

WHO strategy on research for health

**A talk recorded for the
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and
Research (GFMER)**

Presenter: Rob Terry, Project Manager

Research Policy and Cooperation



**World Health
Organization**

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research
Geneva 2012

Overview

Context and the need for a strategy

Process of development

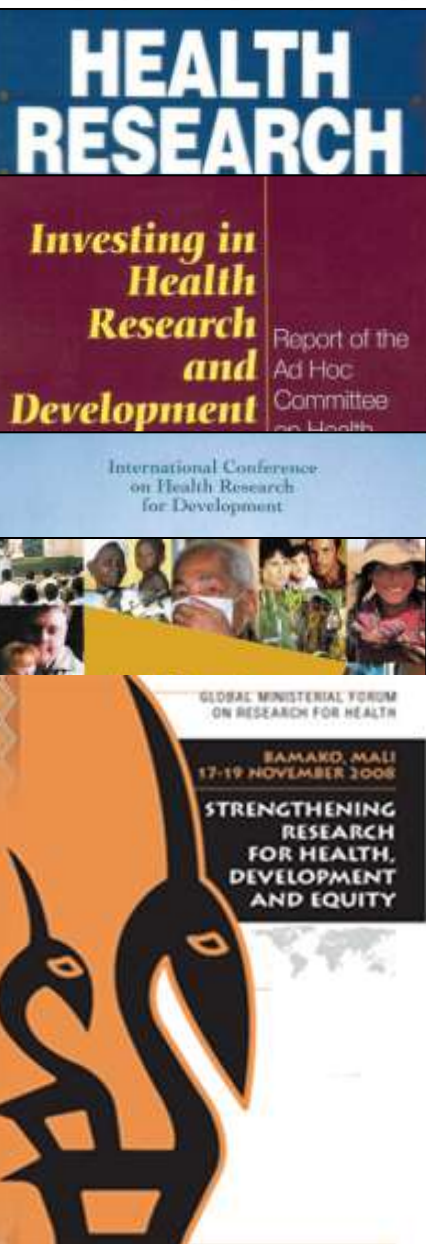
Overview of the strategy

Implementation

Linkages



Context need for a strategy - sustained global interest



- 1990: Commission on Health Research for Development
- 1996: Ad Hoc Committee on Health Research Relating to Future Intervention Options
- 2000: International Conference on Health Research for Development (Bangkok)
- 2004: Ministerial Summit on Health Research (Mexico)
- 2008: Bamako Ministerial Forum



The need for a strategy - complex array of initiatives



Mandate

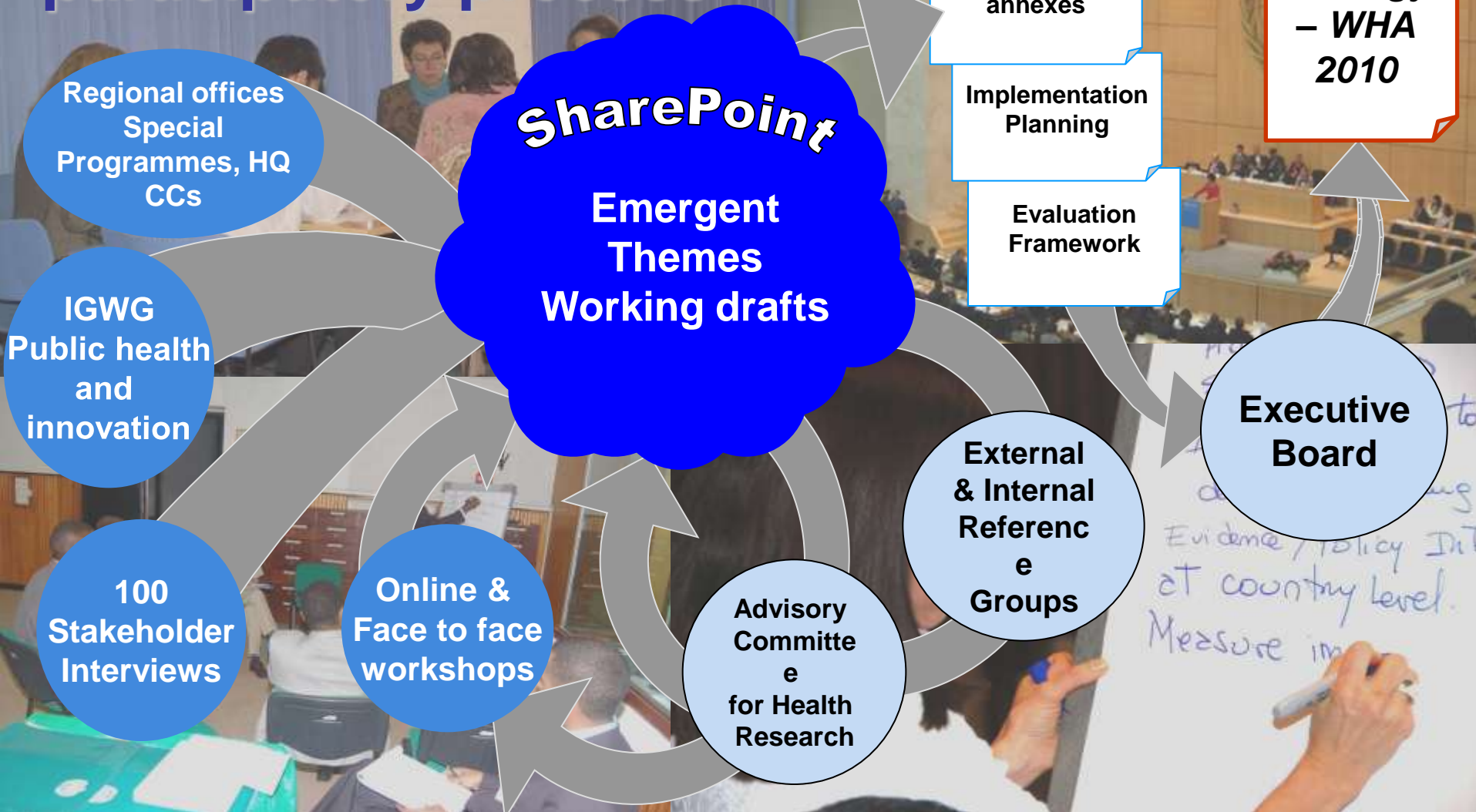
Resolution WHA60.15 at 60th World Health Assembly

