

WAHO Director General
Professor Stanley OKOLO



Professor Stanley Okolo, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, is the Director General of West African Health Organisation (WAHO). He graduated from the University of Nigeria, had postgraduate medical training in Nigeria, United Kingdom and Canada, and spent the vast majority of his professional career in England before being nominated in March 2018 to head WAHO as one of Nigeria's Statutory Appointees to the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS). An award winning leader, clinical academic and executive coach, Professor Okolo has had key regional and international leadership roles in healthcare, academic partnerships, and professional organisations. He has a PhD from the University of London, a professorship at University College London, and numerous scientific publications to his name.

At WAHO, Prof Okolo has led a transformative agenda focused on five thematic areas (maternal & child health, pharmaceuticals, quality standards, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and health information) underpinned by improving capacity, strengthening networks and enhancing sustainability across the region. WAHO is now globally recognised as the pre-eminent inter-governmental health body in West Africa, as evidenced by the robust support of international partners and governments to the organisation's acclaimed regional coordination efforts during the 2020-2021 Covid-19 pandemic.

Stanley advocates using constructive disruption to accelerate health improvements, and believes that to be successful, health intervention programs in developing countries should address the wider issues of health and well-being as well as illness and disease.

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