

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH FOR HEALTH



ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

COHRED believes that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) should be more involved in research and innovation for health to help ensure its local relevance and better use. CSOs by their nature have a holistic approach to health and development. They often promote, contribute to or conduct research on health and its determinants. In addition, through their direct contact with communities, they can bring different cultural perspectives to the research arena, hold governments accountable, comment on policies, identify additional research that is needed, engage with research institutions and lobby national and international governments for action. CSOs give a human face to research and are in a unique position to add value and build on local capacity.

The COHRED Group



Supporting research and innovation systems for health, equity and development



THE CHALLENGE

If a faster and better impact on health is to be achieved, CSOs need to be involved in research for health. In many low and middle-income countries, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are not systematically involved in the Research for Health systems, despite being well positioned to contribute in valuable ways.

THE SOLUTION

COHRED's main goal is to improve health outcomes of the most vulnerable populations through strengthening of research and innovation systems. Through the Health Research Web initiative, COHRED has developed an online area in our Health Research Web platform (cso.healthresearchweb.org) that is available to all CSOs active in research and innovation for health and development. This provides the CSOs with an excellent opportunity to showcase their work, network with colleagues around the world, demonstrate best practices, share stories, tools and resources, and engage in discussion topics of common concern.

WHO BENEFITS AND HOW?

Civil Society Organizations, governments, research institutions and other stakeholders directly benefit from COHRED's initiative through more efficient access to better information about CSOs and their work. In addition, stakeholders benefit from the tools and technical support provided by COHRED. Indirectly all this work benefits the populations of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)

SUCCESS STORIES

Tools

COHRED has developed action guides that can be used by CSOs, governments, research institutions and other actors to critically reflect on how best to build on the capacity of CSOs in strengthening research and innovation for health at the country-level (www.cohred.org/framework-guides-system-strengthening)

Technical support

The COHRED Group works with countries in strengthening their research and innovation systems for health and to ensuring appropriate involvement of CSOs in research system strengthening activities (e.g. in the research agenda setting process). In addition, we are proactive in connecting, advocating and monitoring progress towards health, equity and development through research and innovation at the national, regional and global levels.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

COHRED seeks additional partners and donors to continue the work of the Civil Society Engagement in Research for Health initiative. The main focus of this next phase will be on expanding the information in the CSO research web and facilitating discussions between CSOs. Specifically, through these actions, COHRED would like to identify current gaps in research where CSOs can have an impact and we would like to strengthen the capacities of CSOs through online and face-to-face workshops, as well as to host a global meeting for CSO to help them to address these gaps in research.

Overall COHRED seeks to maximize the value of CSOs in research for health by:

- Strengthening their capacity and
- Ensuring they become a strong, relevant and respected partner in the research system development

The expected outcomes are:

- Better capacities of CSOs to conduct locally relevant research.
- Better capacities of CSOs to utilize research findings.
- Better capacities of CSOs to communicate research findings to the general population, governments and funders.
- More collaboration between CSOs and relevant stakeholders in the Research for Health and Innovation system.