



**ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL NTD
PROGRAMME MANAGERS IN THE WHO
AFRICA REGION**

**November 29 to
December 1, 2023**

BRAZZAVILLE, CONGO
WHO AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE



**World Health
Organization**

African Region



**HEALTH
FOR ALL**



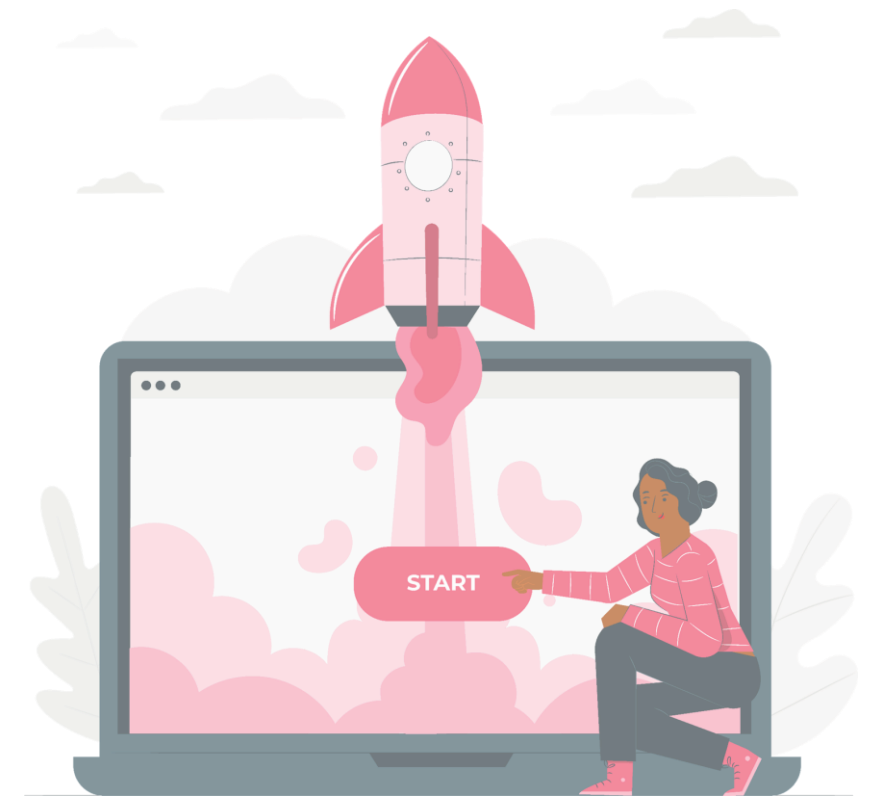
Kikundi Community of Practice for NTD Program Managers in Africa

November 29, 2023
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo



Agenda

1. **Kikundi Structure** (Dr Ndeye Kane)
2. **Kikundi Features** (Balla Jatta)
3. **Kikundi Partnerships** (Balla Jatta)
4. **Kikundi Evaluation** (Dr Tuduetso Molefi)
5. **Q&A** (Balla Jatta)





Kikundi Structure

Dr Ndeye KANE
NTD Program Manager, Senegal
Kikundi Leadership Council Member



Background

- In November 2019, twelve NTD Program Managers met in Maryland (United States) to brainstorm solutions for common challenges
- The participants generated the following problem statement:

*“NTD Program Managers experience **knowledge and resource gaps** and how to prioritize, make decisions, manage critical stakeholders, collaborate with sectors outside of NTDs, and effectively execute on programs.”*
- The potential solutions discussed in the meeting highlighted the need to **strengthen the community of Program Managers**, including: peer-learning, mentorship programs, NTD courses and training opportunities, Program Manager-only forums

Objectives of Kikundi

What is the main goal?

To develop a strong, digitally-supported **community** for **African NTD Program Managers**, by providing a platform through which participants can learn from one another and collaborate in the pursuit of reaching national and global NTD benchmarks

Kikundi aims to:

- Increase the **skills**, **knowledge**, and **confidence** of NTD Program Managers in Africa for evidence-based decision making and leadership
- Strengthen the long-term capacity to meet NTD Program Manager needs through **technical**, **scientific**, and **administrative support**

Name and Logo Co-development

- Program Managers nominated names for the Community during baseline surveys
- Nominated names were voted upon by all Program Managers, and decided upon by the Leadership Council

