

Geneva Health Forum
*A comprehensive framework for
Capacity strengthening in research for health and
development*

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- Priority setting for health research
- Improving health research communication

This Presentation

- Why a framework?
- Some definitions
- Proposed framework and use in this session

Why a framework?

- Acknowledgement that capacity building means more than just transferring technical **individual** capacity (often from North to South)
- Recognition of the importance of country ownership and leadership, and the broader political context within which capacity development takes place
- Recognition of the importance of organisational and system capacity building, and long-term development and planning
- But no existing framework that brings this all together, and helps decision-making re type of capacity strengthening needed

Building scientific capacity in developing countries

Simply transferring knowledge and instrumentation is not enough to help developing countries build their own research base. Such efforts must be tied to national and local needs to create trust and services for society in the long term

Eva Harris

Some definitions (1)

- **“capacity”** is understood as the ability of people, organisations and society as a whole to manage their affairs successfully.
- **“capacity development”** is understood as the process whereby people, organisations and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time.
- **“promotion of capacity development”** refers to what outside partners – domestic or foreign – can do to support, facilitate or catalyse capacity development and related change processes.

Some definitions (2)

Health research capacity is the ability to define problems, set objectives and priorities, build sustainable institutions and organisations, and identify solutions to key national health problems. This definition encompasses research capacity at the levels of individuals, research groups, institutions, and nations. Research capacity can broadly be divided into four domains: skills and competencies; scientific activities; outcomes; and impacts on policies and programmes.

Strengthening health research capacity in developing countries: a critical element for achieving health equity

Chitr Sitthi-amorn, Ratana Somrongthong

Towards a framework (1)

