from the outset in identifying behavioral research needs for their countries.

Finally, participants called for greater efforts on the part of researchers to ensure that the results of their research are accessible and digestible, particularly for local communities. In other words, research should not be detached from its target.



Let's talk cash: the impact of geopolitics on SRHR/FP funding

Geopolitics has a major impact on funding for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning (FP). The emergence of conservative policies on the international scene is leading to a reduction in international funding, jeopardizing SRH programs. In view of the importance of this subject, SR/FP professionals debated it in a session facilitated by Propel Health's Regional Director, Modibo Maiga.

Noting in their discussions that geopolitics is changing funding relationships, the panelists urged actors to come up with endogenous and resilient responses to offset dependence on external funding.

They also suggested that actors look into innovative financing via public/private partnerships, prioritizing essential services such as FP, and involving communities to ensure the sustainability of interventions.

Finally, the panelists recommended promoting a multi-sectoral approach (economy, health, finance) to mobilize resources and maintain positive SRH indicators. This approach should integrate FP into development priorities, always ensuring multi-stakeholder advocacy involving CSOs, donors and governments to mobilize endogenous resources.



International funding is dwindling and national budgets remain under-utilized."

Lydia Saloucou

Pathfinder

The advocacy competition in pictures...

For the 3rd edition of the Ouagadougou Partnership Youth Advocacy Competition, the OPCU received over fifty entries.

The six semi-finalist organizations were: Association des Étudiants en Médecine from Burkina Faso, New World from Benin, Club des Jeunes Filles Leaders from Guinea, Mouvement d'Action des jeunes de l'AMPFP from Mali, Association des Jeunes au Services de Rosso from Mauritania, Alliance Nationale des Jeunes pour la SR/FP from Senegal.

OPAM 2024 was an opportunity to present to the community their advocacy message to improve young people's access to family planning (FP) services in the context of humanitarian crisis.

Here are a few pictures of this OP event.



On the way to ICFP 2025...

During this OPAM, a two-hour hybrid session was devoted to the [International Conference on Family Planning](#).

Its aim was to inform and generate discussion around key themes linked to ICFP 2025, the main theme of which is "Equity through action: advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of every person".

The OP community was given the opportunity to discuss their expectations, opportunities and barriers related to their participation in this global event. Issues of interest included youth participation and local representation, including researchers, young people, religious leaders, advocates, spokespersons for marginalized communities, etc.

Concerns were expressed about the language barrier encountered by French speakers during English-language sessions at previous conferences. For its part, the ICFP committee pledged its commitment to facilitating the active participation and visibility of the French-speaking community, while encouraging them to submit as many abstracts as possible before the April 19, 2025 deadline.



OPAM 2024 IN FIGURES

Influences and interactions online

9 countries

in 9 posts – 14,692 impressions

7 Interactive sessions

X 27 posts - 5958 Impressions

f 7 posts - 6012 Impressions

100 face to face Participants including 30 young people

Live broadcasting

	zoom	in	f	yt	Total
Jour 1	340	297	136	22	795
Jour 2	145		253	22	420
Jour 3	50		149	19	218
Total	535	297	538	63	1433