An *Adinkra* symbol from Ghana signifying **unity & community**



KIKUNDI



A *Kiswahili* word meaning **group**

Kikundi Leadership Structure

Program Leadership

Leadership
Council

Internal member PMs

Advisory
Committee

External advisors

Development Team

W

UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON



UNIVERSITY OF
Global Health
EQUITY

Provide program management,
technical and operational
support

Current Leadership Council Members



**Dr. Tuduetsi Molefi,
Chair (Botswana)**



**Mr. Balla Jatta, Co-Chair
(The Gambia)**



**Dr. Georges Barthélémy
(Cameroon)**



**Dr. Cecilia César de Almeida
(Angola)**



**Ms. Tsakani Furumele
(South Africa)**



**Mr. Jean Bosco Mbonigaba
(Rwanda)**



**Dr. Ndeye Mbacké Kane
(Senegal)**



**Mr. Wyckliff Omondi
(Kenya)**

Current Advisory Committee Members

- Dr. Teshome Gebre (*ITI*) - **Chair**
- Dr. Alison Krentel (*iCHORDS*)
- Prof. Moses John Bockarie (*EDCTP*)
- Dr. Achille Kaboré (*FHI360*)
- Dr. Jeremiah Ngondi (*RTI*)
- Dr. Thoko Elphick-Pooley (*UCNTDs*)
- Dr. Amir Bedri Kello (*ESPEN*)
- Dr. William Kofi Bosu (*WAHO*)



Who is Eligible for Membership?

- Initial invitations to join the CoP are extended to a country's **primary National NTD Program Manager**
- The Program Manager can join and also ***extend the invitation to others on the national NTD team.*** Or, they can delegate to other colleagues to join Kikundi in their place.



Current Kikundi Membership



72

Program Managers

25% Female



39

Countries



Kikundi Features

Balla Jatta

NTD Program Manager, Gambia
Kikundi Leadership Council Co-chair



Kikundi Features: Digital Platform

Collaboration

Forums

Messaging*

Events & Resources

- Promote key NTD events
- Link & summarize essential NTD documents and partner websites