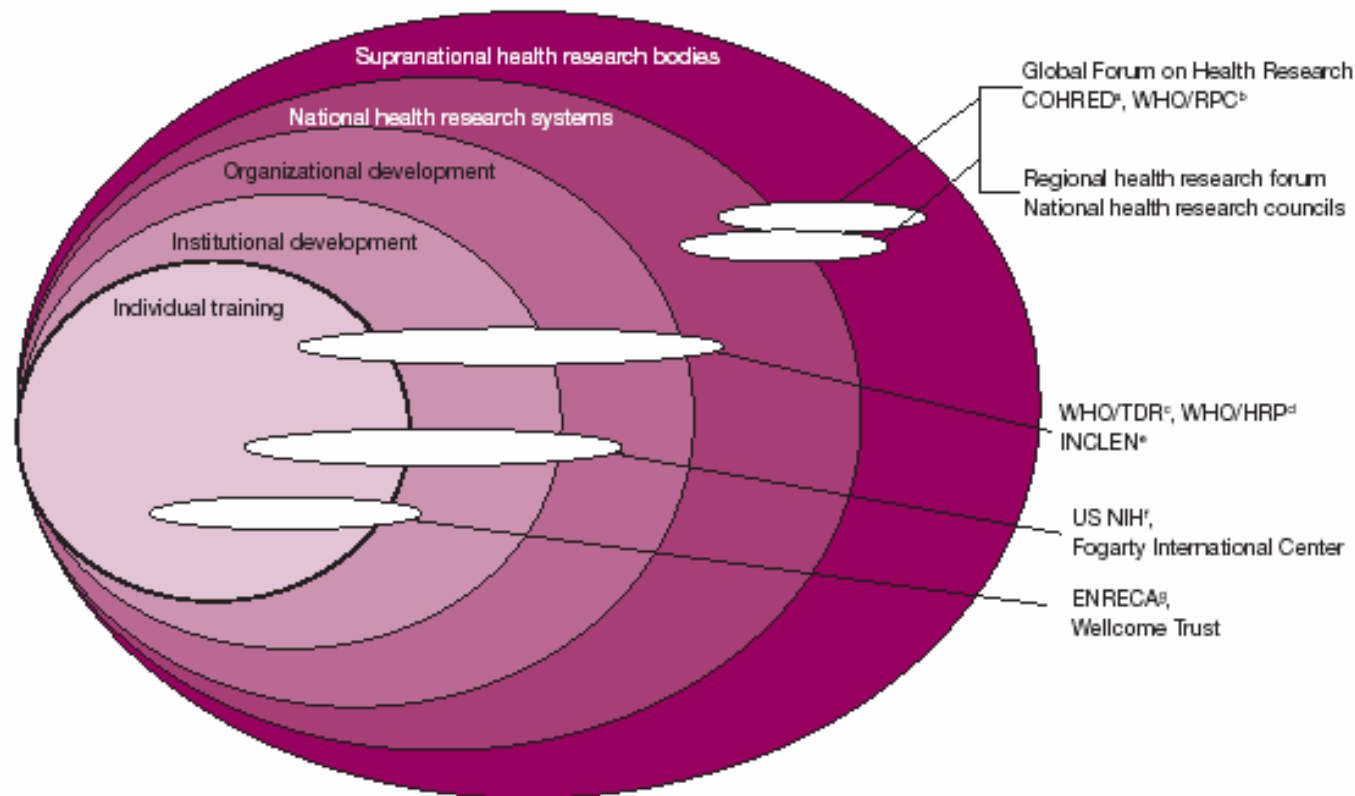


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Towards a framework (2)

Figure 2

Examples of efforts to build research capacity, ranging from individual to global movements



- ^a COHRED: Council on Health Research for Development
- ^b WHO/RPC: WHO Department of Research Policy and Cooperation
- ^c WHO/TDR: Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases
- ^d WHO/HRP: Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Reproductive Health
- ^e INCLEN: International Clinical Epidemiology Network
- ^f US NIH: National Institutes of Health, USA
- ^g ENRECA: Enhancing Research Capacity, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Source: *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* (2004)

Initiative	Strategies targeted at Individuals						Strategies targeted at organizations					Environment level
	Individual support	Learning by doing	Curriculum Development	Conducting training courses	Mentoring	Group support	Institutional Development	Project management training	Networks/networking	Formal Institutional twinning	Partnerships	System development
Alliance HPSR			■	■			■		■		■	
CGHRI	■					■					■	
COHRED		■							■		■	■
EU INCODEV	■						■		■		■	
GDN									■		■	
GFHR				■			■		■		■	
HSR Project				■			■		■		■	
IDRC							■		■		■	■
INDEPTH	■			■		■	■		■		■	
IHPP	■	■			■	■			■		■	
INCLEN	■		■	■	■		■		■			
SIDA/SAREC	■			■			■	■	■	■	■	
TDR	■			■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■

■ A square indicates that the initiative is active in capacity development for this function.

From: « *Sound choices: Enhancing capacity for evidence-informed health policy* », AHPSR, WHO, 2008

Towards a framework (3)

- Taking a systems view (human resources for health research as part of human resources for health)
- Recognising that capacity exists – but may need strengthening
- Noting that many actions will contribute to more than one ‘box’

locus of intervention	Individual (social group)	institution	research system	socio-economic & political	international collaboration & linkage
nature of intervention					
‘capacity building’					
‘capacity strengthening’					
‘performance enhancement’ <i>* equity-focus</i>					

Towards a framework (4)

locus of intervention	Individual (social group)	Institution	research system	socio-economic & political	international collaboration & linkage
nature of intervention					
'capacity building'		grants management	Priority setting – includes problem identification with/by affected communities	demand for research – shifting control over knowledge	good partnerships
'capacity strengthening'		merit based promotion system	research ethics review	CSO engagement – link evidence to action	research contracting
'performance enhancement' <i>* equity-focus</i>		research communication – ownership of evidence in communities	M&E/ impact - Evidence to support accountability	health, economic, equity	

This session – three examples of capacity strengthening

locus of intervention	Individual (social group)	institution	research system	socio-economic & political	international collaboration & linkage
nature of intervention					
'capacity building'	TRREE				
'capacity strengthening'	TRREE		TRREE	Community empowerment	TRREE
'performance enhancement' <i>* equity-focus</i>			EVIP-net		