requesting the DG...

*"to submit to the Sixty-Second World Health Assembly (2009) a strategy on the **management and organization** of research activities within WHO"*



Strategy development - a participatory process



Rolling Dialogue: Virtual & Face-to-Face



WHO Strategy on Research for Health Resolution WHA63.21 Paper A63/22

WHO's role in research..... and the role of research in WHO...

- Recognizes research as central to progress in global health
- Identifies how WHO can work with **Member States** and **partners** to harness knowledge, science and technology to produce research evidence and tools to improve health outcomes.



Principles

Quality - high-quality research that is ethical, expertly reviewed, efficient, effective, accessible to all, and carefully monitored and evaluated.

Impact - priority for research with greatest potential to improve global health security, health-related development, redress health inequities and attain MDGs

Inclusiveness - work in partnership, Member States and stakeholders, multisectoral approach, support and promote the participation of communities and civil society in the research process.

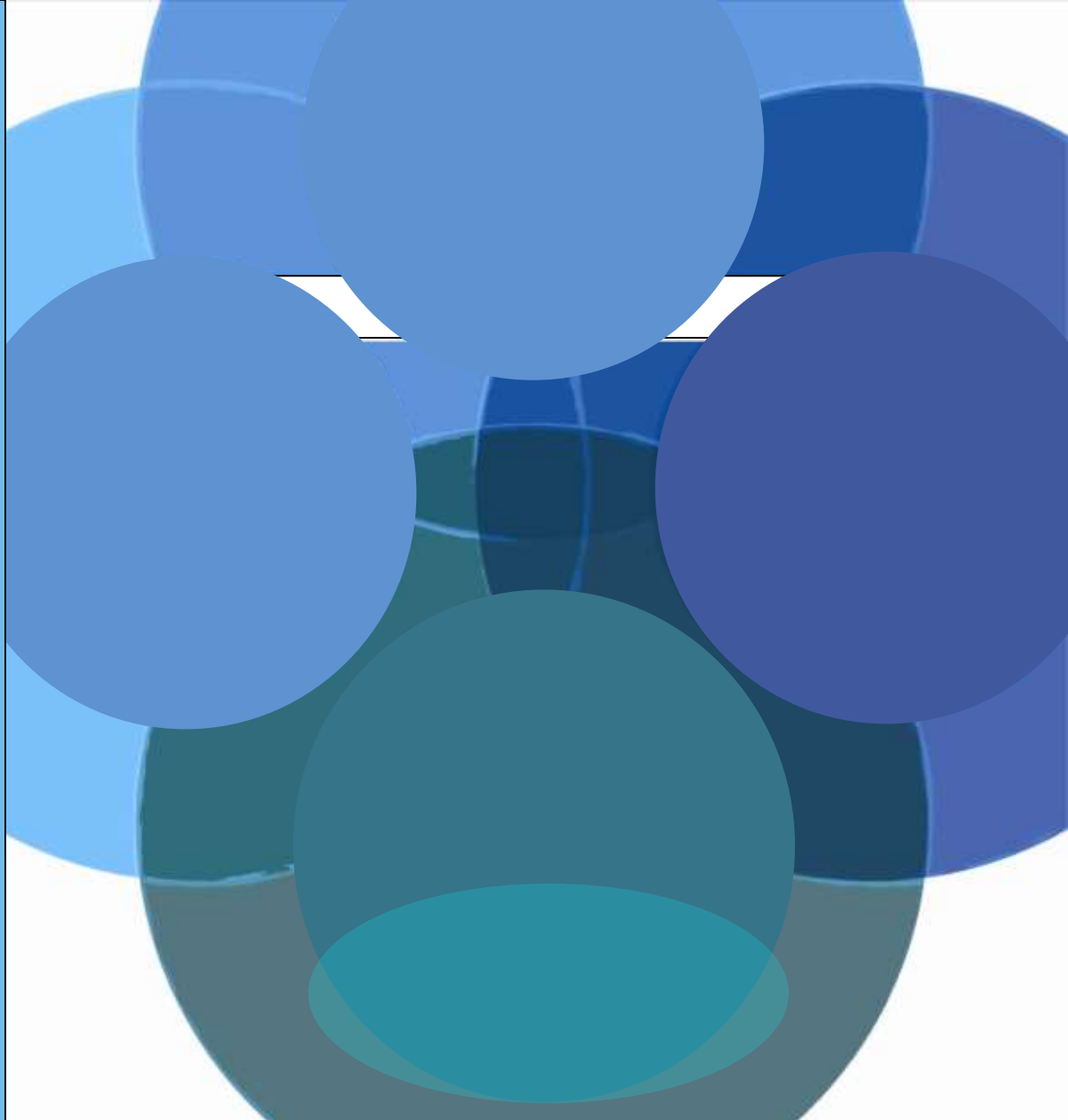


Principles

Quality - high-quality research that is ethical, expertly reviewed, efficient, effective, accessible to all, and carefully monitored and evaluated.

