Needs of health research in developing countries

Carel IJsselmuiden

The role of Europe and of International Science and Technology Cooperation
Brussels, 4 October 2007
responding to global challenges

diseases, health conditions, risk factors, environment for which research is a key solution

how, and by whom, should this research be done? who set the agenda?
Priority Diseases and Conditions

Fighting Diseases of the Developing World
We support efforts to prevent and treat diseases and conditions that meet three criteria: (1) they cause widespread illness and death in developing countries; (2) they represent the greatest inequities in health between developed and developing countries; and (3) they receive inadequate attention and funding.
Gates foundation grand challenges

- University of Toronto, Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International (2x), Max Planck Society, The Regents of the University of Michigan, University of Santiago de Compostela, Albert Ludwigs Universitat Freiburg, National Public Health Institute of Finland, Queensland University of Technology, University of Manitoba, University of Washington, Ohio State University Research Foundation, President and Fellows of Harvard College, University of Alabama at Birmingham
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown of Research Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>infectious Diseases</td>
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<td>HIV / AIDS</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<td>health services</td>
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<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<td>58</td>
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<td>pharmacology</td>
<td>8</td>
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Makerere Univ Health Sciences 2007
AHA study (preliminaries) (1)

- HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Malaria
- Nutrition
AHA study (preliminaries) (2)

- No alignment
  - But also very little to align with!

- Little harmonisation
  - at least in health research
Is the purpose of the research the product?

Yes, but:
- Implementation: ‘know-do gap’
- Indirect benefits of research

Is the purpose of research long-term sustainable development?

Yes, but:
- detracts from primary goal
- ‘complex’
another look at health research

Social & Political Development

Economic Development

Health System

Health Research

“Research For Health”

COHRED – Council on Health Research for Development
role of Europe and S&T cooperation
1. Governance & Stewardship
   Research priorities; ethical guidelines and standards; monitoring and evaluation; outcome definition; impact assessment

2. Financing
   Secure research funding; allocation according to priorities; accountability; donor alignment & harmonization; mode of access

3. Capacity building
   human resources; facilities; communication; collaboration; partnership negotiation; … many other aspects

4. Knowledge generation and translation
   Scientific outputs, translational research … the ‘research process’

5. Knowledge utilisation
   Process of ensuring that research informs health policy, health practice, and public opinion; use of research to develop drugs, vaccines, devices and other applications to improve health
National Health Research Systems (NHRS):

- Political commitment to research (for health)

1) Have credibly set & regularly updated health research (system) priorities

2) Have a research policy framework

3) Have a national research management structure
32. In Latin America and the Caribbean, investment in science and technology applied to health is characterized by the absence of explicit agendas for needs-driven research that informs policy design, as well as by limited development of financing mechanism to meet these needs.

Health Agenda for the Americas 2008 – 2017; Panama City, 3 June 2007

e.g. Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness; incentives to focus on national health & dev. goals

COHRED – Council on Health Research for Development
National health research systems:

6) Optimising the system:
   - health equity
   - negotiation ability to deal with other sectors, sponsors, private research
   - finding external research expertise and partnerships
   - stimulate alignment & harmonization
   - Institution strengthening
   - monitoring & evaluation

7) International linkage
   - networks & networking
   - regional, international
Welcome to Health Research Web
A new service from the Council on Health Research for Development

Health Research Web: information on national health research systems in low and middle income countries.

Click the map to view country pages
role of Europe and S&T cooperation

- Health Research Web
- AHA – Alignment and Harmonisation
  - *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* 2005
PARIS DECLARATION ON AID EFFECTIVENESS
Ownership, Harmonisation, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability
role of Europe and S&T cooperation

- Health Research Web
- AHA – Alignment and Harmonisation
  - *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* 2005
- Responsible Vertical Programming
  - *eg research contracting*
- Human Resources for Health Research
Welcome to the page of 'HR-HR' Human Resources for Health Research – an African Perspective

'HR-HR' Human Resources for Health Research: an African Perspective

The HR-HR Africa process aims to provide an action-oriented and holistic look at human resources needs in a health research context. The HR-HR expert meeting (Nairobi, July 2-5, 2006) will consider important facets of human resources that are generally not considered. Four multi-country teams will generate new thinking around four core themes:

- General human resources issues. The general human resources environment in Africa.
- Communities influencing research agendas. How communities can influence health research agendas at local and at national levels to focus on health priorities.
- The power of networks. How ‘networking’ can strengthen health research.
- Communication and Knowledge Sharing for impact. What skills are needed in health research systems and organizations to optimize the use of research communication and knowledge sharing.

