RESEARCH & INNOVATION FOR HEALTH COORDINATION



Coordination is key to governance of research for health. Coordination will optimise work within the health sector and across other sectors, facilitate communication, avoid duplication of work, and promote collaboration, both nationally and internationally.

Coordination is the synchronisation and integration of activities to ensure that national and international resources are used most effectively in pursuit of research for health objectives and priorities and implementation of research for health policies.

PURPOSE

UNDERSTANDING THE CURRENT SITUATION

Determine existing coordination mechanisms and their aims

- Research for health involves a range of sectors and players. A coordination mechanism can bring these stakeholders together
- Is there a body or structure responsible for actively organising different elements of the research for health system?
- What processes are currently in place for coordination on national and international levels?
- What role can coordination play in facilitating the performance of the research for health system?

STRUCTURES

DECIDING HOW AND WHERE TO FOCUS COORDINATION EFFORTS

Determine what coordination structure or mechanism will work best in the current system

What structure(s) will best coordinate research for health?

 Formal (legally mandated, such as inter-ministerial committees) or informal (networks, advisory groups within ministries)

Who should be involved?

 Representatives from Ministries of Health, Science & Technology, Education, Finance; civil society organisations; universities; researchers and research organisations; development bodies

How will the structure(s) work?

- How can the structure(s) operate effectively within the system?
- Who will they be accountable to?

FUNCTIONS

ALLOCATING KEY COORDINATION TASKS

Actions for developing or strengthening coordination functions

- Coordinate research within the health sector and with other key sectors
- Mediate between all actors both nationally and internationally
- Facilitate communication between and within sectors and with international partners
- Monitor whether priorities are being adhered to
- Advocate for inter-sectoral and international investment
- Coordinate collaborative research partnerships with donors & other international organisations

OPTIMISATION

ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR OPTIMISING COORDINATION

Actions for optimising coordination

- Develop indicators of research for health productivity at national, institutional and individual levels
- Increase utilisation of research results by policy makers, managers, practitioners, the public
- Ensure alignment and harmonisation of donor and other funding with national priorities

The COHRED Group



Supporting research and innovation systems for health, equity and development