



Jan 2012

*The R4HA team wishes all its partners and advisors a Happy New Year and welcomes them to the first edition of the R4HA newsletter. The R4HA team looks forward to working with its partners and advisors in 2012 and hopes to have a very productive year for R4HA!*

## In brief

### Team News:

“Positive impressions” and “potential future partners” said **Bruno Kubata** following his presentation at the WHO/AFRO regional advisory committee meeting on health research in Brazzaville in November.

Welcome to R4HA Administrative Assistant, **Teresa Cullen** who is taking on some communication development that was missing during 2011 - R4HA webpage, contact database and e-newsletter.

### Diary Dates:

The team has started work on finding the best way to bring the R4HA message to Forum 2012 in April ([www.forum.org](http://www.forum.org)), as well as using the opportunity to hold a R4HA meeting on 23 April, involving the country partners and advisors, as well as other interested parties.

R4HA team members, **Kathy Douglas** and **Bruno Kubata** were in Nairobi on 7 Dec addressing a 70-strong audience on the benefits of a customised Health Research Web platform for Kenya, and of course, sharing the latest news on R4HA.



## First Cross Country Meeting

October 2011 saw the first ever cross-country and advisor meetings for the R4HA initiative, held in Midrand, South Africa. Country partners from the health, science and technology sectors of Mozambique, Senegal and Tanzania called for increased shared learning, capacity strengthening and more focus on the regional dimensions of R4HA. The group of advisors used their meeting to focus on funding opportunities and scaling up the initiative as well as capturing ideas and suggestions to develop Centres of Excellence through connections with regional and global network partners.

## Interest in R4HA widens

Both the Department of Health, South Africa and the Uganda National Health Research Organisation have shown an interest in joining the R4HA initiative. As current funding for R4HA doesn't cover such an expansion, a 'price list' is being drawn up for interested parties, so they can select the services they need. They can then use this information to secure funding for the project.

## Country Achievements

**Mozambique** – INS is addressing the issue of how to set research priorities by first using a questionnaire to gather input from stakeholders. This will be followed by a national priority setting workshop scheduled to take place in March 2012.

**Senegal** - The establishment of the Conseil National de Recherche pour la Santé (CNRS) is still in the pipeline and the R4HA team will be working closely with Senegal to support the process with a view to starting work on priority setting in 2012. COHRED's Web for Development team is offering help to streamline the Ministry of Health's website to provide better access to the research project registry.

**Tanzania** - Thanks to the hard work of COSTECH along with partners and the R4HA team, the process of finalising priorities is drawing to a close for Tanzania. This is all in preparation for the meeting early in the year where the draft national research agenda will be presented for comments. So others can learn from this experience, COSTECH will write about the process and with the R4HA team find the best way to share this with others.

Bruno Coelho (COHRED Health Research Web officer) and Boitumelo Mokgatla (COHRED research ethics officer) worked with NIMR to begin development of a 'research ethics management' platform and also with COSTECH to finalise the 'proposal submission and management' platform - which boasts over a thousand research projects already on-line.