



## Setting Priorities Fairly

Sustainable policies for effective resource allocation decisions in Africa

**A first-of-its-kind sub-Saharan  
Africa event**  
26th & 27th September 2018

**Participants'**  
Evaluation & Feedback



Hosted by Ghana Ministry of Health  
A joint partnership between iDSI and HTAi

# ABOUT US



The **International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI)** is a global partnership of leading government institutes, universities, and think tanks that provides policy makers with coordinated support in priority-setting for universal health coverage. iDSI provides demand-driven practical support and knowledge products to help both policymakers and funders make better decisions for better health.

We support countries to make **better decisions** about how much **public money** to spend on **healthcare** and how to make that money go further. We believe everyone should have fair access to health, receiving the right treatment and the right medicines at the right time.



**Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi)** is a **global, non-profit, scientific** and professional **society** for all those who produce, use or encounter health technology assessment (**HTA**). HTAi represents 82 organisations and over 2,500 individual members from 65 countries around the world.

iDSI forges **regional** and **global partnerships** that share the knowledge and support needed to achieve real world health gains. We focus on **building institutional knowledge** within existing health systems so countries can lead their own progress towards UHC.

## iDSI Network members:



HTAi is a member-driven organisation, representing a variety of stakeholders who have interests in HTA. These stakeholders include researchers, policy makers, industry, academia, health service providers, agencies and patients, and they contribute to balanced conversation around HTA across different areas of practice and jurisdictions.

# BACKGROUND

In September 2018 the **iDSI network** and **Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)** co-organised a first of its kind **Sub-Saharan African (SSA) HTA event**. The two-day event focused on sustainable resource allocation policies; set out to address difficulties that low and middle income countries (LMICs) face with UHC attainment; and put the spotlight specifically on how HTA can provide solutions.

The Accra-based-event was hosted by the **Ghana Ministry of Health**, endorsed by the Minister for Health, Mr Kwaku Agyemang-Manu and officially opened by Deputy Minister for Health Mr Kingsley Aboagye-Gyedu. The main objectives were to increase the local stakeholders' understanding of the potential role of HTA in resource allocation decisions; coordinate health policy priorities in the SSA region; and establishing sustainable networks regionally and globally.

Almost 100 policy representatives from across Africa and Europe attended workshops that provided an overview of HTA, covering core technical components and how HTA could be integrated within a broader decision-making process. Speakers presented on their experiences of HTA in SSA nations in plenary and parallel sessions covering a wide array of issues pertinent to HTA. We attempt to assess how well this event has met its pre-set objectives based on overall participants experience as recorded in structured and open-ended answers in a hand out feedback survey.

**This report** provides an account on participants feedback and views, surveying instrument used, the event programme, structure, and keynote speakers.

We conclude by providing brief recommendations based on the findings of the feedback analysis and outputs in relation to event's main themes and recorded discussions.

For more details on the event program, content, including key messages and presentation slides please refer to the event page on our [website](#).

## CONTENTS

4	<b>Survey Information</b>
5	<b>Event Programme</b>
6	<b>Keynote Speakers</b>
7	<b>Key Figures</b>
7	Attendance profile
8	Respondents profile
9	<b>Respondents' Feedback</b>
11	<b>Session Popularity</b>
12	<b>Respondents' Views</b>
13	<b>Press and Media Links</b>
14	<b>Recommendations</b>
15	<b>Short term outcomes</b>
16	<b>Acknowledgements</b>
17	<b>Contact Us</b>



# SURVEY INFORMATION

## STRUCTURE

The developed questionnaire comprises **17 structured** and **3 open ended questions**. The questions are thematically arranged in Two main parts.

The first part is 'About participant' segment where the participant can fill out their primary professional discipline, role, and area of expertise. Participants are also invited to provide their name and contact details in case they are willing to be contacted in the future for follow up surveying activities.

The second part of the survey is 'About the event', where participants can select attended sessions and provide response about sessions' quality and relevance to meeting objectives. In this part participants can rate elements of the session on a scale of 1 – 5, denoting Strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, and

strongly agree, respectively. A copy of the survey is available upon request.

## ANALYSIS

The responses were analysed to present a frequency distribution of the answers. We typically consolidated the high-end and low-end scores in the 1-5 point scale, e.g. strongly disagree and disagree, for ease of analysis.

The same approach was followed for questions with binary answers (i.e. yes or no) and multi-select questions. Finally, the open-answers, where the participants stated possible ways to improve the event or actions and networks created as a result of attending the event, were grouped coded and analysed. A word cloud of most frequently used words described by respondents as general impressions on the event were generated and provided in page 13 of this report.



**Meeting venue:** Swiss Spirit Hotel & Suites (Dr Isert Road, North ridge, Accra, Ghana),  
Photos from Plenary session in Main conference room, and parallel sessions in subsidiary rooms.

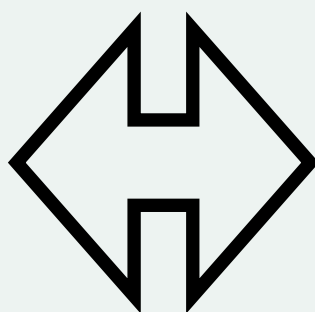


# EVENT PROGRAMME

**26th September**  
Pre conference Day - Training Workshop

Training  
Workshop I

Introduction to  
HTA



Training  
Workshop II

Methods for HTA  
Institutionalisation

**27th September**  
Conference Day - Panel discussion

## Plenary I

Historical development and current practice of HTA in Africa: successes, failures & opportunities. What are the next steps?

