RESEARCH FOR HEALTH AFRICA (R4HA) INITIATIVE

A partnership of the NEPAD Agency, COHRED, African institutions
Purpose of R4HA

Support countries build their policy framework and management basis for effective governance of research for health.
Why this initiative?

- Research is a key driver for development
- But insufficiently used in Africa due to unclear research governance structure, priorities/direction, and policy framework
- Strengthen governance and management for research to:
  - Better target research for development and health needs
  - Improve use of research & access to information
  - Improve coordination & avoid duplication
Who is involved?

- Institutions in three African countries
- Institutions that will become centres of excellence for research for development and health strengthening
- The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- NEPAD Agency
- COHRED
NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency Themes & Agenda

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)

**Themes**
- Agriculture and Food Security
- Climate Change and Natural Resources Management
- Regional Integration and Infrastructure
- Human Development
- Economic and Corporate Governance

**Compelling Agenda**
- Enhanced capacity of member States to drive continental development processes
- Assist in creating an enabling environment to stimulate and facilitate private sector engagement in sustainable growth and development
- Support member States and regional bodies in developing and implementing quality investment programmes and projects

**Directorates**
- Office of the CEO
- Strategy and Knowledge Management
- Policy & Programme Development
- Partnership, Resource Mobilisation & Communication
- Programme Implementation & Co-ordination
- Corporate Services

**AU Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec. 283(XIV)): Establishment of NPCA**
COHRED

- Council on Health Research for Development
- Technical agency: main expertise in research for health system strengthening (i.e. Facilitating priority setting processes, policy development, review of system capacity).
- [www.cohred.org](http://www.cohred.org)
Framework for developing national research for development & health systems

### Starting Point
- a) Situation analysis
- b) Development targets

### Strategy for system strengthening
- a) Various approaches
- b) Tools
- c) Methods

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of development</th>
<th>Actions needed</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Basic requirements - socio-political environment</strong></td>
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<td>1. Political commitment to health research</td>
<td>Advocacy, awareness, data and discussion.</td>
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<td><strong>Level 1 needs - research-conducive environment</strong></td>
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<td>1. Credibly set and regularly updated research priorities</td>
<td>Priority setting and updating.</td>
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<td>2. Health research policy framework</td>
<td>Developing policies/policy framework for research &amp; health research.</td>
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<td>3. Research management office/mechanism</td>
<td>Exploring mechanisms and structures appropriate to countries' existing structures and aspirations for research.</td>
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<td><strong>Level 2 needs - Research implementation</strong></td>
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<td>4. Human Resources for Health Research</td>
<td>Developing a medium and long-term HR/HR strategy and plan.</td>
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<td>5. Stable, predictable research financing</td>
<td>Developing medium-long-term health (health) research financing mechanisms, including donor alignment and harmonization.</td>
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<td><strong>Level 3 needs - Optimizing the system</strong></td>
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<td>6. Improving health research system arrangements</td>
<td>for example:</td>
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<td>- Research ethics</td>
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<td>- Research communication, including evidence to policy &amp; practice.</td>
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<td>- Peer review vs committee review.</td>
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<td>- Mentor-based promotion system.</td>
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<td>- Community advocacy for research.</td>
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<td>- Monitoring &amp; evaluation of impact.</td>
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<td>- Health systems research needs.</td>
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<td>- Good research contracting.</td>
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<td>- Technology transfer &amp; arrangements.</td>
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<td>- Intellectual property rights.</td>
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<td>- Institutional building.</td>
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<td><strong>Level 4 needs - Integrating the national system internationally</strong></td>
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<td>7. Collaborative arrangements</td>
<td>- Bilateral</td>
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<td>- Regional</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- International</td>
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<td>- Organizations</td>
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<td>- Donors / research sponsors</td>
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How will we operate?

1. Partnership:
   • NEPAD Agency: Strengthening/building political commitment to research
   • COHRED: Technical backstopping
   • National institutions:
     ✓ Ownership of activities
     ✓ Strengthening critical aspects of the research for development and health
     ✓ Play role in-country and region

2. Learning & sharing across countries in the region

3. Four year time frame
What are expected results

• Effective governance and management structures for research for health
• Research for health information system
• Better link between supply & demand
• An African platform for the exchange of expertise on management of research and health research
• A package of practical tools, methods and experiences for others to use.
Start up phase R4HA

- Building (political) awareness for the initiative
- Project design, formulation of plans and indicator development for system strengthening
- Mapping: creating/supplementing baseline information in-country
Implementation phase – R4HA

• Strengthening governance, including priority setting, policy framework development
• Developing a national research for health information system
• Developing an M&E system
• Further system development & strengthening, including research utilisation capacity, ethics review capacity, proposal development capacity
M&E phase R4HA

- Monitoring and evaluation activities
- Networking, experience sharing, learning
- Communication