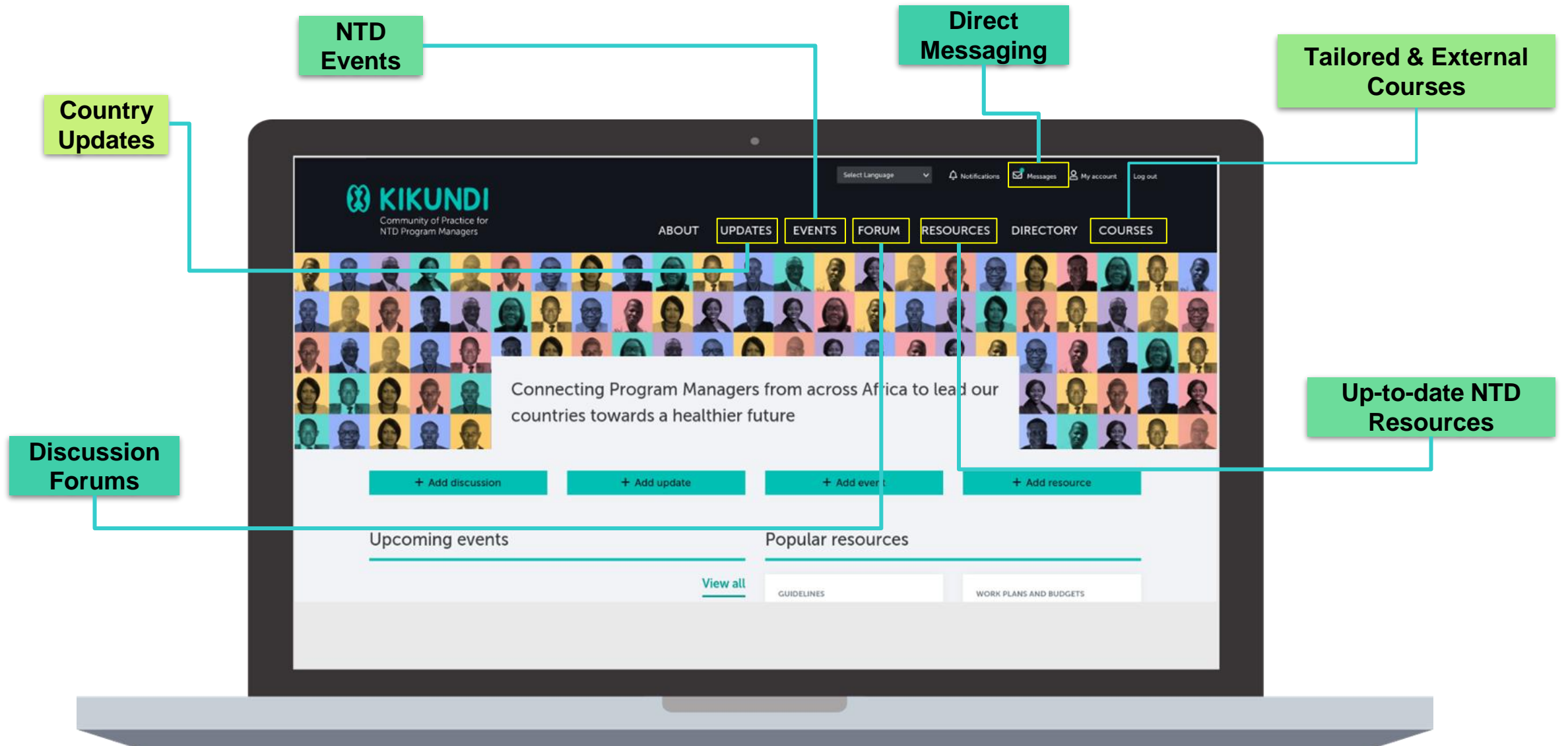
Professional Development

- NTD Leadership Certificate & professional development courses
- Webinars

External Support

Link PMs to professional development support, when challenges can't be resolved within Kikundi

*Messaging allows Kikundi members to directly send individual and group messages



Goal: PMs contribute knowledge for a sustainable community! So, please share on the platform!

Example: Kikundi Forums

The “Forums” page acts as an interactive space where PMs can share their ideas, pose questions to other members, and respond to questions from colleagues.

Urgent: Need of your guidance in conducting at the first time the MDA with Ivermectin and Albendazole

Dear colleagues PM, Hope you are doing well. [redacted] is about to conduct at the first time MDA with Ivermectin and Albendazole for STH (Trichuris) in areas without LF endemicity by the End October 2022. We need guidance about logistics, management of any side effects, etc. Kindly consider to contact me directly by a call or WhatsApp for a direct discussion via my No. [redacted]. Thank you for your usual support. [redacted] NTD Programme.

[redacted]

We have been doing the same here. I know a bit about interior [redacted] and how effective systems operate there. Community Health Providers are your anchor. You may start dividing areas according to location and number of houses. So called "midugudu" can be allocated a provider with a ratio of at most 1 to 50 houses - less is better. They will need training on entry, to the household, how to give drugs under DOT, recording, reporting -program and adverse events etc.

Advocacy at all level is important. Public Address System is so crucial, and it is here I think you should invest more time due to sensitivity and history.

Supply chain; to manage reverse logistics, work out on how to use the existing system

M and E: Tools that at the end of the campaign will be used for evaluation, aggregate report, manage and control program and drugs. At the end you will use tools to compare authenticity of program reports

[redacted]

Well from [redacted]'s experience we set up along side the Drug Distribution Teams **ADVERSR DRUG REACTIONS TEAMS** that are deployed alongside the teams in the field, and these ADR Teams comprises of Pharmacists, Medical Officers and Social Antropologist.

Their main role is to respond to any case of Advrese Drug Reaction following the admission of the medicines, they take care of the case and follow up over time putting into consideration the individual's medical history and other factors that may have lead to the reaction.

I will try to share with you our protocols and Terms of Reference.

Overview of Kikundi Courses

- Leadership and management in health
- Monitoring and evaluation in global health
- Project management in global health
- Economic evaluation in global health
- Policy development and advocacy in global health
- Fundamentals of implementation science



Overview of Kikundi Courses

- If Program Managers take three courses they receive a **certificate in NTD Leadership**: *Leadership and Management in Health, Monitoring and Evaluation in Global Health, and Project Management in Global Health*
 - **8 PMs have received the certificate**



*This knowledge acquired will support me to make informed decisions, **efficient use of resources**, and evidence driven assessment. Our country is at a **critical stage of implementation** so **effective project management skill** is crucial for success towards elimination and control particularly in the **use of the limited resources**.*



Overview of Kikundi Webinars

Proportion of PMs (N=43) requesting additional training in the following areas....