### Parallel Session I

Developing effective HTA governance structures within healthcare systems

### Parallel Session II

Aligning interests - How can the private sector support explicit priority setting in countries transitioning from aid

### Parallel Session III

Technology & innovation in health information systems - a lever for health system strengthening

### Parallel Session IV

Incorporating HTA and economic evidence into health benefits package design

## Plenary II

Sustainable Transition from Aid: towards value for money for equitable outcomes and moving beyond disease silos

## MAIN FEATURED COUNTRIES



Ghana



Nigeria



Kenya



Tanzania



Zambia



Ethiopia

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Lydia Dsane Selby**

Chief Executive, Ghana National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA)



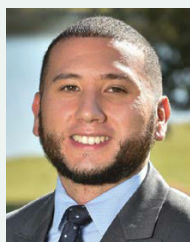
**David Njuguna**

Senior Health Economist, Kenya Ministry of Health



**Solomon Memirie**

Senior Researcher, Centre for Medical Ethics & Priority setting. Addis Ababa University



**Michael Castro**

Programme Manager, The Collaborative Adrica Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI)



**Sarah Garner**

Chief Economist, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria



**Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt**

Director of Technical Coordination, Ghana Ministry of Health



**Koku Awonoor**

Director, Policy Planning Monitoring & Evaluation, Ghana Health Service



**Kalipso Chalkidou**

Director, International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI)



**Michael Borowitz**

Chief Economist, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria



**Iñaki Gutiérrez**

President, Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)

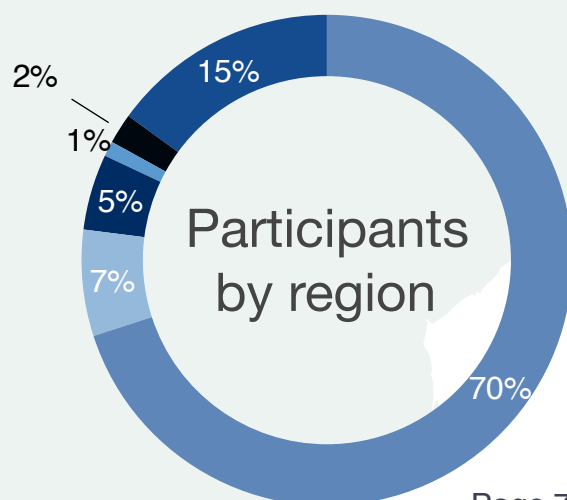
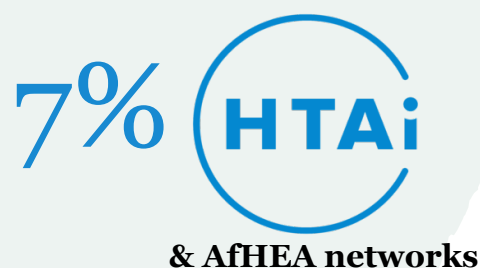
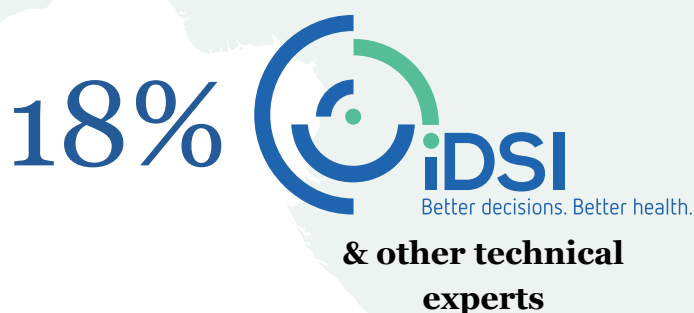
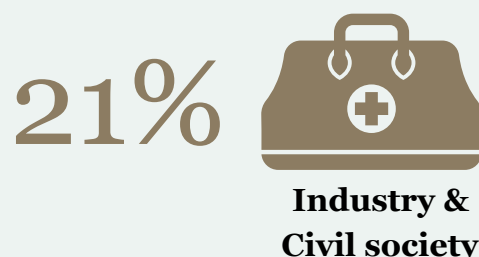
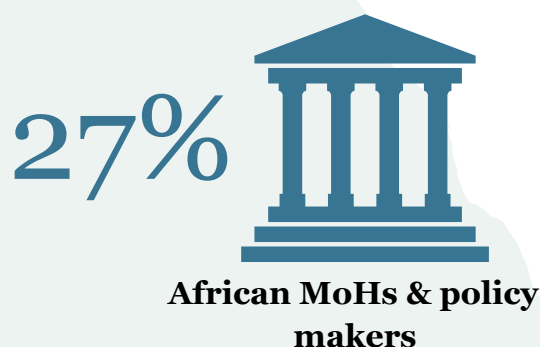
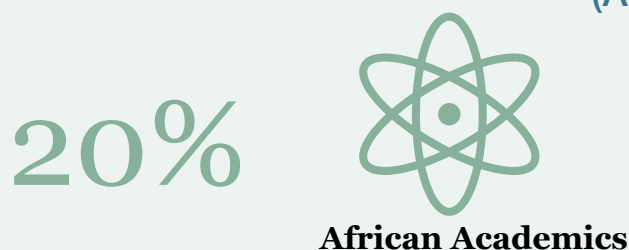


