



COHRED

Council on Health Research for Development



Making research and innovation work
for health, equity and development

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Who we are

The Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) is an international non-profit and non-governmental organisation based in Geneva, Switzerland – Gaborone, Botswana – and Belo Horizonte, Brazil. We have over 20 years' hands-on experience in delivering support to maximise the impact of research and innovation on the health and development of those who need it most.

Our goal

To maximise the potential of research and innovation to improve health, equity and sustainable development around the world. We prioritise work that impacts low income countries and populations.

What we do

With a sharp focus on increasing the impact of research and innovation on health and development:

1. We provide expertise and products that enable institutions, countries and regions to greatly improve the performance of their research and innovation systems
2. We create platforms and opportunities to generate the increasingly complex solutions and partnerships needed to solve complex global health challenges

Who we work with

Our customers and clients are governments and government institutions; research and academic centres; for-profit and non-profit, bilateral and multilateral organisations; research sponsors and philanthropies; and – generally – institutions, organisations, enterprises and even individuals funding, supporting, promoting, using, translating and evaluating research to improve health, equity and sustainable socio-economic development.



Technical Support
to optimize capacity
for impact



Global Action
to design solutions
to complex problems

COHRED TECHNICAL SUPPORT

DIRECT TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO INSTITUTIONS, COUNTRIES AND REGIONS



Technical Support

COHRED offers a unique range of tools, resources, technical guidance and support designed to maximise the use of research to create innovative solutions to improve health, equity and development. COHRED's technical support builds on more than 20 years experience of working with low and middle income countries, providing a neutral and ethical approach to sustainable solutions for strengthening research for health systems.

- **Research and Innovation System Assessment**

COHRED provides technical support in Mapping, Analysis, Performance Assessment and Measuring Improvements

- **Priority Setting**

COHRED can help you decide where best to allocate scarce research and innovation resources

- **Managing Information**

Use of COHRED developed tools will provide effective management of research and innovation systems – ethically and transparently.

COHRED GLOBAL ACTION

CREATING SYNERGY AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACTION



Global Action

Health issues on a global scale, such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB, are outside the reach of individual countries or business and require the collaboration of many different sectors, countries and people. COHRED's unique neutral position - without vested political or economic interests – has made it the ideal organisation to bring together new and dynamic partners to generate the synergy needed to address global health problems.

- **Meetings and Events**

COHRED uses its experience to offer the ideal solution to create unique encounters of people, ideas and inspiration

- **Certification**

COHRED can support you in adhering to best practices in Global Collaborative Health Research and Innovation.

- **Global Virtual Platform**

COHRED can help to build and maintain a virtual space to share intelligence, demonstrate accountability and provide support.

COHRED works globally but prioritises low income countries and populations. COHRED has worked with institutions, countries, governments, private sector, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and individuals.

The COHRED team is supported by a group of non-remunerated board members – experts in various fields related to health and research. The board offers their advice and guidance to support COHRED in its mission to make better use of research and innovation to improve health, equity and development.



CHINA
DR JIE CHEN

Jie's background includes working as a physician and paediatrician for 10 years. Since then Jie has held a number of senior positions including Vice President of Shanghai's Medical University and Assistant Director General of WHO. Jie's current role is Professor of Department of Hospital Management, School of Public Health, Fudan University and Director of Key Lab of Health Technology Assessment, Ministry of Health.



UNITED KINGDOM
DR CATHY GARDNER

Cathy is an expert in innovation with a background in policy, practice and research. With over 20 years of experience in building collaborative partnerships, Cathy has a thorough knowledge of designing and implementing innovative programmes. Other areas of expertise include university commercialisation, international knowledge transfer and intellectual property management. Cathy acts primarily in a non-executive function both nationally and internationally to deliver social and economic impact.