54%

- **Research protocol development**
- **Writing grant applications**
- **Writing scientific papers**
- Communication with funders/partners
- Writing policy briefs

46%

- Mathematical modelling relating to NTDs

26%

- Monitoring & evaluation
- Designing prevalence surveys



Example Webinar Series

Research protocol development webinar series

Video 1: Overview of the research process

Video 2: Developing a research question

Video 3: Developing a research hypothesis

Video 4: Observational study designs

Video 5: Experimental study designs

Video 6: Qualitative study designs

Video 7: Sampling and sample size estimation

Video 8: Data collection and management

Video 9: Developing an analysis plan

- All content is **available in English, Portuguese, French**
- Virtual workshops conducted to build upon video material
- Ongoing discussions on Kikundi platform

Overview of Community Conversations

Community conversations are quarterly “live” events held via Zoom on topics chosen by PMs of particular interest

PMs take turns facilitating the conversations

They are closed events, to allow for openness in communication

- Challenges and opportunities for **Domestic Resource Mobilization**.
- Experience sharing on the **ESPEN’s training in Congo** on strengthening country NTD programs’ capacity in the management and reporting of preventive chemotherapy data
- Neglected Tropical Diseases learning café: What are the **outstanding challenges** that Program Managers need advice or guidance on from their colleagues?

Kikundi Features: In-Person Activities

- **Structured learning site visits**
- Workshops
- Side meetings at conferences



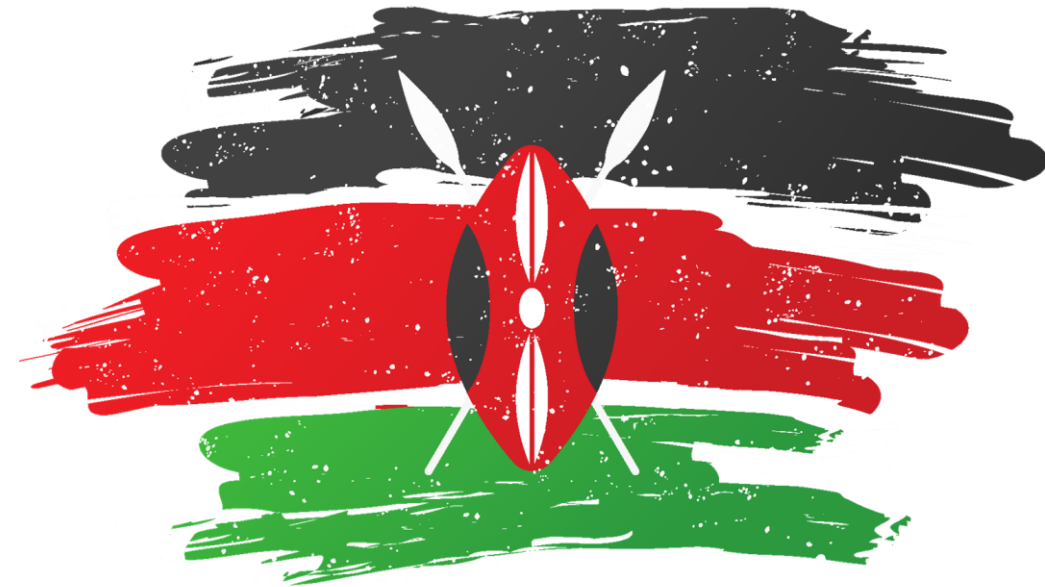
Overview of Kikundi Site Visits



- February 2023, second site visit in **Senegal**, led by Dr. Kane
- Attended by **14 Program Managers**
- Engaged in various program activities
 - NTD program integration
 - Post-validation surveillance
 - Morbidity management and disability prevention (MMDP) activities
 - Post MDA evaluation and data quality assurance
 - NTD Master Plan dissemination workshop
 - Supply chain management strengthening

Next Site Visit?

