FOUNDATIONS

action guide

RESEARCH & INNOVATION FOR HEALTH
POLICY DEVELOPMENT

ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK TO GUIDE RESEARCH FOR HEALTH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

- Develop a strategy for policy development and implementation through incremental change or major reform

- Assess the level of authority required for each element of the legislative framework (act of parliament, regulation, or policy). Choose the simplest level that is functionally possible.

- Plan the actions required for authorisation of the necessary acts, regulations and policies

- Build ownership using transparent, consultative and participative processes. This is key to successfully developing and implementing the policy framework

- Policy development and evaluation should be based on sound evidence

STATEMENT OF INTENT

A POLITICAL STATEMENT OF SCOPE AND PURPOSE - THE HIGHER THE OWNERSHIP, THE GREATER THE COMMITMENT

Set government aims for research

- Improve population health, reduce health inequities, increase the efficiency, quality and safety of the health system, enhance socio-economic development, generate new knowledge

Outline the values to guide policy

- Ethics, equity, social justice, sustainable development, innovation, excellence

Describe the structures to develop, manage and implement policy

- Directorate in the Health, Science & Technology, or Education Ministries; Academy of Medical Sciences; Inter-Ministerial Commission for Health Research; National Health Research Council or Department

POTENTIAL POLICY GOALS

IDENTIFYING THE GOALS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE POLICY'S AIMS AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES THAT WILL ACHIEVE THEM

Research for health implementation that addresses national health needs

- Research priorities set and updated
- Human resources for research production and management, aligned with priorities
- Research financing (national and foreign) alignedd with priorities and human resource needs

Research conducted in line with locally relevant values

- Establish a system of ethical review
- Design an equity focus into priority setting processes
- Align with international commitments

Effective use of research findings

- Incorporate user demands into priority setting processes
- Enhance systematic review and synthesis capacity
- Develop a system to facilitate communication and uptake of research

A conducive environment for research

- Structured career paths with merit-based promotion
- Open, competitive, peer-reviewed funding mechanisms
- Capacity strengthening at the institution and system levels

Enhance socio-economic development

- Develop innovation and commercialisation capacity
- Create catalysts for technology and knowledge transfer and manage intellectual property rights
- Establish incentives for private sector involvement

IMPLEMENTATION

PLANNING AND EXECUTION

Prioritise policy goals

- Select those likely to have greatest immediate impact and facilitate future research for health system development

Secure human and financial resources

- Long-term commitments to make the proposed changes and establish sustainable structures
- Set a sustained financing mechanism for research for health
- Political commitment - staff and budget are the clearest indicators

Manage strategy implementation

- Engage with stakeholders
- Set clear, achievable targets
- Facilitate the change process

Ensure effective implementation and policy development beyond initial goals

- Establish a monitoring & evaluation system to assess policy effectiveness
- Systematically review policy needs on a regular basis

The COHRED Group

COHRED
Council on Health Research for Development

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FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

Supporting research and innovation systems for health, equity and development