Impact - priority for research with greatest potential to improve global health security, health-related development, redress health inequities and attain MDGs

Inclusiveness - work in partnership, Member States and stakeholders, multisectoral approach, support and promote the participation of communities and civil society in the research process.



Principles

Quality - high-quality research that is ethical, expertly reviewed, efficient, effective, accessible to all, and carefully monitored and evaluated.

Impact - priority for research with greatest potential to improve global health security, health-related development, redress health inequities and attain MDGs

Inclusiveness - work in partnership, Member States and stakeholders, multisectoral approach, support and promote the participation of communities and civil society in the research process.



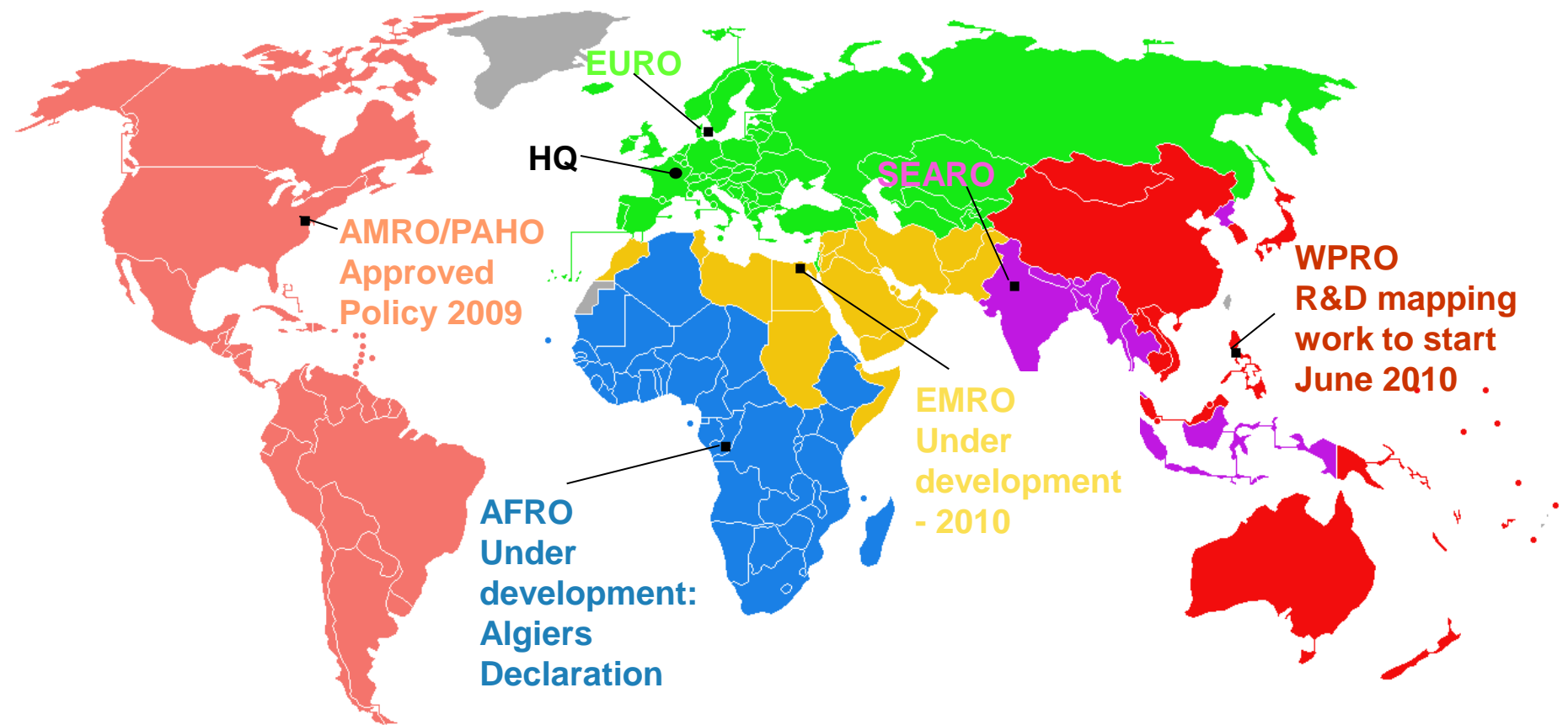
Summary: implementation to date and next steps

- **Roll out to Regional Offices**
- **Reference/use of strategy by WHO departments**
 - TB/HIV, H1N1, food borne disease, radiation safety
- **Overview of research at WHO**
 - Paper in preparation + research classification
 - research portal
 - Online database
- **Joint work with PHI**
 - Mapping R&D priorities
 - Establishment of joint M&E framework GSPA, MTSP and RfH
- **Policy development**
 - Good research practice
 - Public (open) access
- **Collaboration WHO + COHRED and GFHR**
 - GSPA
 - Health systems research
 - World Health Report 2012 – research for health
- **Coordination mechanism in WHO – gr8**
 - What should it be
 - How should it be funded