SOUTH AFRICA/NETHERLANDS
PROF CAREL IJSSELMUIDEN

Carel is a public health physician and epidemiologist. He has worked in rural medicine, peri-urban and urban health care and environmental health services, as well as in academic public health education and research ethics training. He has also published in various areas in applied research and public health. Carel was the founding Director of the University of Pretoria's School of Health Systems and Public Health until his appointment as COHRED Director in January 2004.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DR GERALD KEUSCH

Jerry is a professor of Medicine and International Health at the Schools of medicine and Public Health, Boston University, as well as Associate Director of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory. Jerry has been involved in clinical medicine, teaching and research for his entire career, during which time he has delivered numerous lectures on topics of science and global health at leading institutions around the world. He is presently involved in international health research and policy with the NIH, the US National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, the United Nations and the World Health Organisation.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DR MARTIN-J SEPÚLVEDA

Martin-J is an IBM Fellow and Vice President of Health Industries Research for the IBM Corporation, leading a global team of experts. Martin is an expert in workforce health and productivity and is widely recognised for wellness and health promotion, health care support services, primary care and public health contributions. To add to this, Martin-J is a Fellow of several American Colleges and serves on the board of a number of health related organisations.



THAILAND
DR KANYAWIM KIRTIKARA

Kanyawim holds the position of Executive Director for the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), a research centre under the National Science and Technology Development Agency. BIOTEC's research covers a broad spectrum from agricultural science to biomedical science to environmental science. Kanyawim is also a member of the Thai Academy of Science and Technology.



NETHERLANDS/UNITED STATES
DR OK PANNENBORG

Ok worked for UNHCR, WHO and NGOs in Africa, Asia, Latin-America and Europe, as well as senior strategy and research positions at the Netherlands Ministries of Health and of Foreign Affairs. He recently retired as the World Bank's Chief Health Advisor/Director and Chief Health Scientist, however, he continues to advise governments and international agencies on health systems reform, especially with regard to research, science and technology and innovation, pharmaceutical development, human-resources-in-health and health financing developments.

COHRED TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROJECTS

COHRED'S TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO GUINEA BISSAU

The first-ever National Agenda for Research for Health was established by Guinea Bissau after a four-year endeavour supported by COHRED and the West African Health Organisation (WAHO). COHRED was delighted to see a successful end to the long process which defined national priorities in research for health, despite setbacks caused by political unrest in 2012 that almost brought the project to a complete standstill.

Guinea Bissau is the third poorest country in the world with 85% of the population living on less than a dollar a day. Although research had been conducted in Guinea Bissau for over 30 years, and appeared in more than 650 publications in international scientific journals, it had been more relevant to international public health than to the country itself. The situation was a health research system highly dependent on international partners both in terms of research priorities and funding.

Since 2006, COHRED has been providing guidance and technical support to Guinea Bissau to develop a national research system for health more responsive to the country needs. COHRED facilitated a number of workshops and despite a halt in proceedings in 2012 due to a military coup, the result culminated with a confirmed list of national priorities in research – the bedrock of the first and only national research for health agenda, later adopted by the Minister of Health in 2013.



THE IMPACT

Developing a national research agenda for health means Guinea Bissau can maintain its own national research priorities. It can demand that donors and international agencies contribute to the system by aligning their investments to national priorities and consider findings from local research in their activities. COHRED was able to contribute to this successful outcome thanks to its partnership with the West African Health Authority and financial support from International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

STREAMLINING RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES IN NIGERIA

Nigeria's committees appointed to carry out ethical reviews of research – essential in ensuring human rights are safeguarded – were plagued by a lack of training, too few staff and manual paper-based systems. This slowed the development of new medicines, technologies and vaccines for AIDS, TB and Malaria, amongst others, for the people who desperately needed them.

With the introduction of COHRED's **RHInno Ethics** in six institutions, Nigeria has in place a secure on-line system that works within the technological constraints of an African environment to manage the whole ethical review process from start to finish. Phase two of the project hopes to expand the use of RHInno Ethics across the whole country.



THE IMPACT

Introducing **RHInno Ethics** has not only provided a tool to vastly enhance the role of Nigeria's Research Ethics Committees, but the improved efficiency will see research cleared 12 months sooner than currently possible. Nigeria has funded the purchase and associated training from COHRED for this project.



MAKING SUCCESS CONTAGIOUS

Creating an opportunity for countries to share experiences and work together is at the heart of many of COHRED’s projects – encouraging regional organisations, country representatives and technical agencies to combine their competencies to strengthen national research systems for health.