# KEY FIGURES

## ATTENDANCE PROFILE

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 93

(ATTENDANCE IS BY INVITATION ONLY)



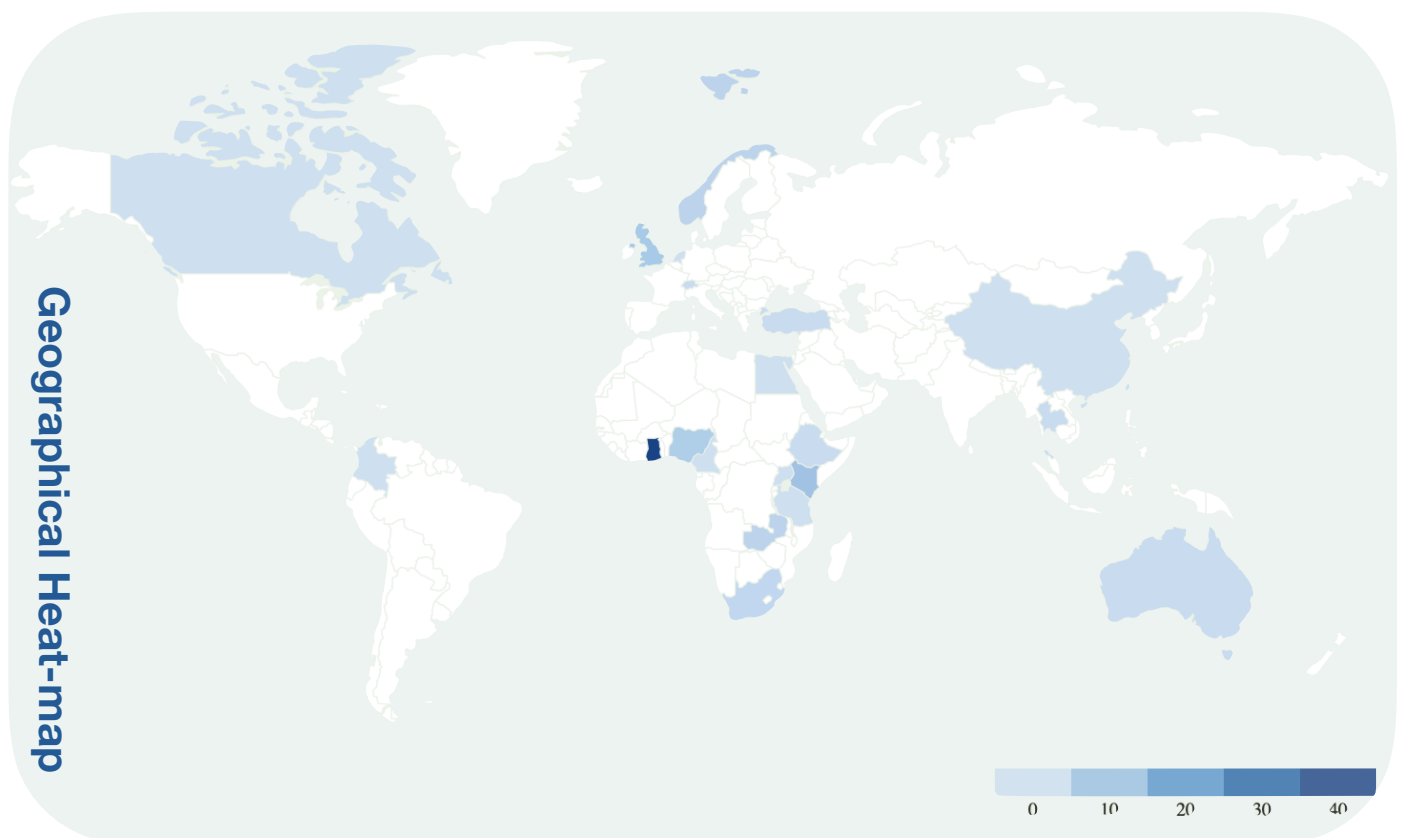
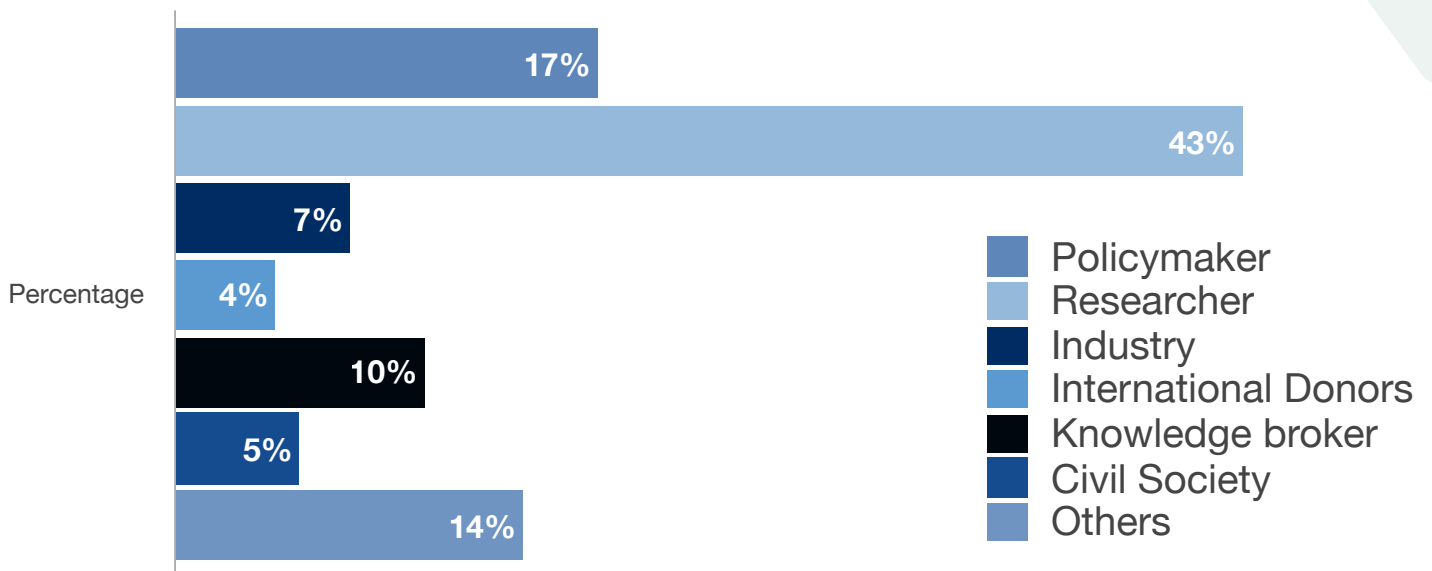
by professional background