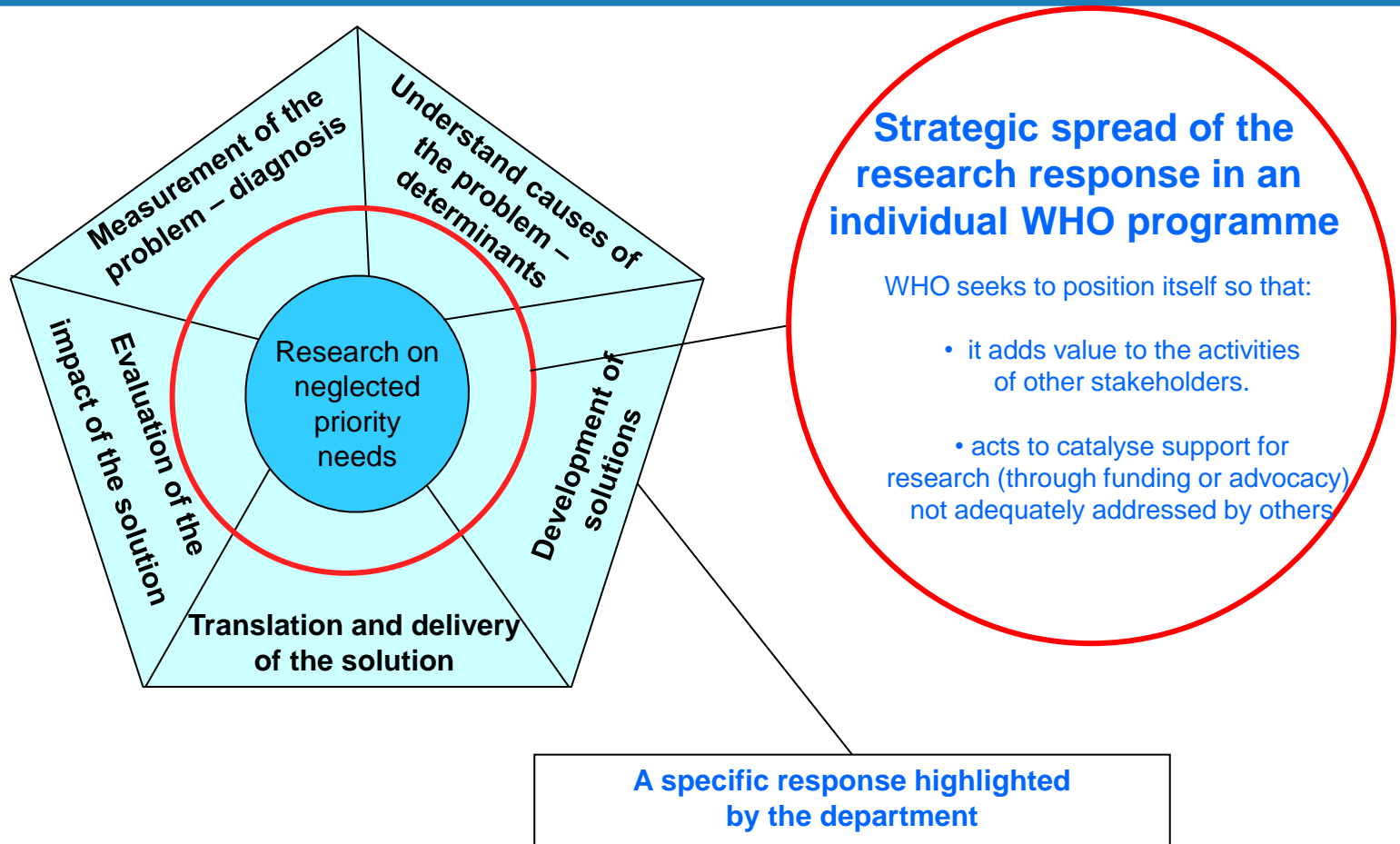


Roll out to WHO Regional Offices

1 approved, 2 in development, 3 subject to personnel changes



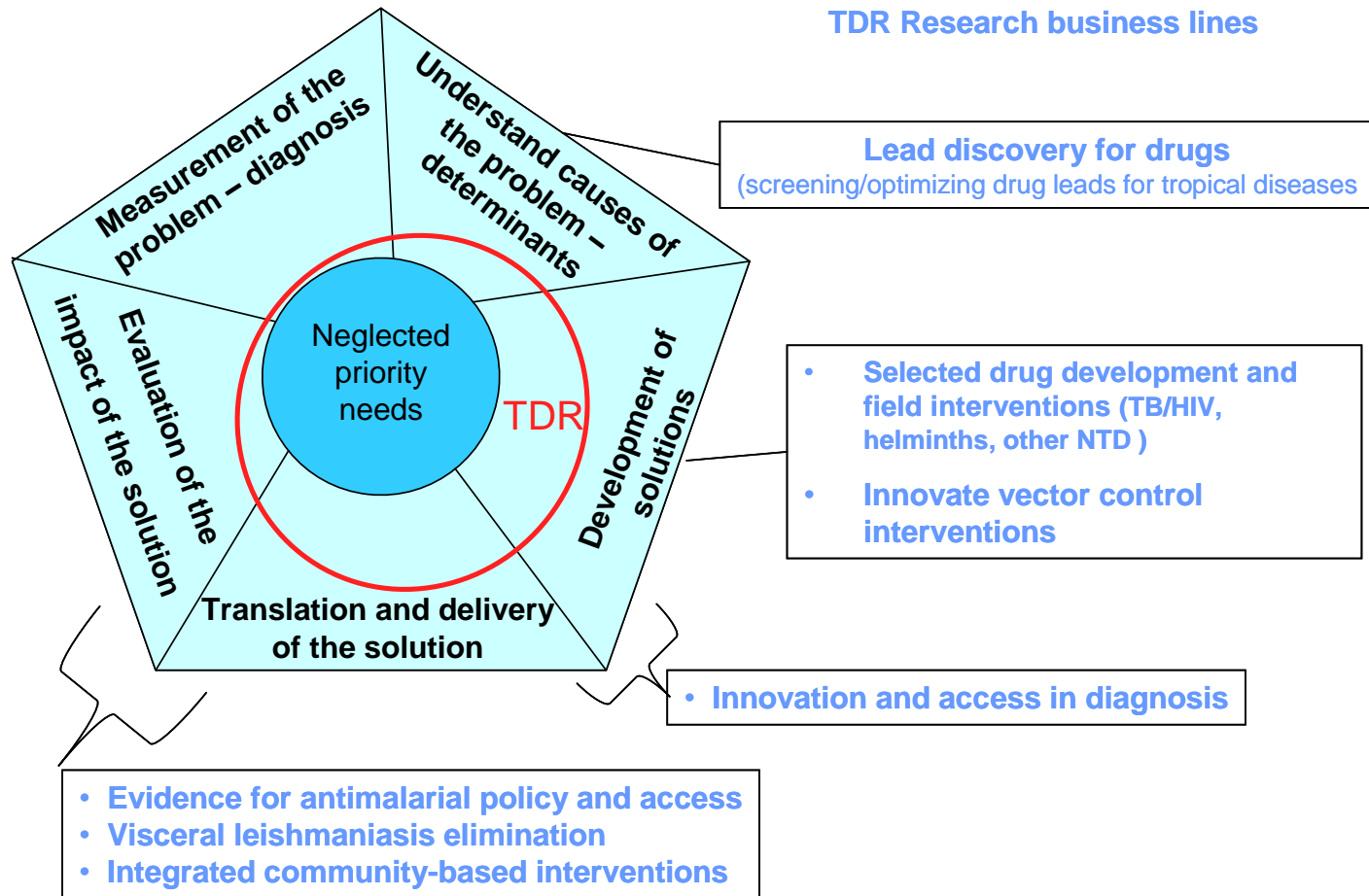