COHRED had worked alongside Tanzania for a number of years, overall with great impact while facing some challenges along the way. In an effort to share this knowledge COHRED planned a knowledge sharing event in Dar es Salaam and with their Tanzanian hosts welcomed representatives from Botswana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Malawi and Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) and Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) each provided insights into practical approaches that could be adopted elsewhere, as well as exploring issues such as research priorities, national research agendas, management information systems, communication, policy development and monitoring and evaluation through group discussions.



THE IMPACT

This event gave attendees a broader knowledge of research for health systems in other countries and may support them in making the right decisions quicker and may go some way to avoiding common pitfalls. Opinions and recommendations captured during the event were published in the freely available report **‘Strengthening research and innovation systems for health and development in Africa: Report from a Tanzania knowledge-sharing workshop’**. COHRED was able to embark on this shared learning experience thanks to its partnerships with the NEPAD Agency and The West African Health Organisation, and financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands.

COHRED’S TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique had been battling for 10 years to set up a National Research Agenda, and with a long list of research needs for the country, they were struggling to identify their priorities. Working with COHRED now sees them with a draft Research Agenda, ready for final approval.

The Instituto Nacional de Saúde (INS) provides evidence to the Ministry of Health to enable them to take decisions concerning the health of the population. INS had already established the need for a National Research Agenda, but needed support in identifying their national priorities. INS worked with COHRED to identify the key steps necessary to set up a national health research agenda. Part of the plan involved working with researchers and policymakers from other national level organisations, institutions and civil society organisations. With COHRED’s tools, resource materials and facilitated workshops, INS was able to get researchers themselves to identify, rank and agree on key priorities – these priorities then formed the basis of the research agenda. A key learning point during the process was the need for a Management Information System – another project COHRED has embarked upon with INS and other institutions within Mozambique.

“I can confidently say that our work with COHRED is definitely making a difference in our national efforts to set-up a National Health Research Agenda and to strengthen the health research governance in Mozambique”

Nilsa de Deus
Head of Research, INS, Mozambique

THE IMPACT

Mozambique will see the true health priorities of the population being addressed, resulting in effective health improvements where needed most. COHRED was able to support Mozambique thanks to financial support from the Ministry of Affairs, Netherlands.

COHRED GLOBAL ACTION PROJECTS

GLOBAL FORUM

COHRED strives to bring together the world's top change makers from both North and South to work together hand in hand through equal partnerships to effect change – The Global Forum has served this purpose to great effect with events in China, Mexico, South Africa and, in 2015, the Philippines.



A formal agreement between COHRED, the Philippine Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Health (DOH), and the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) to host the event in Manila was signed earlier in 2014. Secretary Mario Montejo expressed DOST's complete support for the Global Forum as he emphasised the Forum's impact in the areas of health research and development and better exchange of knowledge and research results.

Forum 2012 in South Africa's Cape Town explored the theme of how low and middle income countries could position themselves 'Beyond Aid'. With an exciting mix of debates, panels and interactive sessions, participants looked to research and innovation as key drivers for health, equity and development.

THE IMPACT

The praise and comments received about Forum 2012 have been testament to the success of the meeting, and something COHRED plans to replicate for the 2015 event. COHRED was able to undertake Forum 2012 thanks to its partnership and financial support from the departments of Science and Technology and Health, South Africa.

"The conference created synergies and broke down barriers"

Thiru Balasubramaniam,
Knowledge Ecology
International

"Forum 2012 opened my eyes to the possibilities that many countries, including developing ones, could do to improve the health of the people"

Kounila Keo, Journalist,
Cambodia/Asia Region

"Forum 2012 has proved itself as an innovative, empowering platform which drives home the central importance of research for greater health"

Dr. Marie-Paule Kieny,
Assistant Director-General,
WHO

"Forum 2012 provided Impact Investment Partners a rare opportunity to learn from the researchers and academics whose insight is so often at the core of the innovative healthcare businesses that we look to invest in and to scale."

Jay Barrymore, Managing Partner,
Impact Investment Partners LLP

COHRED's COLLOQUIA

Building on the success of previous gatherings, COHRED's Colloquium IV has been set for September 2014 in London. The meeting will raise the subject of fairness in relation to international collaborative research and innovation for health, and whether a global quality control system would create a better environment for research and innovation in low and middle income countries.

