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Journal Name:	<u>International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health</u>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_31584
Title of the Manuscript:	Implementing Novel IT tools for public health in West Africa- Lessons learned from piloting the Surveillance, Outbreak Response Management and analysis System (SORMAS)
Type of the Article	Method Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	In Abstract: A quick background is needed before the aim. Study design: if not applicable, no need to mention it. Authors should delete that from the Abstract. INTRODUCTION: This should be straight to the point. After a few background on the necessity of eSurveillance, Authors are requested to touch the focal point of this paper which is the implementation of the SORMAS tool. Therefore, the first two paragraphs in "MATERIAL AND METHODS" should be summarized and given in the INTRODUCTION. Section 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS Please keep only "Material and methods" and delete the rest Begin directly with "Selection of pilot sites" the upper information are good for the INTRODUCTION Have there been outbreaks of cholera, measles and avian flu during the study period? Authors are requested to specify accordingly in the paper at the same place where the "exercise disease" used to simulate EVD was explained. Titles of tables should be above the tables not below. All tables should be formatted in the scientific design (see guidelines) Considering the title of this study and its actual content there is a gap. Authors actually reported experiences and	A background has been added to the abstract The first two paragraphs of the Methodology have been taken out as background information under introduction This section has been changed to "Methodology". This part now starts with selection of study sites Yes, there were outbreaks of cholera and measles but not avian influenza. This was however not elaborated upon in this paper but was elaborated upon in another paper on the evaluation of the SORMAS All table titles have been placed on top of the table. The title of the paper has been changed to "Implementing SORMAS for public health in West Africa- Lessons learnt and future direction "



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	challenges related to the implementation of the SORMAS tool rather than real disease surveillance. The title and the aim have to be somehow modified in order to match with the content. With the current title and objective one would expect to see the results/outcomes of the surveillance using the tool in terms of prevalence/incidence and other epidemiological data together with response system implemented via the tool for each disease. Readers of this paper would expect something like efficacy/effectiveness evaluation of the tool, which is not the case. Find appropriate words	
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments		
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		