By geographical distribution

# RESPONDENTS' PROFILE

RESPONSE RATE **42%**

## PROFESSIONAL ROLES



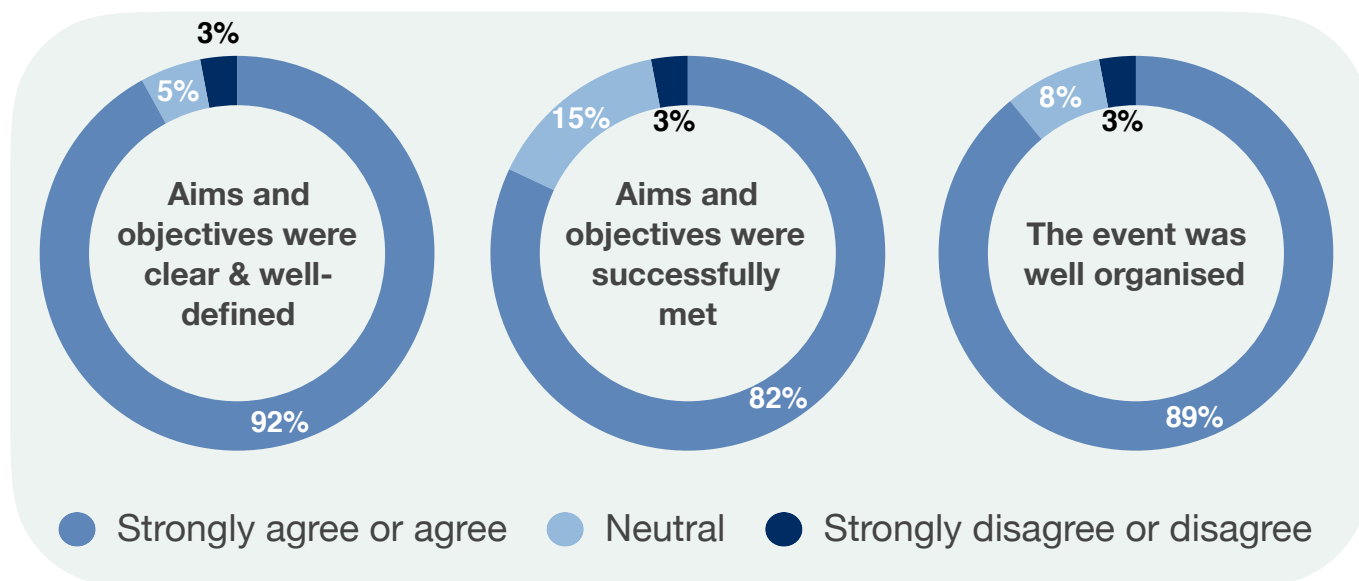


# RESPONDENTS' FEEDBACK

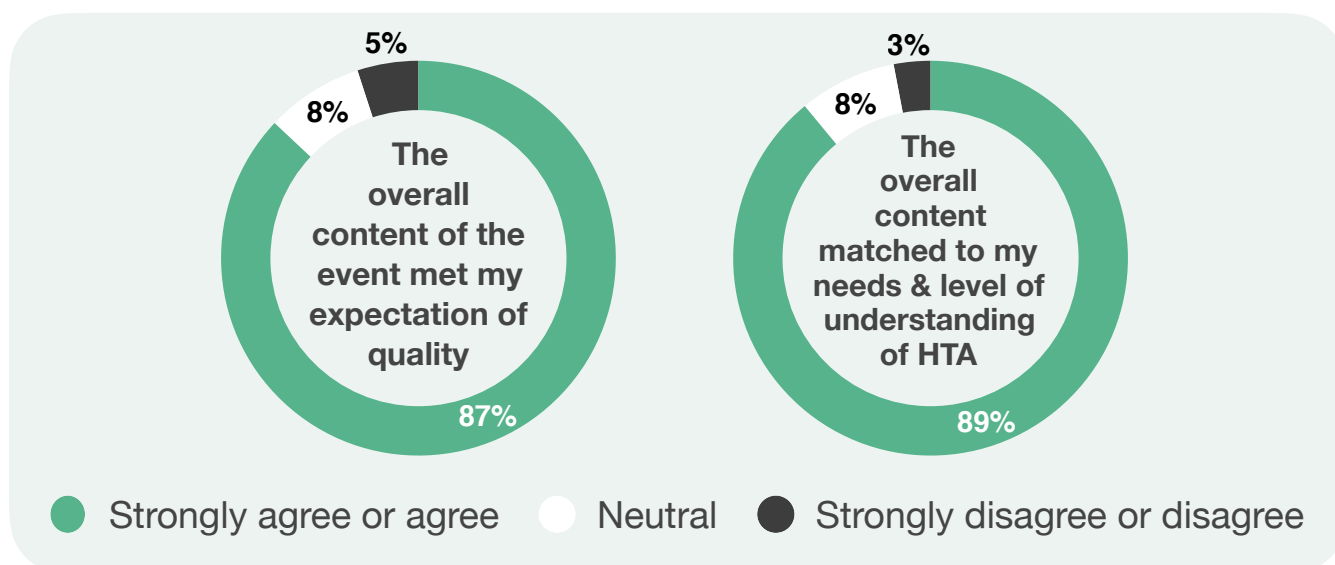