A framework for describing the priorities in WHO programmes



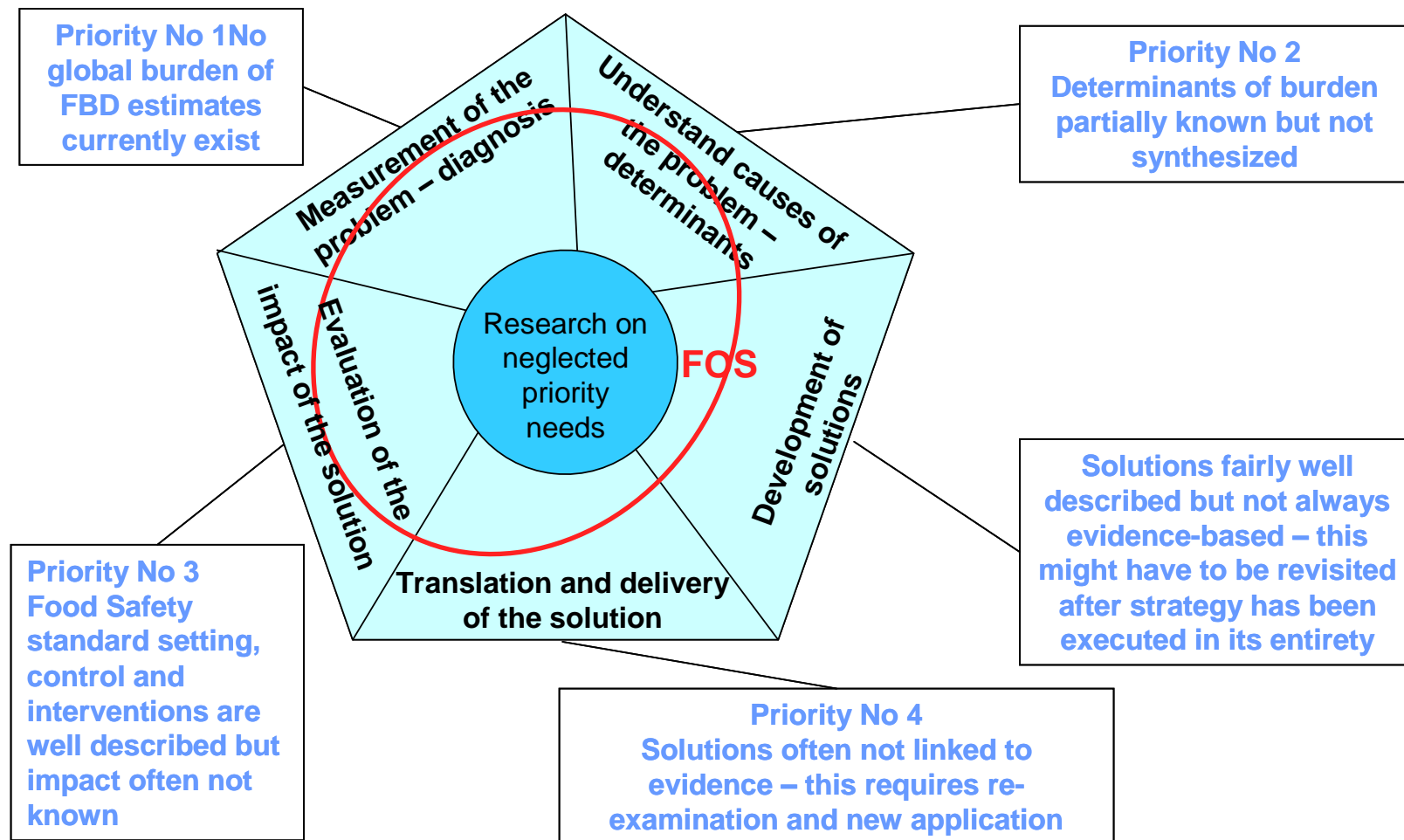
Reference/use of strategy by WHO departments

