

HEALTH RESEARCH WEB



ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Health Research Web (HRWeb) is an interactive platform that gives rapid access to information and highlights best practices in 'Research for Health' governance and policies, research projects, publications, ethics reviews and much more.

Some of the key features of HRWeb include the following:

- Allows countries to present information on research for health systems in an organised manner.
- Enables countries and institutions to identify needs for better governance and management of research for health (e.g., identifying gaps between the research conducted versus research priorities).
- Information from registered users is easily uploaded from other software programmes.
- Offers helpful analysis tools.
- Creates a platform for internal institutional management and for sharing institutional, national or regional data with the world.
- Is maintained by stakeholders and is open to the public.

The COHRED Group



Supporting research and innovation systems for health, equity and development



THE CHALLENGE

Prior to the existence of HRWeb, it was difficult to access systematically collected information concerning international research for health and its systems. Having access to such information is important because systematically collected data can be analyzed, compared between countries and mapped to show what data is available and what is missing. In addition, best practices can be identified and disseminated if a centralized system exists.

THE SOLUTION

In 2006, COHRED launched the first version of HRWeb. In 2009, with support from SDC and IDRC, COHRED launched HRWeb 2.0, a new interactive version of tool.

HRWeb now facilitates:

- Transparency and governance of health research
- Dissemination and review of research results
- Use of evidence to inform policy and practice
- Sharing and building of new partnerships
- South-south learning and collaboration
- Support to capacity building and joint learning
- Collection of information on best practices in research for health and the supporting systems

WHO BENEFITS AND HOW?

1. **Governments** to improve the governance, leadership management or research for health in their countries
2. **Research Institutions** to better address national health needs and be better positioned for partnerships with other institutions and research sponsors.
3. **Academic institutions** to better support the development of 'human resources for health research'
4. **Research sponsors and donors** to align better with the national health research priorities of low and middle income countries, to harmonize their research support for greater impact.
5. **Civil society organizations and NGOs** to focus research for health on areas of greatest need and to increase accountability of those involved.
6. **Researchers in the north and south** to find partners and focus for their research projects and to help maximize impact.
7. **Media, health and science writers** to better understand how research for health can help solve countries' health problems.
8. **Informed citizens** to enable them to hold their government agencies and other research sponsors to account.
9. **All citizens** to enhance the use of research results to influence national and global research agendas to address people's health needs.

SUCCESS STORIES

HRWeb has experienced many successes over the years and now has over 10 partners. COHRED is especially proud of the success of HRWeb in Tanzania. In 2009 President Kikwete of Tanzania committed to increase spending on Science and Technology to almost 1% of GDP in recognition of the potential of the sector to contribute to development. COSTECH (The Commission for Science and Technology of Tanzania) then asked COHRED to customize HRWeb for their own internal purposes. The new customized version of HRWeb will track and monitor Tanzania's expenditures in the areas of science and technology. In addition, the system will manage calls for proposals within Tanzania and will provide for monitoring of those expenditures as well as the tracking of research outputs/outcomes and information related to research institutions and researchers.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To ensure the continued development and growth of the HRWeb, COHRED seeks additional partners and donors. Specifically, COHRED would like to add 3 staff members (i.e. one each in Asia, Africa and Latin America,) who would focus their efforts on "user engagement". The aim would be to develop relationships with the key target audiences (e.g. governments and research institutions) and to increase their interest in and capacity to use HRWeb. The desired outcome would be an increased amount of information in HRWeb being inputted by an increased number of user organizations.