

Country Presentations for the High-Level Meetings of Honorable Ministers of Health from Developing Countries on Health Research for the Control of Diseases and Development

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Rationale and background

There is increasing recognition, in the international development community, of the crucial role of health research for economic development and poverty reduction. However, there is a lack of comparable evidence on existing health research efforts and on how to formulate and implement health research strategies to achieve and sustain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in African countries.

The overall objective is to facilitate the production of country-based evidence on African health research for development and the translation of that evidence into strategy for health research in Africa.

To initiate this process, two high-level meetings on health related research for the control of neglected diseases and development in disease endemic countries are being convened by Honorable Ministers of Health from Africa.

The first meeting will be held March 8-10 in Abuja, Nigeria, to define the African perspective on health research for development.

The second meeting will be held in June 2006 in conjunction with the meeting of the Joint Coordinating Board of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). The meeting will provide opportunity for the involvement of disease-endemic countries in the development of a framework and efforts to facilitate and promote roles of health related research in disease control and development.

Eighteen (18) African countries were selected by the Honorable Health Ministers from Africa to represent the following geographical zones:

North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia

West Africa: Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal

East and Central Africa: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Uganda

Southern Africa: Angola, Mozambique, South Africa

Country profiles are needed to provide a current situation analysis of health research. They are part of a long-term process that will lead into the production of implementable strategies for health research. TDR has been requested and accepted to provide support for the meetings and the production of associated documentation.

Overall objective of the country profiles

Comparable country profiles of participating African countries on health research for development.

Approach

As an initial step to inform the Abuja meeting, a provisional situation analysis will be conducted by the consultants on the basis of an assessment tool completed by designated country focal points before February 15.

In parallel, the country focal points will work on detailed country profiles based on the following guidelines. These profiles will be available, for the first time, for the Accra meeting.

At the Abuja meeting, the background document and country vignettes will be discussed and synthesized into a summary report by technical advisers to Honorable Ministers of Health of participating countries. For an example of a summary report, please see <http://www.hlfhealthmdgs.org/Documents/MDGOrientedPRSPs-Final.pdf>

Both the country vignettes and the synthesized report will be presented to the Ministers of Health of participating countries for discussions and used as background document for the High Level meetings on health related research in control and development. The draft document could be made available at the RC for AFRO

Task

to prepare a country profile of no more than 10 pages maximum (Times New Roman 12 points, single-spaced) of health related research for infectious disease control and development and to ensure that the first draft is made available to the high level meetings in Accra, in June 2006

Draft Outline and procedures to follow

Rationale and background

A high-level meeting on health related research for the control of neglected diseases and development in disease endemic countries is being convened by Honourable Ministers of Health from Africa. The meeting will be held in June 2006, in conjunction with the meeting of the Joint Coordinating Board of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). The meeting will provide opportunity for the involvement of disease-endemic countries in the development of a framework and efforts to facilitate and promote roles of health related research in disease control and development. A pre-meeting, of Honourable Ministers of Health from Africa and their delegations will take place March 7-9, 2006, in Abuja, Nigeria. Country profiles are needed to provide an overview of current situation and ongoing health related research activities for disease control, in the participating countries in a comparable manner. TDR has been requested and accepted to provide support for the meeting.

Overall objective

To produce comparable country profiles (case studies) of participating African countries on health research for disease control and development that can be used for the High Level Meetings as well as published as a reference document

Specific objectives

The profiles will initially serve as background papers for the two high-level ministerial meetings planned for March and June 2006

At the meetings, the country profiles will be discussed and synthesized into a summary report by technical advisers to Ministers of health of participating countries. For an example of a summary report, please see <http://www.hlfhealthmdgs.org/Documents/MDGorientedPRSPs-Final.pdf>

Both the country profiles and the synthesized report will be presented to the Ministers of Health of participating countries for discussions and used as background document for the High Level meetings on health related research in control and development. The background document and the recommendations of the Ministers of Health will be published in a TDR publication after the June meetings. The draft document could be made available at the RC for AFRO

Task

Commission three or four consultants (covering the spectrum of health related research) to finalize a draft guidelines and assist participating countries teams to prepare each

country profile of no more than 10 pages maximum (Times New Roman 12 points, single-spaced), of health related research for infectious disease control and development and to ensure that the first draft is made available to the meeting of African Ministers of Health, in March 2006.