- Referenced in setting priorities in the following research agenda:
 - **TB/HIV** research priorities in resource limited settings Lancet paper in preparation
 - Identifying Research Priorities for **Child Health** Research to achieve MDG4
 - **Social Determinants of Change** - priorities for research in equity and health
 - 2nd WHO Meeting on A Prioritized Research Agenda for Prevention & Control of **Noncommunicable Diseases**
 - **Radiation** risk assessment in medical exposures: shaping a global research agenda <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/research/agenda/en/index.html> August 2010.
 - FERG (the WHO **Foodborne Disease** Burden Epidemiology Reference Group) translating burden estimates and research findings into food safety policy-making.
 - **Women and Health** report - today's evidence tomorrow's agenda. Development of a 6 point agenda for a gender-based approach to research.
 - WHO Public Health Research Agenda for **Influenza** (see subsequent slide)

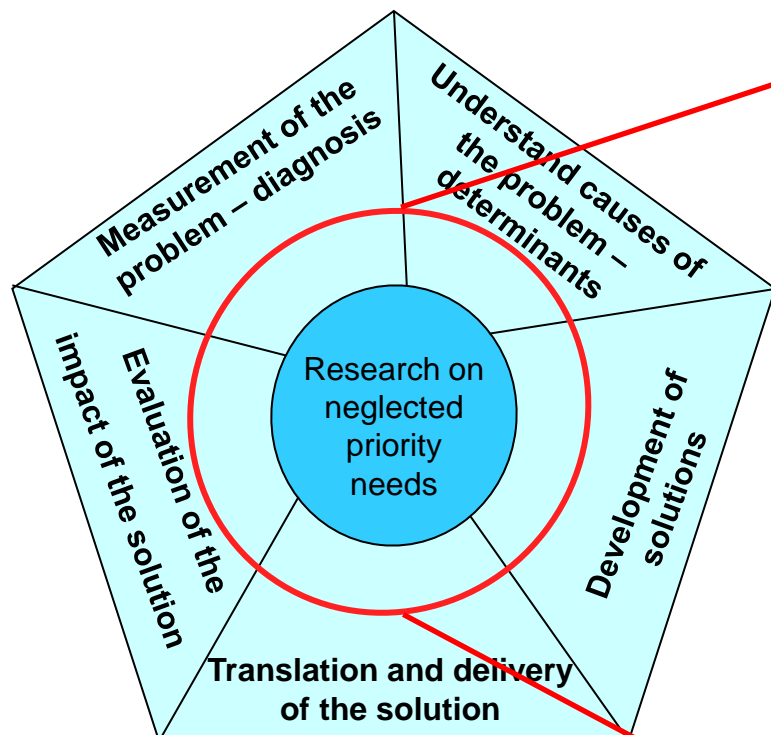
Research strategy – TDR 2006/07



Research strategy - Foodborne Disease group 2006/07



Global consultation on public health research agenda for influenza November 2009



http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/research_agenda/en/index.html



Stream 1. (Determinants)

Reducing the risk of emergence of a pandemic influenza

Stream 2. (Solutions)

Limiting the spread of pandemic, zoonotic and seasonal epidemic influenza

Stream 3. (Solutions)

Minimizing the impact of pandemic, zoonotic and seasonal epidemic influenza

Stream 4. (Delivery / Evaluation)

