



# Learning Brief

## Priority Setting for ENHR - The Indonesian experience

Indonesia's National Institute of Health Research and Development (NIHRD), housed within the Ministry of Health, organised a 3-day national priority setting workshop in February 1999. The meeting brought together a wide range of stakeholders including researchers, policy makers, representatives of professional organisations, donor agencies, NGO's, members of parliament, and representatives of WHO-SEARO.

The preparatory work undertaken prior to the national workshop was extensive, and included the following:

- ◆ Preparatory meetings with the above mentioned stakeholders
- ◆ Situational analysis of health development and health systems research in Indonesia
- ◆ A study on resource flows for health research
- ◆ In-depth consultations with policy makers
- ◆ Intensive discussion and modification of the COHRED tools for priority setting

The national workshop aimed at synthesising these consultations and at generating a consensus on health research priorities for Indonesia.

A major recommendation from the participants related to the methodology for priority setting. The participants felt that the methodology as described by COHRED could be used as a basic framework for setting priorities. However, the criteria used for selecting the priorities should be adapted to the country needs and level of development.

A further recommendation emerged from the workshop participants themselves. It was recommended that, due to the wealth of information provided as preparatory material, these materials should in future be distributed well before a consensus workshop takes place.

It was noted that the overarching goal of equity was well articulated at the national workshop, but was not selected as one of the top ten criteria for priority setting. Increasing inequity was however, seen as a major problem in Indonesia, caused by the crises currently hampering progress in the country. The group felt that instead of using it as one of the criteria, equity should be incorporated as a topic in actual research projects.

Following the national workshop, several meetings took place, which further refined the research agenda. In line with the government policy on decentralisation, health research priority setting activities will be carried out at the provincial level.

### Further reading:

1. *The development of national health research priority and national health research agenda for Indonesia, by application of ENHR approaches*. ENHR focal point in Indonesia and NIHRD, 1999, Indonesia
2. *Penelitian kesehatan tingkat nasional yang Essential/PKNE (Essential National Health Research): pelajaran yang dapat dipetik (Translation in Indonesian from: Essential National Health Research and Priority Setting: Lessons Learned; COHRED Document 97.3, Geneva).*

### Contact Information:

**Dr Agus Suwandono**  
NIHRD

Ministry of Health  
Jl Percetakan Negara 23 A  
Jakarta 104560, Indonesia  
Phone: +62-31-352 2952  
Fax: +62-31-352 8749  
Email: dragus@indosat.net.id

These learning briefs are published by the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED).  
To receive a free copy of the Handbook, and any forthcoming learning briefs, please contact:

**COHRED**  
**c/o UNDP**

Palais des Nations  
CH1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

**Phone:** + 41 22 917 8558

**Fax:** +41 22 917 8015

**Email:** [cohred@cohred.ch](mailto:cohred@cohred.ch)

**Website:** <http://www.cohred.ch>