Format for country presentations

1. Title page

Title: Health Related Research in country X: A Country Profile

Country Focal Points: Full names, titles, institutional affiliation and contact address (telephone and e-mail)

2. Introduction (max 1 page)

On the basis of the most pressing public health problems in the country, describe briefly the current need for, and challenge of, health research in the country. Provide some contextual information on the history and context of health research in the country, citing some published literature.

Good web-portals for country information is

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide3.html>

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/allcountries.asp?view=region>

Country specific information on health status etc can be found on WHO's website and is listed in the appended table.

Explain current country-specific plans and achievements in reaching the Millennium Development Goals and the actual (or potential) role of health research in reaching MDGs in the country.

Two websites that provide basic information are:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp>

http://www.who.int/mdg/measuring_progress/en/index.html

<http://www.hlfhealthmdgs.org/documents.asp>

3. Existing health research system (max 3 pages)

Describe, on the basis of WHO's Health Research Systems Analysis framework http://www.who.int/rpc/health_research/en/, the most pertinent components of the country's health research system, including, institutions, agenda setting mechanisms, coordinating bodies and management issues.

For WHP's HRSA initiative please see

<http://www.who.int/rpc/meetings/en/HRSA%20overview%20for%20Ci%c3%aancia%20%20Sa%c3%bade%20Collective.pdf>

4. Human resources and resource flows for health research (max 2.5 page)

Describe the current situation, including numbers (if available) of health researchers in the country and their working situation. Estimate the resource flows for health related research (both national and international) in the country, if possible. Provide an estimate of how much support you think will be ideal to facilitate successful integration of health research in your country.

5. Agenda setting for health research (max 2.5 pages)

Describe the mechanisms (or lack of) for national agenda setting in health research. List current priorities and propose a viable list of priorities for the next 10-15 years for facilitating or improving contributions of health research to control of diseases in your country.

6. Conclusion and outlook for roles of health research in control of diseases in your country (1 page)

Summarize the points made before. Present general and specific ideas for the future, including peculiar issues to be addressed and how current constraints could be overcome. Describe support needs for national health related research (both national and international including technical as well as others).

7. Brief discussion of major advances in research in disease control

8. Way forward to solving research problems

What has been done since Mexico

Country	1. Basic Health Information Hub (WHO)	2. MDG Information Hub	3. Health research profiles
Algeria	http://www.who.int/countries/dza/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohed.org/cohed/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >>
Angola	http://www.who.int/countries/ago/en/index.html	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohed.org/cohed/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Burkina Faso	http://www.who.int/countries/bfa/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohed.org/cohed/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Cameroon	http://www.who.int/countries/cmr/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohed.org/cohed/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Egypt	http://www.who.int/countries/egy/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohed.org/cohed/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Ethiopia	http://www.who.int/countries/eth/en/		http://cohed.org/cohed/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Gambia	http://www.who.int/countries/gmb/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohed.org/cohed/Home.action under

			">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Ghana	http://www.who.int/countries/gha/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Kenya	http://www.who.int/countries/ken/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Malawi	http://www.who.int/countries/mwi/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Mali	http://www.who.int/countries/mli/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Mozambique	http://www.who.int/countries/moz/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Nigeria	http://www.who.int/countries/nga/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Senegal	http://www.who.int/countries/sgl/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"

	/countries/sen/en/	/mi/mi.asp	d/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
South Africa	http://www.who.int/countries/zaf/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Sudan	http://www.who.int/countries/sdn/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Tunisia	http://www.who.int/countries/tun/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Uganda	http://www.who.int/countries/uga/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"

Useful search websites include;

<http://www.who.int/topics/research/en/>

<http://scholar.google.com>

www.pubmed.gov

<http://www.afronets.org/links.php>