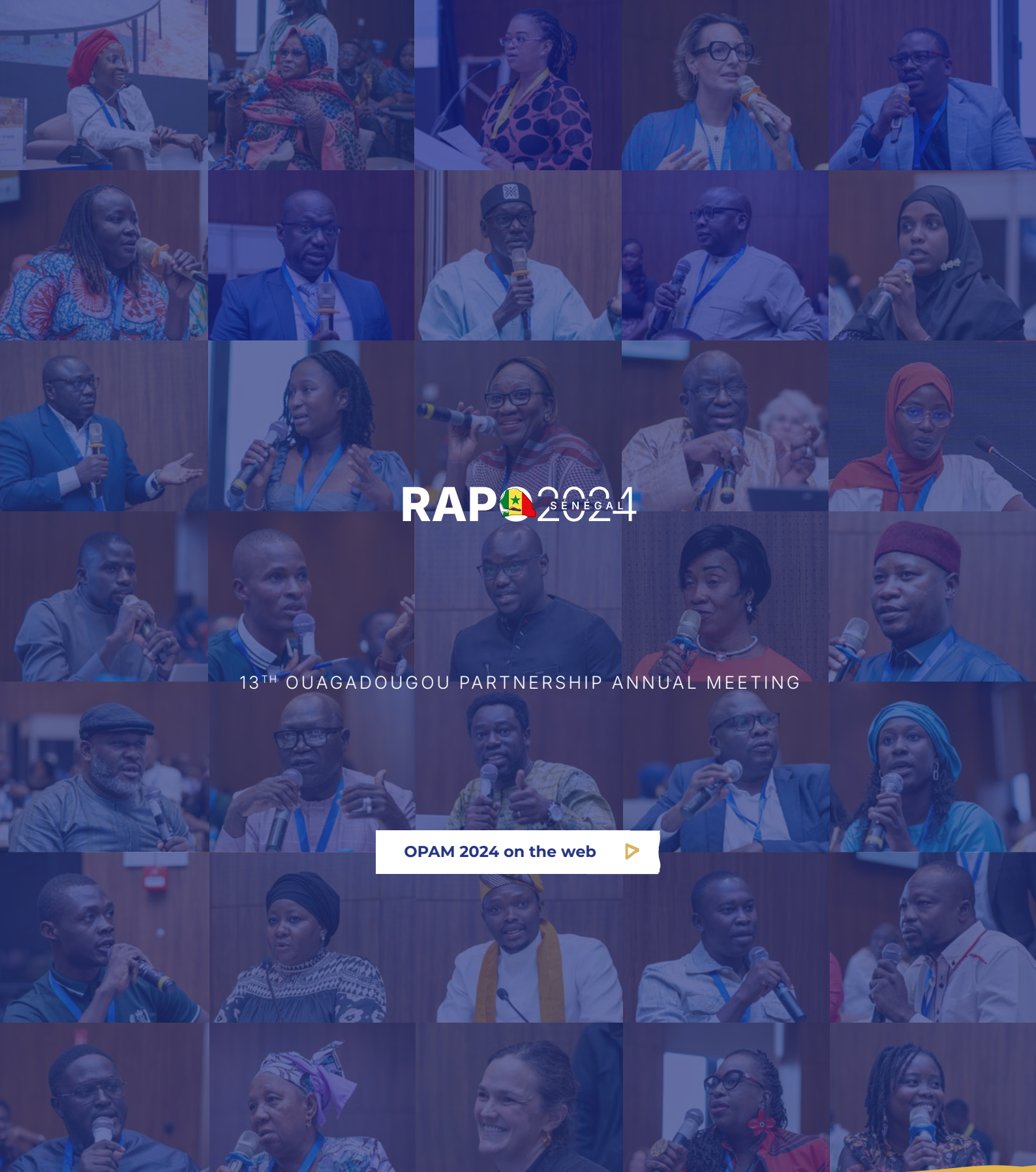
535 Live connexions

CONCLUSION

As in previous years, OPAM 2024, even in its reduced format, was rich in interaction. It provided a broad framework for countries to discuss major progress and concerns, the partnerships built and the opportunities to be seized to meet the challenges.

At the end of the meeting, the PO community and its partners agreed on the need to accelerate efforts to achieve the 2030 objectives, in a global environment of constant political change. To achieve this, it will continue to rely on collaboration between stakeholders centered on national priorities.

From now on, it will also rely on the evidence provided by research institutes, which it will use to support positive policy change through high-level advocacy and strategic planning processes.



RAP  **2024**
SÉNÉGAL

13TH OUAGADOUGOU PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

OPAM 2024 on the web 

OUAGADOUGOU
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PLANIFICATION FAMILIALE
Le Partenariat de Ouagadougou