
Health Research for Development in Africa

Advancing high impact documentation for
two high level meetings and beyond

**UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for
Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)
World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland**



UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO
Special Programme for Research and
Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)

**Consultation meeting
January 15 to 17, 2006**

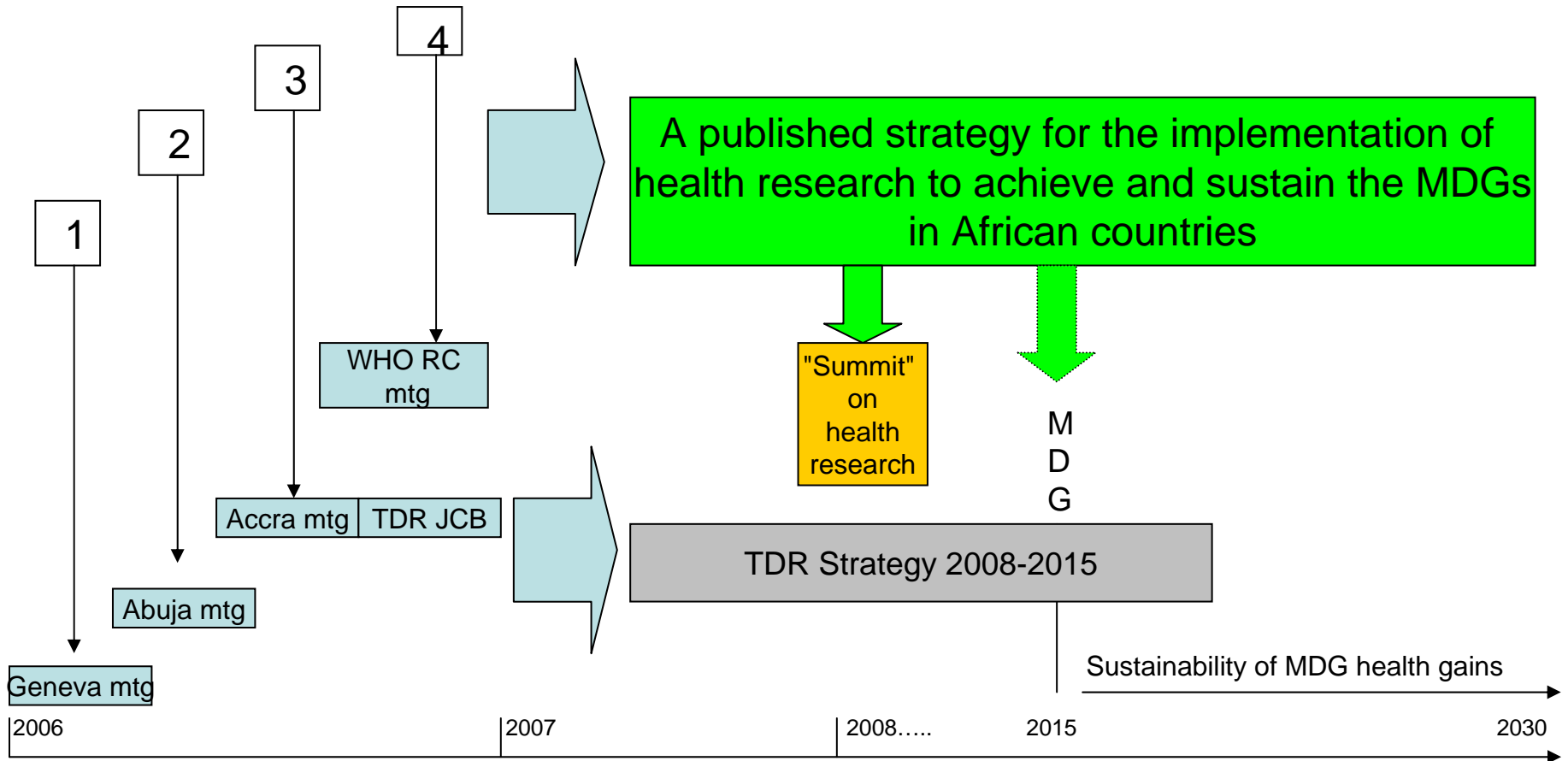
Some conclusions from discussions

Jan 16 morning

- TDR was invited to assist in meeting long-term aspirations pronounced in the planning of two high level meetings of Hon Ministers of Health
- LOCs for two high level meetings in 2006 requested that TDR sponsors and organizes the production of background documentation that helps to define and advocate health research for development in the African continent
- Documentation should a) show the value of research and b) substantiate that research can play a significant role in shaping and refining agendas for national, regional and international health policies
- Activity aims to help empowering DECs to play a stronger role in reaching MDGs and sustaining health gains through health research and research on diseases of poverty
- Documentation should be analytic not just descriptive
- Documentation should present "success stories" in health research
- Initiative should resonate with existing constituencies such as African Union, NEPAD, G8 and Millennium Project
- Initiative should highlight research-to-policy-to-action linkages
- Economic analysis of research funding and financial flows is crucial
- Focus on health research in diseases of poverty
- **This is to be considered a long-term process and not limited to developing country profiles before March 7**



Timeline



What this effort is required to facilitate

1. (**Geneva**): Envisioning the overall initiative and framing for TORs for comparable country assessments ("profiles") that representatively capture the linkage between health research and development
2. (**Abuja** = "situation assessment plus development of an African perspective and recommendations"): Early situation assessment and further work on country profiles on what exists to inform presentations on cross-cutting themes such as research institutions, funding and resource flows, research capacity and research to policy linkages
3. (**Accra, Ministerial meeting** = "Revision of Abuja recommendations and country profiles and initial formulation of strategy"): Revised and updated versions of country profiles in addition to emerging synthesis
4. (**Accra, TDR-JCB meeting** = Incorporation of Abuja and Accra recommendations into TDR strategy 2008 and beyond
5. **2007**: Production of synthesis and strategy document with the working title "A published strategy for the implementation of health research to achieve the MDGs and sustain their health gains in disease-endemic countries"