The consultation process of the four themes started in early 2006. The partners will take stock of the work in progress at an expert meeting in Nairobi in July. Here, some 50 experts in the thematic areas will meet in Nairobi to review their findings. The meeting is expected to generate new thinking, and plans for future work, programmes and initiatives on the thematic areas. New alliances and professional communities are expected to result from these rich exchanges.
role of Europe and S&T cooperation

- Health Research Web
- AHA – Alignment and Harmonisation
  - *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness 2005*
- Responsible Vertical Programming
  - *eg research contracting*
- Human Resources for Health Research
- Understanding & supporting institution building
RESEARCH CAPACITY STRENGTHENING IN AFRICA

Purpose
This initiative aims to build a critical mass of sustainable local research capacity across Africa, through strengthening African universities and research institutions.

Background
There is an urgent need to strengthen local research capacity in Africa, to tackle compelling questions about health and disease vital to enhancing people's health, lives and livelihoods.
role of Europe and S&T cooperation

- Research capacity strengthening
  - individual, institutional, system, national
  - ‘supra-national’: regional and global
role of Europe and S&T cooperation

• Research capacity strengthening
  – individual, institutional, system, national
  – ‘supra-national’: regional and global

• Complementary agendas
  – the Noordwijk Medicines Agenda
  – the Cameroon Technology Transfer Agenda
OECD High Level Forum

Strengthening policies to improve availability of medicines for neglected and emerging infectious diseases

Developing countries propose complementary agenda to strengthen the southern perspective

HIGHLIGHTS

- OECD countries endorsed the ‘Noordwijk Medicines Agenda’, aimed at building political support for improving the availability of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics for neglected and emerging infectious diseases that affect developing countries.
- Several developing countries at the forum welcomed the Noordwijk Agenda and recommended sharing it more broadly with other developing countries.
- Cameroon proposed to host a follow-on meeting to bring a stronger southern perspective to the initiative.

Background:
The High-Level Forum on Medicines for Neglected and Emerging Infectious Diseases brought together over 200 participants, mostly from OECD countries and some from developing countries. It included representatives from government, industry, donor agencies, academia, philanthropic foundations, international agencies and non-governmental organisations. Expert groups met in two preparatory workshops – “Accelerating Neglected Diseases Drug Discovery”
role of Europe and S&T cooperation

- **Research capacity strengthening**
  - individual, institutional, system, national
  - ‘supra-national’: regional and global
- **Complementary agendas**
  - the Noordwijk Medicines Agenda
  - the Cameroon Technology Transfer Agenda
- **Country-based science communication**
  - how to engage communities?
Policy Forum

Grand Challenges in Global Health: Engaging Civil Society Organizations in Biomedical Research in Developing Countries

Anant Bhan, Jerome A. Singh, Ross E. G. Upshur, Peter A. Singer, Abdallah S. Daar

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are nonprofit organizations that aim to further the interests of communities and CSOs, and being sensitive to their respective needs and perceptions. In October 2005 the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced an approximately US$450 million sponsorship of 44 innovative projects under the auspices of its Grand Challenges in Global Health (GCGH) initiative. As described in the opening article in this series, we serve as an

which is involved in health services provision throughout the country, has in recent years founded a university, including a public health school to train public health researchers and practitioners. CSOs can be divided into five types:

- Nongovernmental organizations, Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) work outside the direct control of governments. They can be


COHRED – Council on Health Research for Development
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  - the Cameroon Technology Transfer Agenda
- Country-based science communication
  - how to engage communities?
- Support networking & networks
Strategic Intentions

Managing knowledge networks for sustainable development

Heather Creech and Terri Willard
role of Europe and S&T cooperation

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- Complementary agendas
  - the Noordwijk Medicines Agenda
  - the Cameroon Technology Transfer Agenda
- Country-based science communication
  - how to engage communities?
- Support networking & networks
- Strengthening ethics review capacity in LMICs
COHRED – Council on Health Research for Development

About GFBR

Partners

Who are the Forum’s current partners?

- Aga Khan University (AKU)
- Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED)
- Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)
- Health Research Council of New Zealand
- Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM)
- Medical Research Council-United Kingdom (MRC-UK)
- National Institute of Health- Fogarty International Center (NIH-FIC)
- The Wellcome Trust (WT)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
role of Europe and S&T cooperation