## QUALITY STATEMENTS I

☒ We asked respondents about their views on the aims, objectives, and organisation of the event:

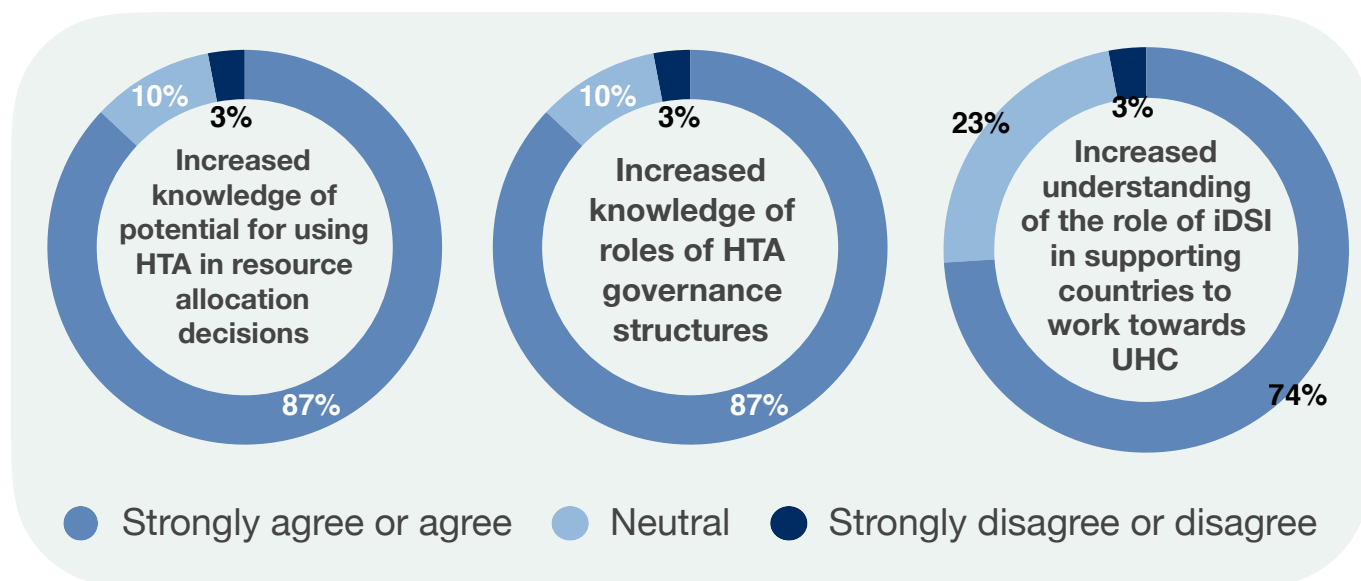


☒ We asked respondents about the programme and overall content of the event:

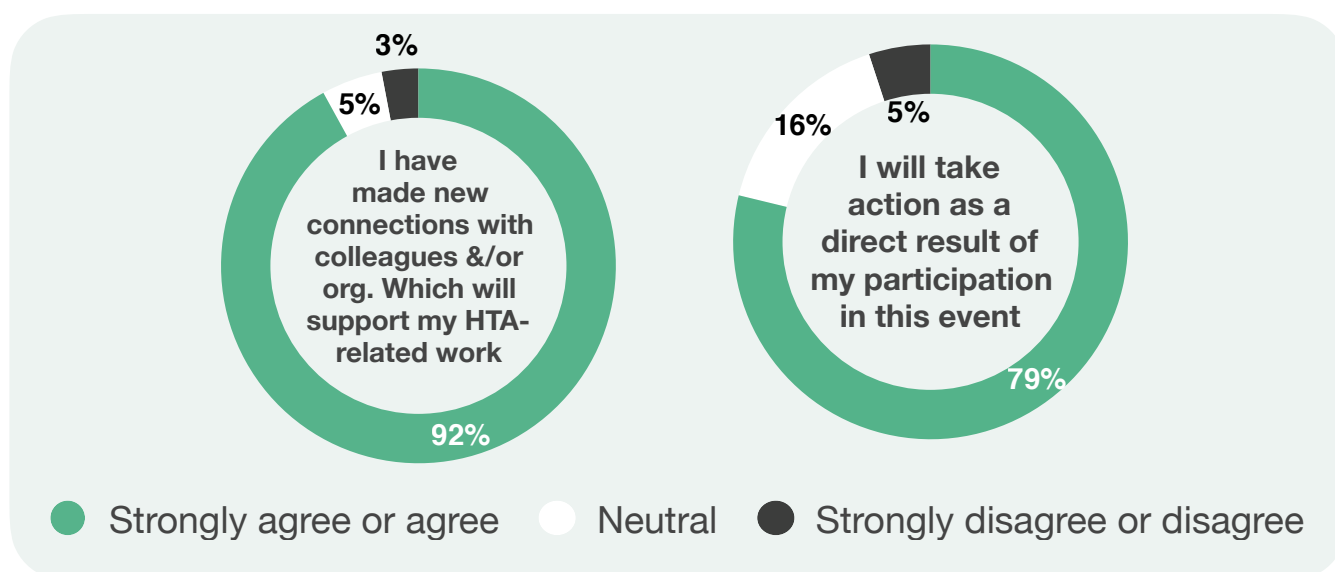


## QUALITY STATEMENTS II

- ☒ We asked respondents whether their knowledge or understanding of HTA has increased as a result of attending this event:



- ☒ We asked respondents about whether the event helped them with networking and collaboration:

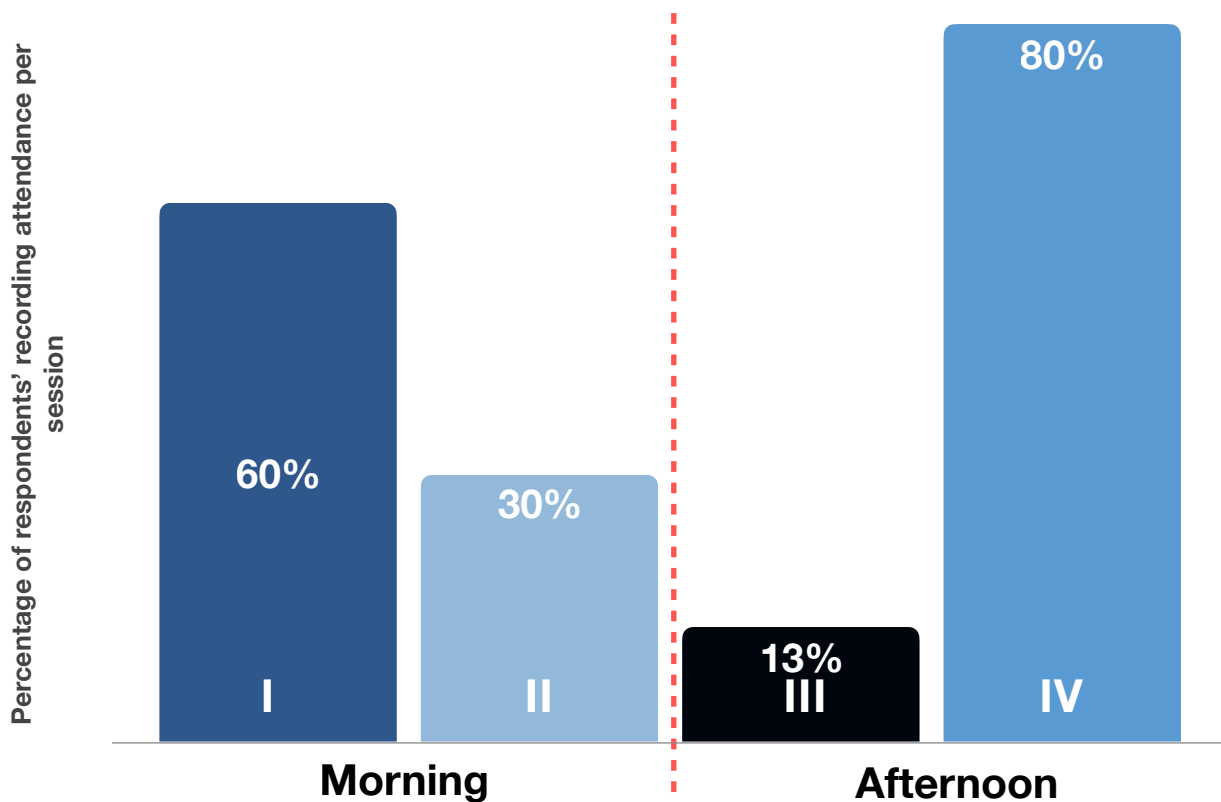




# SESSIONS' POPULARITY

<b>Parallel Session I</b> Developing effective HTA governance structures within healthcare systems	<b>Parallel Session II</b> Aligning interests - How can the private sector support explicit priority setting in countries transitioning from aid
<b>Parallel Session III</b> Technology & innovation in health information systems - a lever for health system strengthening	<b>Parallel Session IV</b> Incorporating HTA and economic evidence into health benefits package design

