

Incorporating the results from the R4HA External Evaluation

AS A PLANNED part of the R4HA programme, the team appointed a South African firm, Science and Innovation Policy Studies (SIPS), to evaluate the work of the programme. This newsletter captures the highlights of the evaluation – the full report can be read at <http://www.cohred.org/external-evaluation>.

The aim of the evaluation was to answer three fundamental questions. Is the R4HA programme:

1. Making any difference?
2. Doing the right things?
3. Doing the right things in the right way?

It was reaffirming for the team to hear that the evaluation established that the R4HA programme is very relevant and addresses priority needs of African countries. The evaluation found that the R4HA programme is highly relevant and also unique; there are no other types of programmes that work in such a way on health research system strengthening.

The evaluation mentioned the main achievements as being:

- Stimulation of processes to formulate health research priorities in the three countries
- Building institutional capacities for designing and using M&E frameworks
- Development of information systems for health research and research for health
- Stimulation of a process to establish an institutional mechanism to coordinate health research in Senegal, and
- Enhanced collaboration among institutions in the three countries (including cross-sectoral collaboration).

Of the things for us to improve upon, the evaluation found that country institutions perceived R4HA as a donor. So for the next phase the R4HA team are working on the design of a multi-finance approach where each partner contributes financially to a partnership.



RHInnO Ethics Workshop: 12-13 March in Johannesburg, South Africa

A successful two day workshop was held in Johannesburg for 10 administrators of ethics committees from Mozambique, Senegal and Tanzania on RHInnO ethics. The workshop involved demonstrations and technical support to help the administrators to familiarise themselves with the platform so that they can provide advice and guidance to users within their countries.



COHRED – NEPAD Meeting in Magaliesburg, South Africa

The evaluation team recommended that R4HA design a Phase 2, raise political awareness of the programme, develop an exit strategy, and in the future involve the private sector and other NGO's in programming activities. In the light of this, a workshop between NEPAD and COHRED and involving some external invitees was held in Magaliesburg, South Africa on the 16th and 17th of February.

Issues considered were: Future collaborative options, resources that can be tapped for this (including private sector resources), and partners to be involved (beyond the current partners). Based on this meeting, a concept note is now being developed.

R4HA is holding a one-day meeting on **Sustainable Investment in Research for Health** on **29 June 2014, Berlin, Germany** before the seventh EDCTP Forum that will commence the following day.

The meeting aims to explore practical strategies for increasing predictable resourcing towards priority research in countries and highlight experiences from African countries investing domestic resources in their own research and innovation systems. Governments believe these investments to be essential for national social and economic development.