**All National NTD
Coordinators who
are members of
Kikundi are eligible
to apply for the
visit!**



3rd Kikundi Site Visit

March 2024



Kikundi Partnerships

Balla Jatta

NTD Program Manager, Gambia
Kikundi Leadership Council Co-chair



Kikundi partnerships

22 Partners
Engaged

50+ Meetings



EXPANDED SPECIAL PROJECT
FOR ELIMINATION OF
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

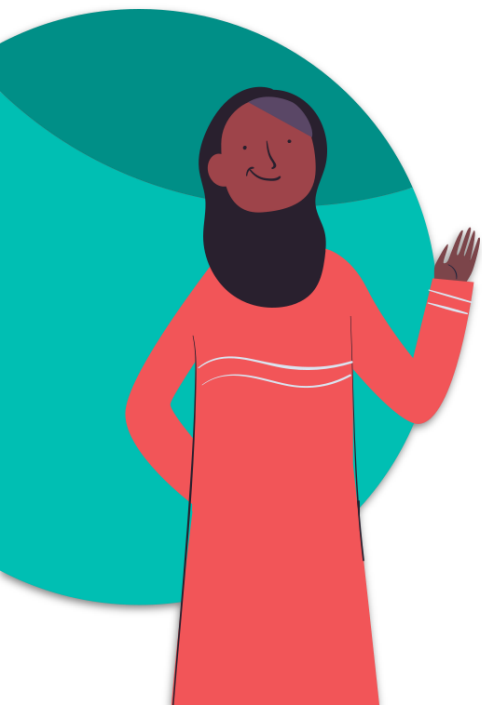
AFRICAN LEADERS
MALARIA ALLIANCE





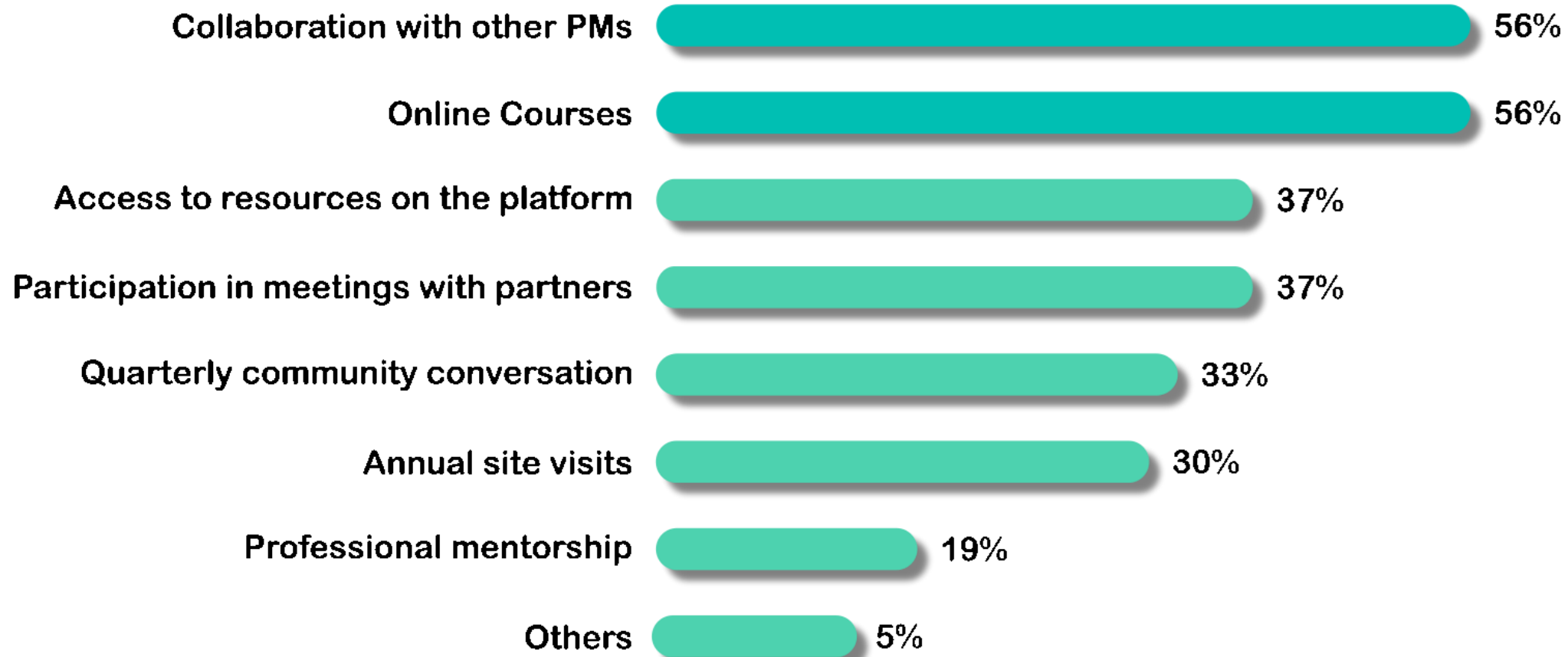
Kikundi Evaluation

Dr Tuduetso Molefi
NTD Program Manager, Botswana
Kikundi Leadership Council Chair