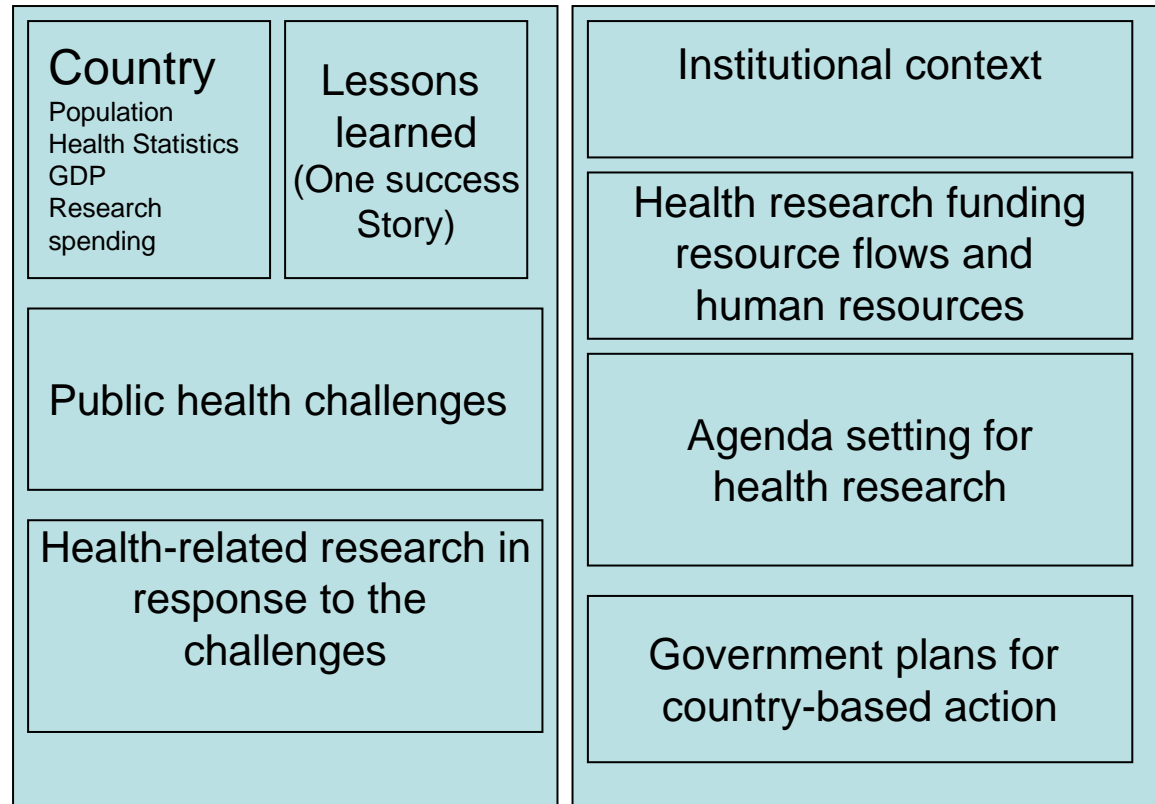
High impact document for Abuja

- Background paper (10 pages) entitled "Health Research for Development in Disease-Endemic Countries: What is currently known?"
 - Development challenge, public health problems and the role of science and technology in addressing diseases of poverty
 - Current international, regional and national agendas to tackling the issue (Millennium Project, GFATM, NEPAD, AU, EU, G8, PEPFAR, Gates F. and others)
 - Current knowledge and evidence on health research for development in African countries (websites, databases, national compilations)
 - Current gaps and challenges for the future
 - Conclusion and summary recommendations
- Annexes: 18 country vignettes @ 2 pages on health research in countries



2 page country vignettes

- Algeria
- Angola
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Uganda



Domains for assessment tool

1. Institutional context
 1. Important health research institutions (public research institutes, university-based, NGOs), staffing, budget, website
 2. Existing centers of excellence and specialties of such centers
 3. Platforms for science and development
 4. Journals
2. Health research funding, resource flows and human resources
 1. Major national and international funding agencies for health research in the country
 2. Major health research collaborations (intra-country, regional and international)
 3. Human resources for health research
3. Agenda setting for health research
 1. Existing mechanisms for health research agenda setting
 2. Existing research-to-policy linkages
 3. Current policy-to-action linkages
4. Recommendations for country-based action



Domains for country profiles

- The ten most pressing public health problems, ranked according to importance
- Public health problems most directly linked to MDGs
- The public health problems currently addressed and those not addressed
- Evidence gaps in public health
- The ten most important health research institutions (public research institutes, university-based, NGOs) and their budget
- Existing centers of excellence and specialties of such centers
- Platforms for science and development
- Existing mechanisms for health research agenda setting
- Existing research-to-policy linkages
- Major health research collaborations (intra-country, regional and international)
- Major national and international funding agencies for health research in the country
- Health research funding and resource flows
- Human resources for health research



Workplan

17 January: Initiative envisioned, assessment form constructed, guidelines for Country profiles established, International consultants: I. Moodley, F. Dare, joined by O. Onwujekwe (FMOH Nigeria consultant)

25 January: Country focal points with full contact address (e-mail and telephone) contacted and assessment tool sent to them (**J. Adekeye**)

25 January-15 February: Follow-up with country focal points (**Consultants**)

25 January-15 February: Consultants work on background paper based on other resources to be identified

15 February: Return of duly completed assessment form ("questionnaire")

27-28 February: Write-shop of consultants in Abuja to meet and write provisional situation analysis (a ten pager)

1 March: Situation analysis consisting of 10 page background paper and double-pages on countries (overall 50 page document) submitted to LOC in Abuja

8-10 March: Ministerial Meeting held and situation analysis used

