

What is ENHR?

ENHR is an integrated strategy for organising and managing health research. It is a new way of using science. New, in that it calls for the simultaneous application of three organising principles:

- **Participation** – resulting in consensus building among all interested parties at all stages of the research process
- **Informed and sound decision-making** – at all levels, from ministry officials, through district development teams, to community groups and individuals
- **Inclusive approach** – drawing on all types of health research to generate knowledge that contributes to health development.

ENHR provides a systematic approach to ensuring that health research is effective, by:

- Making health research an essential tool for decision-making
- Building and strengthening innovative research coordinating mechanisms
- Setting national and sub-national priorities for health research
- Building research and user capacity
- Evaluating health research and its supporting mechanisms
- Promoting involvement of all stakeholders in health research
- Improving communication between researchers and users of research

What is COHRED?

COHRED is a nongovernmental organisation, closely linked to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). COHRED was established in 1993 to “promote, facilitate, support and evaluate” the Essential National Health Research (ENHR) strategy.

What does COHRED do?

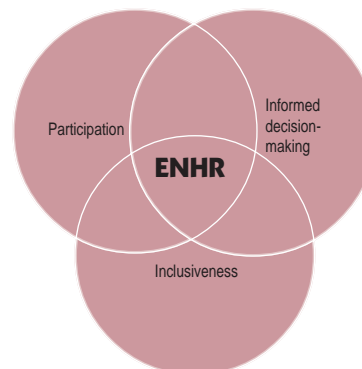
Above all, COHRED works directly with countries, facilitating technical and financial support for the development of effective national health research systems.

It provides forums for exchange of information and experiences, through regional and country initiatives, networks, publications, and an interactive Web site.

It stimulates and promotes partnerships at country, regional and global levels – between researchers, decision-makers, communities, and other interested stakeholders, such as the media, NGOs and donors.

It collaborates in the production of tools that can be used to improve the effectiveness of research as a means of achieving equity in health development.

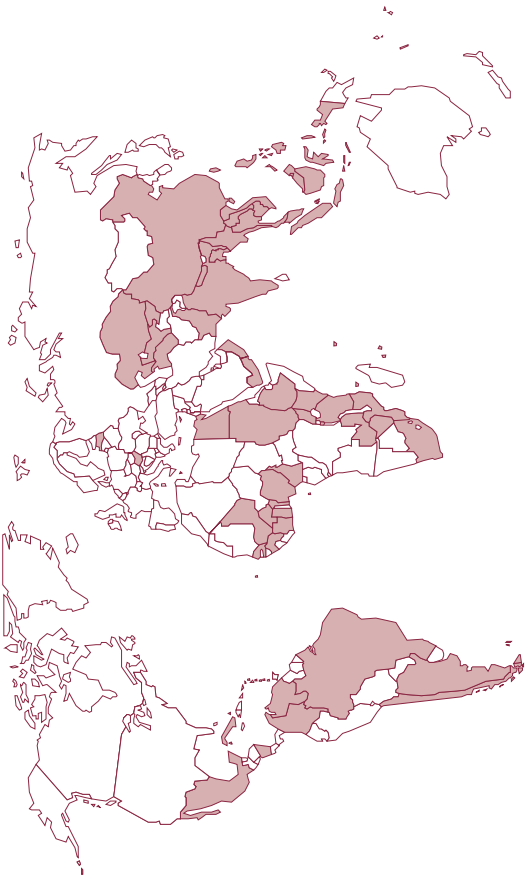
It advocates for ENHR and voices the interests, needs and priority agenda of developing countries among international investors and other agencies.



Effective health research

Health research is only effective if it expands knowledge about how to improve health – and if that knowledge is used. COHRED has identified five key challenges to make health research more effective:

- **Strengthening national health research systems** – e.g. by focusing on the implementation of identified health research priorities
- **Focusing on capacity development of national health research managers** – e.g. developing skills to stimulate demand for research, to build coalitions and to manage knowledge
- **Going local** – increasing the emphasis on sub-national research systems – e.g. capacity building for conducting relevant research at the district level
- **Building coalitions** – an essential strategy for the 21st century – by identifying coalition-building as a specific competence which can be described, learned and assessed.
- **Persisting with the equity goal** – by conducting studies at the country level that can pinpoint inequities in health status, or by monitoring progress in achieving equity in health



COHRED works with countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Newly Independent States and the Caribbean.

Practical information

The COHRED Secretariat currently consists of the following people: Yvo Nuyens (Coordinator), Pat Butler, Lennart Freij, Sylvia de Haan, Matthias Kerker, Inger Roger, and Beverley Rousset.

The COHRED Board consists of 18 individuals, the majority of whom are from the South.

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For COHRED publications, and more details see our website at: <http://www.cohred.ch> or contact us directly. COHRED's quarterly Newsletter *Research into Action* and other publications are also available in printed form upon request.

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The Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED)



A learning coalition

Bringing together researchers, decision-makers, communities, donors, development agencies, developed and developing countries to learn from and to support each other in achieving health equity through
Essential National Health Research