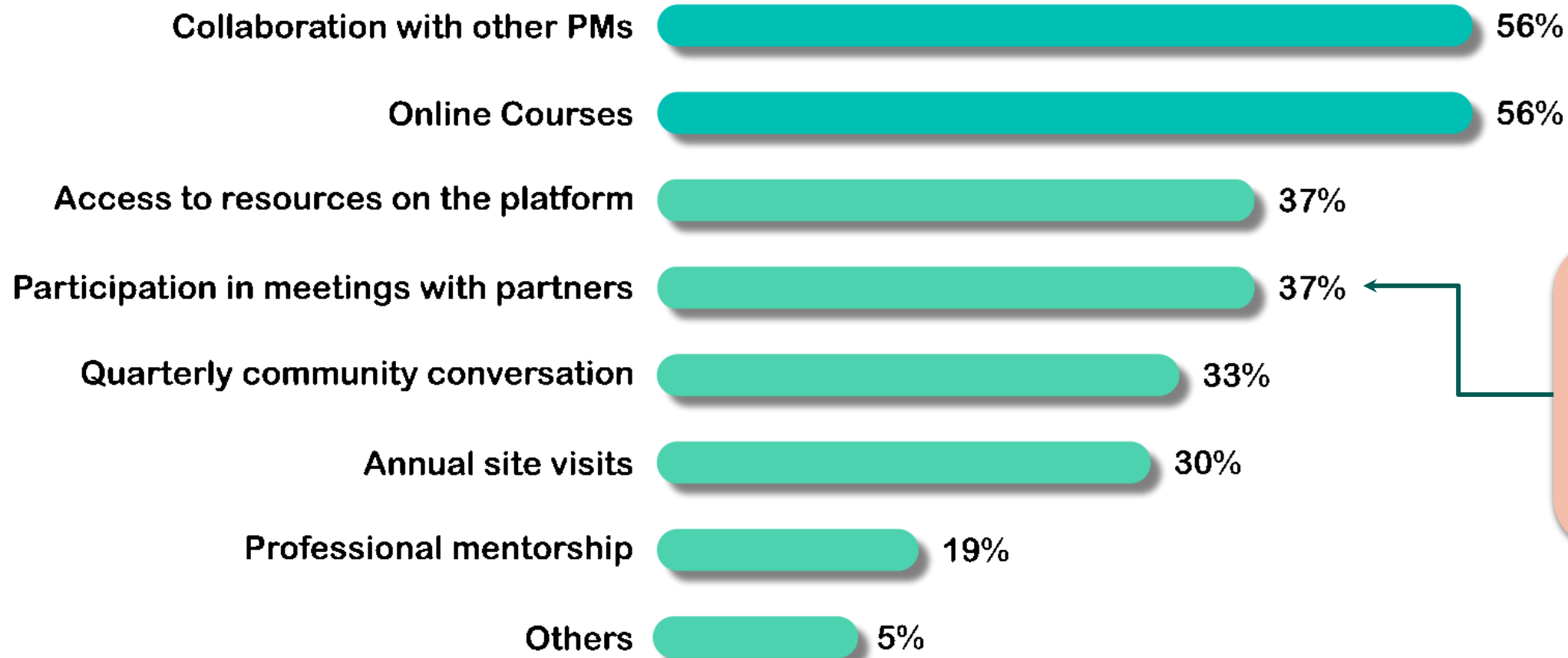
Overview of Kikundi Endline Evaluation

Kikundi features that PMs believe help them overcome challenges in implementing NTD programs (N=43)



Overview of Kikundi Endline Evaluation

Kikundi features that PMs believe help them overcome challenges in implementing NTD programs (N=43)



67% (n=29) of PMs said they have observed improvements in their relationship with their country's program partners since joining Kikundi

Overview of Endline Qualitative Evaluation



Strengths

- Kikundi has increased collaboration among PMs in the African region
- Kikundi has supported access to key NTD resources
- Kikundi has supported PM capacity through online courses, webinars and peer learning

Areas of improvement

- Ten-week courses are currently limited to English
- NTD resources and guidelines are mostly in English



For example, when I had a question about how to calculate an indicator, I posted on the platform and 2 or 3 PMs responded with their thoughts which is important.



What is On The Horizon?

- ***Increasing membership*** of community
- Continue increasing access to training opportunities for ***NTD personnel who are nominated by Kikundi members***
- Continue advancing specific skills of interest through ***targeted webinars***
- Increasing access to joint endeavors with partners
- And much more...





Want to join Kikundi?

kikundi@uw.edu