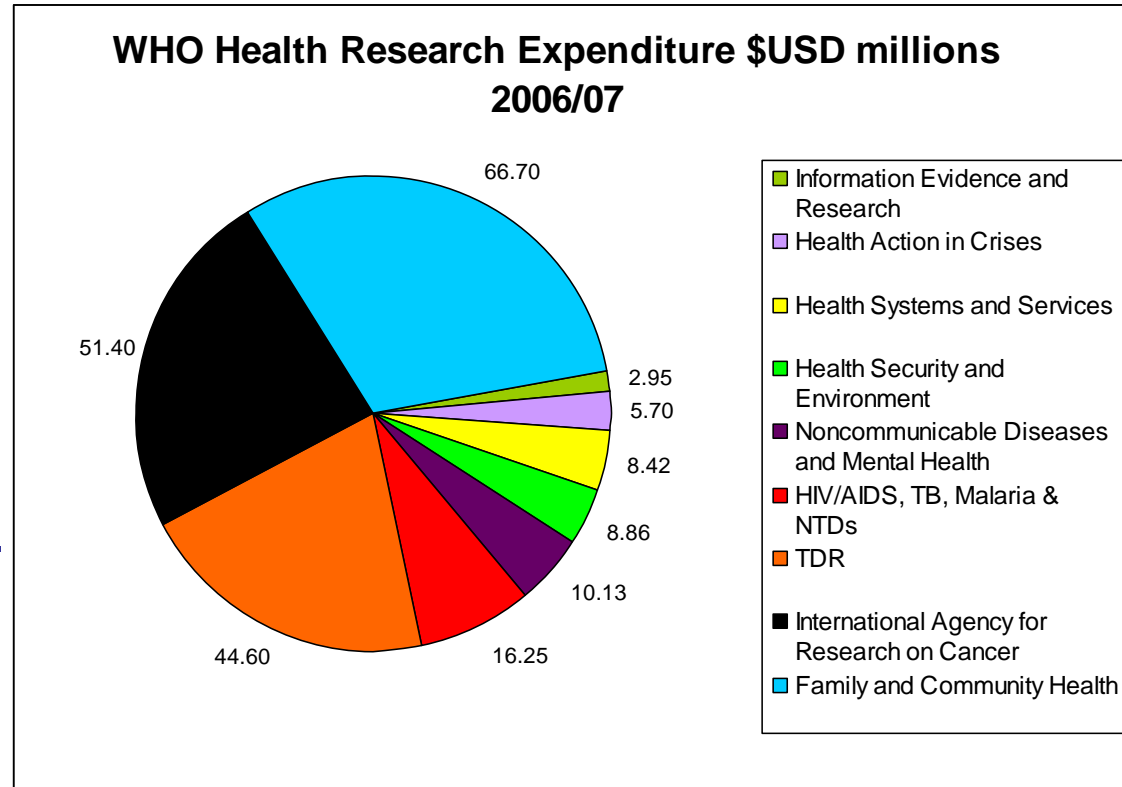
Optimizing the treatment of patients

Stream 5. (Translation)

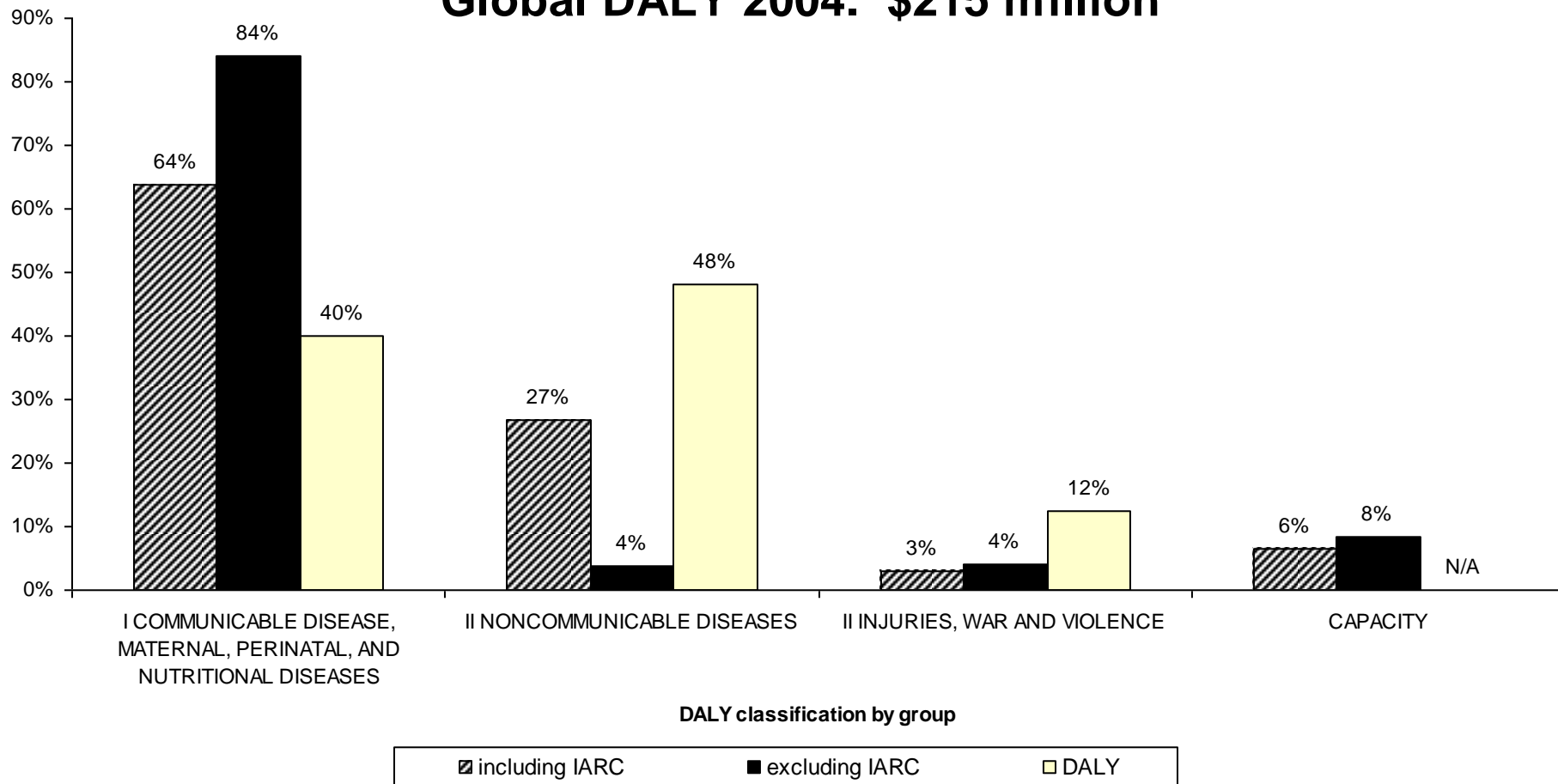
Promoting the development and application of modern public health tools

Overview of research at WHO 2006/07

- Paper in preparation describes research at WHO 2006/07.
- Mainly commissioned secondary (synthesis) research.
- Developing a high level research classification
 - priority pentagram x ICD. Paper submitted to HRSR
- WHO research portal & online database under development



WHO Research Expenditure 2006/2007 Comparison to Global DALY 2004. \$215 million



Priorities – meeting health needs

Working with Member States and partners:

- Synthesize data and develop comprehensive research agendas on gaps in research challenges at national and global levels. Element 1 of GSPA
- WHO - establish mechanisms for reviewing the portfolio of research agendas including exit strategies of programmes.