Out of the **39 survey respondents**, attendance preferences for parallel sessions were as follows:



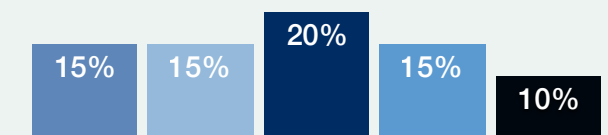
# RESPONDENTS' VIEWS

We attempted to position the event as a multi-stakeholder networking event which raises awareness of the ongoing HTA activities regionally and worldwide, understand activities' applicability and relevance to the African context, and to gauge enough interest for coordination to reduce fragmentation and encourage future collaborations.

We asked respondents open ended questions to inquire on their views of how to improve the event further for future reproducibility, and to provide examples of one or more things they would do as a result of participating in this event. We have coded the answers and provided an overview below.

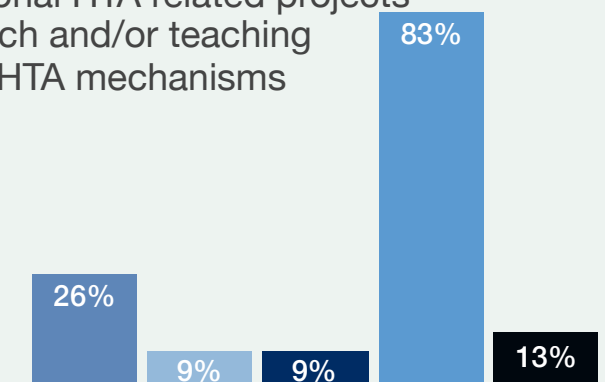
## **Please provide an example of an improvement you would like to see to future iDSI events:**

- Structure of the event: Increase duration
- Structure of the event: Include further hands on practical training
- Content of the event: Cover more political aspects of HTA
- Content of the event: Increasing regional perspective in discussions
- Others



## **Please provide an example of one or more things you will do as a result of participating in this event:**

- Networking & sharing in or across countries and organisations
- Engage further with iDSI in International HTA related projects
- Apply learnings from event in research and/or teaching
- Support development of in-country HTA mechanisms
- Others





## PRESS AND MEDIA LINKS

## EVENT DOCUMENTS AND MATERIAL

- Key messages from Setting Priorities Fairly event
  - All presentations from the event proceedings
  - Blogs
    - [Health Technology Assessment proves a hit as almost 100 delegates attend sustainable resource allocation event in Accra](#)
    - [Setting Priorities Fairly: Sustainable Policies for Effective Resources Allocation decision](#)
    - [HITAP heads to Ghana: Setting Priorities Fairly conference](#)
  - Ghana's first national hypertension Economic Evaluation report
  - Publication in Value in Health Journal: [Supporting the Development of Evidence-Informed Policy Options: An Economic Evaluation of Hypertension Management in Ghana](#)
- 
- GHANA'S DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
KINGSLEY ABOAGYE-GYEDDU WHO OPENED THE EVENT, **September 2018**



GHANA'S DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH MR  
KINGSLEY ABOAGYE-GYEDU WHO OPENED THE  
EVENT, **September 2018**

## PRESS COVERAGE:

- ▶ Ghana News Agency: [Ghana hosts conference on sustainable resource allocation policies](#) (27 September 2018)
- ▶ Modern Ghana: [Conference On Sustainable Resource Allocation Policies](#) (28 September 2018)
- ▶ Business Ghana: [Ghana hosts conference on sustainable resource allocation policies](#) (1 October 2018)



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1. Providing an effective accessible platform for stakeholder engagement and collaboration on HTA & priority setting is in high demand by African stakeholders

The notion of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in sub-Saharan Africa seems to be on the trajectory of developing from **forming stage** to **storming** and **norming stages**. Respondents' views reflect good understanding of purpose for priority setting in healthcare; request for coaching new generations of healthcare professionals; and encourages new ideas relevant to the African context and healthcare eco-systems. Engagement efforts similar to *Setting Priorities Fairly* event are instrumental in bringing these issues under discussion. Examples suggested by respondents include regular regional multi-stakeholder events, policy seminars, and further strengthening of HTA networks in the region. Political economy for priority setting seems to be on top of subsidiary topics needed for discussion.

## 2. Exploring further national contexts, opportunities, and champions for introducing HTA mechanisms

HTA systems require extensive technical and financial resources. Mechanisms for HTA institutionalisation in LMICs may differ slightly from common practice in Europe. This is why south-south information sharing is of great importance. To link evidence with decision making, more efforts are needed to explore national systems and inter-country cooperation, and identify local champions for potential support. This includes identifying necessary system reforms that can accommodate effective capacity building strategies.

*“It’s a good start on the African continent. I hope to see it develop into a regular policy forum for Africa”*

*“The event is timely for Ghana's work on HTA, particularly efforts in institutionalisation...”*

Sampled respondents' testimonials

## 3. Sustainability amidst a transitioning global agenda

Many countries will eventually transition from aid and HTA can be used to inform decisions to help allocate scarce resources, now fully under the responsibility of these countries. Development partners have an important role in appreciating the full implications this will have on local decision making and should take into account all measures that can help manage this transition to domestic financing.



