REACH Annual Network Meeting 2026 – Agenda

Title
Building an enduring country-led platform for child survival

Convened by
REACH Network Secretariat (CVD-Mali)

Dates & location
3 & 4 November 2026 | Accra Marriott Hotel, Ghana

Co-chairs
Honourable Minister Prof Muhammad Ali Pate & Prof Samba Sow

Purpose and overarching objectives

Bring countries, researchers and partners together to share evidence and learning, strengthen national ownership and agree practical support for REACH within primary health care. Translate the Network's scientific, implementation and partnership strengths into better delivery for underserved children and a focused 2026–2027 workplan, aligned with the wider maternal and child survival agenda.

O1 Show what REACH and the Network enable. Connect scientific evidence, country implementation and community level experience; identify credible messages and examples that strengthen the investment case.

O2 Strengthen government ownership / country leadership. Identify mandates, accountable institutions, resources and national approval routes that sustain REACH beyond changes in leadership.

O3 Broaden the REACH community and support. Match country priorities to additional partner contributions in delivery, evidence, advocacy, communications and financing.

O4 Agree practical implementation and technical priorities. Identify feasible integration choices and WHO-response support; establish a joint mortality, AMR and costing Working Group / Task Force to develop operational criteria, with owners and milestones.

O5 Exchange country research and implementation learning. Share findings, methods, limitations and adaptations; use technical peer learning to improve country practice and Network support.

Day 1 morning – Story, ownership and community

Tuesday 3 November

Session #	Time	Session and format	Objectives	Expected output	Speakers / facilitators (proposed)
	08:00–09:00	**Registration**			All participants; REACH/Solina
1	**09:00–09:20** 20 min	**Opening and welcome** Brief remarks	Confirm the meeting's purpose, decisions and country-led approach; recognise the host and partners.	Confirmed decision agenda and named output-capture leads.	Ghana Ministry of Health; Co-Chairs, Minister Muhammad Ali Pate and Prof Samba Sow; Cynthia Mwase, Director, Health, Africa, Gates Foundation **Moderator:** Raissa Okoi
2	**09:20–10:00** 40 min	**The story of REACH** Film and live conversation	Connect evidence, country delivery and community experience; show what the Network enables.	Evidence-grounded messages and examples of Network contribution.	Prof Samba Sow; Prof Tom Lietman **Moderator:** RO
3	**10:00–11:00** 60 min	**Country-led integration for lasting impact in fragile settings**	An introduction to Ministry of Health delegations; the importance of integrated child health interventions in primary healthcare.	Commitment to next steps and input into Accra Communiqué	Representatives of the Ministries of Health of Mali, Niger & Nigeria **Moderator:** Prof Samba Sow
	11:00–11:30	**Tea break**			All participants; REACH/Solina

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4	**11:30–12:45** 75 min	**Building the REACH community** Panel	Draw on lessons from maternal health, malaria and other public health communities to identify how REACH can position itself within the wider maternal and child survival agenda.	A concise set of practical lessons for strengthening the REACH community, key messages articulating its distinctive, country-led contribution to maternal and child survival, and priority opportunities for new partnerships and joint advocacy.	Dr Anne Detjen – UNICEF (Virtual) Dr Dyness Kasungami - CSA (Virtual) Prof Samba Sow – REACH Network Demilade Osoteku – Solina Group PJ Hooper – ITI **Moderator:** Dr Nicholas Olobio
5	**12:45–13:00** 15 min	**Morning decisions** Read-back and confirmation	Confirm the morning's agreements and route outstanding questions to the relevant working sessions.	A clear record of decisions and next steps.	**Moderator:** RO
	13:00–14:00	**Lunch** — Country and partner networking.			All participants; REACH/Solina

Day 1 afternoon – Country evidence, learning and practical action

Tuesday 3 November

Session #	Time	Session and format	Objectives and purpose	Expected output	Speakers / facilitators (proposed)
6	**14:00–15:45** 105 min	**Country research and implementation progress** Brief country updates, with slides limited to a dashboard of key research, monitoring and implementation metrics, alongside essential country-specific issues and lessons. The Secretariat will develop the shared template with country teams in advance	Provide an overview of country-level research and implementation progress, including key lessons and evidence gaps.	Consolidated country progress dashboards and prioritised questions for deeper exploration in the Implementation Clinics and Network follow-up.	Mali: Dr Fadima Cheick Haidara & Prof Karen Kotloff Niger: Dr Ahmed Arzika Nigeria: Prof Oilver Ezechi & Dr Abideen Salako Sierra-Leone: Dr Mohamed Samai **Co-Moderators:** Dr René Kouamé Oka, Dr Souleymane Sidibe
7	**15.45–16.00**	**Implementation Clinics:** Brief summary on the Implementation Clinics and the way participants can submit in advance their questions in session and through tea break Introduce Slido / Wall and sticky notes	Orient participants to the peer-learning implementation clinics, encouraging them to submit specific questions and identify shared themes for discussion.	Set of prioritized questions from participants to be grouped for clinic by Secretariat.	**Moderator:** RO
	16:00–16:20	**Tea break and group photo**			All participants; Solina/meeting host

