

YAOUNDÉ 2009

**Strengthening
health innovation:**
from agendas
to action

THE YAOUNDÉ PROCESS for health innovation in Africa

March 2009 - Yaoundé, Cameroon

Highlights country and regional needs for health innovation in Africa. It helps put the principles of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property into action for Africa.

Is a forum for sharing national and regional strategies for health innovation.

Prioritises needs of African countries for health research innovation – where to start, who to work with and what to do?

Encourages investment in African national and regional initiatives.

The Yaoundé process:
**SUPPORTING COUNTRIES TO BUILD
 A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT
 FOR HEALTH INNOVATION**

The Yaoundé Process is a mechanism created to strengthen synergies between activities that focus on health innovation in Africa.

The Yaoundé Process and its Yaoundé 2009 meeting (March 2009) work with countries and international programmes to build a better understanding of African country needs and resources. They offer advice and support to countries and encourage donors to invest in country-driven health innovation agendas.

Yaoundé complements the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.*

The Strategy provides a global framework for pharmaceutical research that meets the needs of low and middle income countries. The Yaoundé Process helps put the Strategy's principles into action in Africa – by highlighting specific country and regional needs for health innovation.

Yaoundé encourages a broader perspective on health innovation. One where national strategies should include: policies, regulation issues, market environment and incentives, financing, local production, human resources, and other health, social, legal and economic aspects.

* Results of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (IGWG), adopted at 2008 world Health Assembly by 193 WHO Member States.

What is the current state of
HEALTH INNOVATION IN AFRICA?

Yaoundé Baseline study

The starting point for the Yaoundé process is country needs and resources for research and innovation.

The Yaoundé baseline, in progress since early 2008, provides a comprehensive view of current initiatives – ranging from basic research to the use of medicines in Africa today.

It provides a clear view of current activities and gaps, setting data against the pharmaceutical research, development and delivery pipeline.

A first version of the study was presented to partners in early 2008. A more complete view will be circulated for discussion and debate at Yaoundé 2009.

**BENEFITS & OUTCOMES
 of the Yaoundé Process
 and 2009 Meeting**

Agreement on frameworks for health innovation developed by African countries to assess their current situation and define national priorities and strategies. .

Definition of activities and investments that countries need to progress on health innovation.

Proposed pilot projects to put these national health innovation activities into practice.

IMPROVING COORDINATION
of health innovation for Africa

2007 At the Noordwijk OECD meeting*, Cameroon proposes to host a complementary agenda to increase understanding of African countries' resources and activities for health innovation.

2007 Cameroon, the Netherlands and COHRED work together to initiate the 'Yaoundé Process', to strengthen health innovation by and for African countries.

January 2008 Preparatory research and studies begin on health innovation in Africa, facilitated by COHRED.

July 2008 Engagement meeting brings together experts and country representatives.

November 2008 Special consultation at the Bamako Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health.

November 2008 - February 2009 Publishing of Yaoundé studies and baseline data on innovation in Africa and innovation scenarios for countries.

March 2009 Yaoundé 2009 meeting: Strengthening Health Innovation in Africa: from Agendas to Action.

2009 onward After synthesis of Yaoundé meeting results – opportunities for countries to develop pilot projects to finance national or regional innovation activities. Core donor group could emerge.

**GOALS OF THE
 YAOUNDÉ
 PROCESS**

- 1** Encourages a broader African perspective on health innovation. The Yaoundé process allows African countries to further define and prioritise their needs for health innovation – as a local complement to the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health Innovation and Intellectual Property.
- 2** Produces new strategic studies that deepen understanding of current resources and health innovation initiatives in Africa. It identifies gaps and areas for more South-South cooperation.
- 3** Improves coordination between African national and regional strategies and international medicines and global health programmes.
- 4** Provides practical advice and tools for African countries. To help them define their current health innovation situation, and design national action plans.
- 5** Encourages donor funding for future country activities in health innovation.



A picture of health innovation in Africa.

The first step toward better coordination is a clear picture of health innovation in Africa. The Yaoundé Baseline study presents a comprehensive view of existing activities and partnerships – ranging from basic research to delivery and use of medicines. It will be presented at the Yaoundé 2009 meeting for critical review and improvement.

* Improving accessibility to drugs for neglected infectious diseases.