In 2013 COHRED collaborated with the *Lancet Commission on Investing in Health* to explore investments in health research – from what had made the greatest impact over the last 20 years to future investment levels to ensure healthcare challenges are addressed.



THE IMPACT

Key decision makers across the spectrum of research and health related fields are exceptionally gathered to take part in a series of enlightening discussions exploring some of the underlying, yet critical, issues facing research and innovation for health. COHRED believes that the unique blend of opinions and statements equips participants to make better informed decisions and judgements regarding the use of research and innovation to improve health, equity and development around the world.



COHRED URGES WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT HEALTH RESEARCH

The eight Millennium Development Goals have been a milestone in global health and national development efforts, focusing concerted action on crucial themes such as halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. However, as the 2015 deadline approaches, it is evident that progress has been uneven within and across countries.



COHRED in partnership with the Global Health Council, the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), and the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) used the 67th Annual World Health Assembly (WHA) to urge Member States and delegates to support health research and related policies and capacity building as a core component of a post-2015 agenda for equitable health and sustainable development.

THE IMPACT

WHA Member States approved a resolution on health in the post-2015 development agenda that called for completing the unfinished work of the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and noted the importance of universal health coverage and stronger health systems.

COHRED'S WORK WITH EUROPEAN UNION PROJECTS

To improve health and research links between Europe and countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, COHRED has been selected to contribute its technical experience and resources to a number of EU projects:



SDH-Net's aim is to strengthen and link research capacities for health and its social determinants in African and Latin American low and middle income countries in close collaboration with European partners.



EU-LAC Health is linking European and Latin American-Caribbean policy making institutions in the field of health research.



CAAST-Net Plus supports Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.



MASCOT

The MASCOT project, coordinated by COHRED, identified and implemented strategies for tackling health inequalities primarily affecting children, adolescents and mothers.

THE IMPACT

COHRED's involvement in these projects will lead to more equitable links between Europe and African, Latin American-Caribbean countries in the fields of research and health. COHRED's contribution to these projects has been made possible by financial support from the EU.

MANAGING INFORMATION ACROSS A REGION WITH HEALTH RESEARCH WEB

The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) wanted to promote collaborations and exchanges of research information across the Americas to reduce duplicated efforts, build on synergies and pinpoint gaps in knowledge across the region. However, for this to happen, information about each country's national research for health system – resources, capacity, policies and research agendas - had to be readily available. COHRED were able to support PAHO with a version of their online platform HRWeb.



THE IMPACT

To date this project has enabled country users across the Americas to make better informed decisions about the needs of their national health research system. Countries are able to use the available information to readily identify suitable partners for collaboration, identify researchers by topic, and identify relevant research ethics review committees.

Health Research Web is an information management tool available to individuals, institutions or countries interested in improving their research for health management system. It can be customised to meet the information needs of the user and produces quick and reliable data, tables and graphs as useful tools to monitor and evaluate research.

A new collaboration in 2014 for PAHO and COHRED sees HRWeb developed further to review national capacities and performance of research systems, allowing each country to measure the impact of research for health on progress in health.

CONTACT COHRED TO OPTIMISE RESEARCH FOR HEALTH

COHRED's goal is to drive health, equity and socio-economic development by optimising the production and use of research and innovation for health. COHRED works globally but prioritises low income countries and populations.

Bilateral and Multilateral Partners, Country and Regional Partners, and Industry

COHRED can work in partnership to address these critical questions:

- Are system foundations in place?
- Are there sufficient resources to capacitate the system?
- Does the system function optimally?
- What areas need priority action?
- Does ethical review take place in an effective and timely manner?
- Are there effective systems for information management?

For Bilateral and Multilateral Partners

- COHRED can partner in projects to ensure capacity and system building in research for health

For Country and Regional Partners

- COHRED can help optimise research for health systems through Research and Innovation System Assessment, Priority Setting, Managing Information

For Industry

- COHRED can build capacity in partners, speed transparent and ethical review

For bespoke and specific details on the benefits COHRED can deliver to your organisation contact us at:

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COHRED is registered as a 501(c)(3) charity organisation in the USA

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