Session #	Time	Session and format	Objectives and purpose	Expected output	Speakers / facilitators (proposed)
8	**16:20–17:35** 75 min	**Integration: Embedding REACH in child health delivery** A moderated panel bringing together country and field teams with relevant immunisation, nutrition, malaria and maternal and child health partners.	Identify practical, country-led opportunities to integrate REACH with child-health services and community platforms, advancing primary health care, universal health coverage, and equity, using country specific examples.	A concise summary of experience to date and priority integration opportunities and areas for further exploration.	Mali: Dr Amanda Driscoll Niger: Dr Ahmed Arzika Nigeria: Dr Adefisoye & Dr Sandah **Moderator:** Dr Lynda Farma-Grant
9	**17:35–17:45** 10 min	**Day 1 synthesis** Strategic read-back	Confirm learning and actions from the day; remind the room re: Implementation Clinic and the need for themes for Day 2.		**Moderator:** RO
	17:45–19:00	**Free time** — Break before dinner.			All participants; REACH/Solina
	19:00–21:00	**Group dinner**			All participants; REACH/Solina

Day 2 morning – WHO clarification and operational-criteria development

Wednesday 4 November

Session #	Time	Session and format	Objectives and purpose	Expected output	Speakers / facilitators (proposed)
	08:30–09:00	**Networking**			
10	**09:00–09:20** 20 min	**Day 2 recap** Decision and question check	Confirm priority questions.	Question log and decision agenda confirmed.	**Moderator**: RO & one Co-Chair
11	**09:20–10:20** 60 min	**WHO recommendations** A brief presentation with a Q&A	Provide an overview of the updated WHO recommendations on azithromycin for child survival, or the guideline-development process and key considerations if publication is pending, and address country questions to inform programme planning and coordinated communications.	A concise record of clarifications, outstanding questions and agreed country and communications actions	**Moderator:** Dr Anthony Solomon
	10:20–10:40	**Tea break**			All participants; REACH/Solina

Session #	Time	Session and format	Objectives and purpose	Expected output	Speakers / facilitators (proposed)
12	**10:40–12:30** 110 min	**Operational criteria and durable ownership** Structured workshop	Agree the evidence and analytical work needed to develop operational criteria for REACH, bringing together mortality, AMR and costing considerations with feasibility, equity and national ownership.	A joint Working Group/Task Force with defined remit, representation, and workstream leadership, focusing on prioritised evidence and analytical work	**Panel:** **TWG representatives:** Mortality: Prof Agbessi Amouzou AMR: Dr Dagmar Alber (Virtual) Costing: Prof Meagan Fitzpatrick. **Independent experts:** Dr Charles Knirsch **Country representatives:** Mali: Dr Cheick Amadou Tidiane Traore Niger: Dr Almoustapha Sounna Nigeria: Dr Omokore Oluseyi **Co-Moderators:** Dr William Msemburi & Prof Tom Lietman
	12:30–13:30	**Lunch** — Informal follow-up; technical leads consolidate pre-prepared workplans.			All participants; REACH/Solina

Day 2 afternoon – Technical priorities, country actions and accountability

Wednesday 4 November |

Session #	Time	Session and format	Objectives and purpose	Expected output	Speakers / facilitators (proposed)
13	**13:30–14:30**	**Implementation Clinics**	Discussion of themes raised by participants on challenges faced in all aspects of implementation of REACH.	Peer learning practical discussion	**ALL** **Moderator:** RO & REACH Network
14	**14:30–15:30** 60 min	**Technical working group priorities, 2026–2027** Workshop	Review progress across all REACH working groups and agree on shared priorities, clarify responsibilities, and establish the 2027 workplan.	Input into a prioritised REACH Network workplan: existing TWGs and the potential criteria Task Force.	**AMR** – Prof Stephen Obaro **Costing** – Dr Brady Hooley **Mortality & Morbidity** – Dr Anthony Solomon **APACS** – Dr David Addiss **Co-Moderators**: Dr Padmini Srikantiah & Dr Kieran O'Brien
	15:30–15:50	**Tea break and final consolidation** — Check country/partner-cleared entries before closing.			REACH Secretariat; Solina; country/partner focal points
15	**15:50–16:30** 40 min	**Post-Accra commitments, closing and next steps** Country/partner confirmations and Co-Chair reflections	Confirm country and Network actions, the operational-criteria Task Force mandate, broader engagement and the first review. Recognise achievements and distinguish commitments from pending approvals.	Agreed next steps Draft communiqué with clearance route.	Ghana Ministry of Health; Co-Chairs Prof Muhammad Ali Pate and Prof Samba Sow; country/partner representatives; Caty Fall Sow, Director, Policy, Government Relations, and Partnerships, Africa, Gates Foundation **Moderator: RO**
	16:30–18:30	**Optional cultural visit** — Sightseeing and informal exchange.			Interested participants; Solina/host arrangements