IDSI DIRECTOR KALIPSO CHALKIDOU COMMUNICATING KEY MESSAGES TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, September 2018

# SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

## ESTABLISHMENT OF GHANA'S FIRST NATIONAL HTA COMMITTEE

During our two-day event meeting, iDSI conducted side meetings in the form of roundtable discussions with Ghanaian and international stakeholders participants. As the event enjoyed a high level representation by Ministry of Health, committed ministerial actions shortly followed. This includes key messages that were timely communicated to wider lay audience and focus groups were formed by specialists in Ghana to take up discussions for HTA institutionalisation to the next level. Accordingly, the iDSI has furnished a 'next steps' concept document. That laid out plans for instigating the HTA institutionalisation process in Ghana.

On Friday 4th October 2019, exactly a year after the **Setting Priorities Fairly Event** in Ghana, members of the International Decision Support initiative (iDSI) were invited to the **Ministerial Inauguration** meeting of Ghana's **first National Health Technology Assessment (HTA) steering and technical committees for HTA**. The invitation acknowledged iDSI's 11 years of active involvement in the country advocating for prioritising evidence-informed decision making in Ghana. We are currently working with Ghanaian and international partners to see this



MINISTER OF HEALTH INAUGURATING GHANA HTA COMMITTEES, **October 2019**

positive change through, and encourage collective efforts, leaving no one behind. See our blog covering inauguration event [here](#).

A key measure of success for HTA institutionalisation in Ghana relates to developing effective partnerships and facilitating cooperation between the stakeholder groups. Such partnership is an important feature of the iDSI network's theory of Change (see our [recent publication](#) about building relationships that focus on people, policy, and process for implementing HTA in Ghana).



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ENGAGEMENT MEETING & IDSI POLICY SEMINAR FOR HTA COMMITTEE, ACCRA, GHANA.

**December 2019**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Organising Committee

### **Kalipso Chalkidou**

Director, International  
Decision Support Initiative  
(iDSI)

### **Sean Tunis**

President, Health Technology  
Assessment International  
(HTAi)

### **Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt**

Director of Technical Coordination,  
Ghana Ministry of Health

### **Mohamed Gad**

Advisor - International Decision  
Support Initiative (iDSI)

### **David Grainger**

Director, Health Technology  
Assessment International (HTAi)

### **Justice Nonvignon**

Senior lecturer, School of Public  
Health, University of Ghana

### **Rabia Kahveci**

Director. Health Technology  
Assessment International (HTAi)



## Supporting and event organisation team

### **Francis Ruiz**

Senior Advisor, International Decision Support  
Initiative (iDSI)

### **Rebecca Trowman**

Director, Scientific Initiatives, Health Technology  
Assessment International (HTAi)

### **Else Krajenbrink**

Project Manager, International Decision Support  
Initiative

### **Angela Akon**

Deputy Director, Ghana Ministry of Health

### **Madeleine Stewart**

Communications Manager, International Decision  
Support Initiative

### **Brian Asare**

Programme Officer, Ghana Ministry of Health





# GET IN TOUCH

The Global Health and Development Group is a nonprofit, fee-for-service unit based within the School of Public Health, Imperial College London. Its team of health economists and global health experts contributes to better health around the world through more effective and equitable use of resources.

The team provides advice and practical support to governments, healthcare payers, clinicians, academics, and other local agencies overseas to build capacity for evidence-informed health policy and to design and use methods and processes to apply such capacity to their local country setting.

## Imperial College London

### Global Health Development group

Imperial College London  
St Mary's Campus  
3rd Floor. VE3  
London, W2 1NY  
United Kingdom

The Center for Global Development works to reduce global poverty and inequality through rigorous research and active engagement with the policy community to make the world a more prosperous, just, and safe place for us all.

The policies and practices of the rich and the powerful—in rich nations, as well as in the emerging powers, international institutions, and global corporations—have significant impacts on the world's poor people. We aim to improve these policies and practices through research and policy engagement to expand opportunities, reduce inequalities, and improve lives everywhere.



## Center for Global Development

### iDSI Secretariat

Center for Global Development in Europe  
1 Abbey Gardens  
Great College Street  
London SW1P 3SE  
United Kingdom

[info@idsihealth.org](mailto:info@idsihealth.org)  
[www.cgdev.org](http://www.cgdev.org)  
[www.idsihealth.org](http://www.idsihealth.org)



## CONNECTED TO POLICY

We respond to country demands and working with governments and researchers to influence policymaking, including through government-to-government links



## DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

Our multidisciplinary global network brings research rigour, knowledge translation and real policy and political expertise



## FOCUS ON VALUE FOR MONEY

Our multidisciplinary global network brings research rigour, knowledge translation and real policy and political expertise



## EVIDENCE-INFORMED

Our multidisciplinary global network brings research rigour, knowledge translation and real policy and political expertise



## WORKING TOGETHER

We bring global, regional and country partners to share knowledge and work together towards common objectives



# OUR PRINCIPLES

[info@idsihealth.org](mailto:info@idsihealth.org)

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

 @idsihealth