R&D Mapping with PHI:

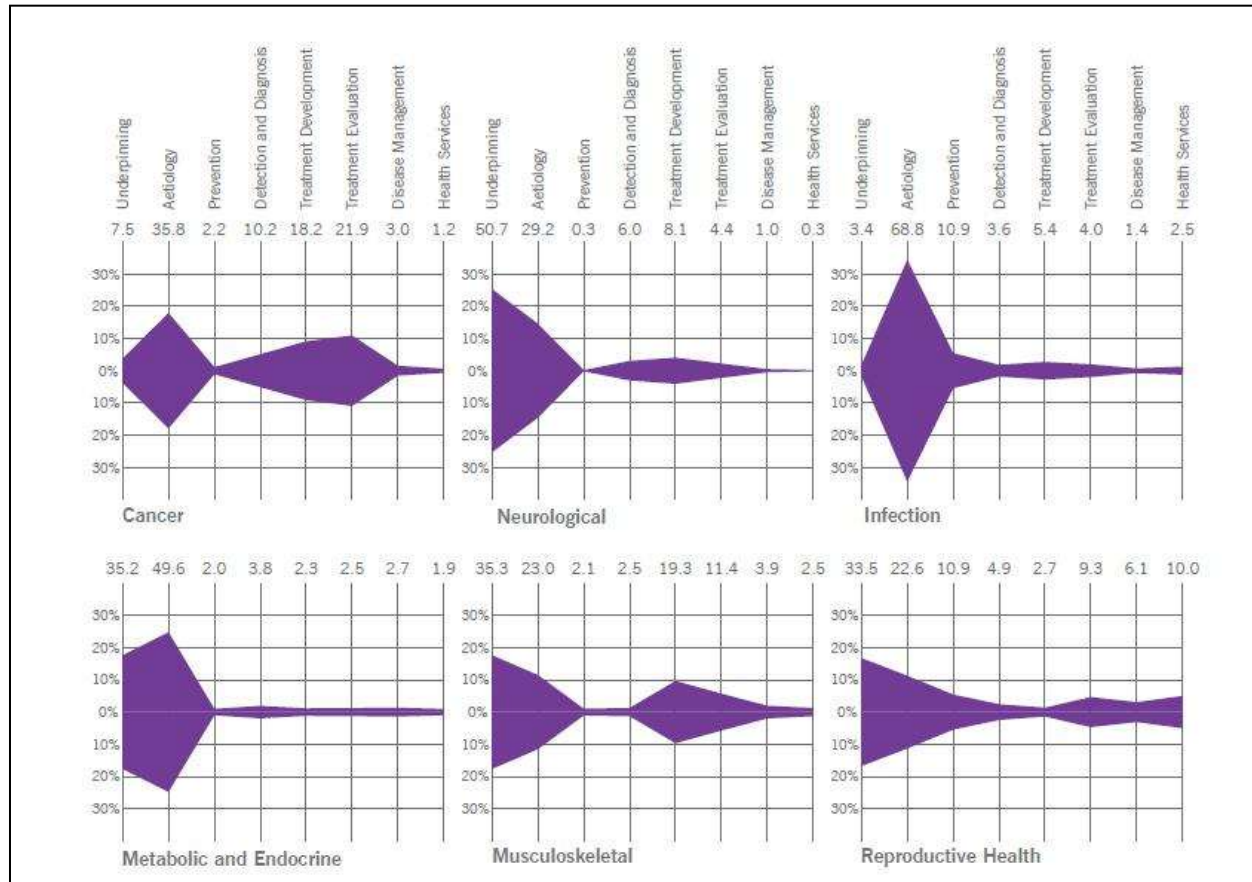
Review WHO exercises since 2005
→ 200+

→ Interview *WHO departments & research partners (COHRED, Global Forum)* key aspects of health research priority setting.

Develop a checklist for health research priority setting 10 themes to consider



Classification of research at a strategic level



<http://www.ukcrc.org/researchcoordination/classificationsystem/>

Setting research priorities - 9 themes to consider

1. Inclusiveness

2. Context

3. Information

Research
Priorities

4. Implementation

5. Approach

6. Criteria

7. Ranking/Consensus

8. Evaluation

9. Transparency



Setting research priorities - 9 themes to consider

1. Inclusiveness

2. Context

3. Information

9. Transparency

Research
Priorities

4. Implementation

8. Evaluation

5. Approach

7. Ranking/Consensus

6. Criteria



Setting research priorities - 9 themes to consider

1. Inclusiveness

2. Context

3. Information

4. Implementation

5. Approach

6. Criteria

7. Ranking/Consensus

8. Evaluation

9. Transparency

Every exercise is different, and there are no universal methods or standards that apply to all.

This checklist is meant to elicit discussion about 10 topics that are essential elements of health research priority setting.



Standards – good research practice

- **Policy development for WHO**

- Good research practice
- Public (open) access

- **Guidelines Review**

- Strengthened committee and procedure

- **Review of Ethical guidelines for operating RECs**

- Revision of Handbook for research ethics review committees

- **International Clinical Trials Registry Platform**

- Standards in trial registration (ICTN), improved transparency links with regulation bodies e.g. Africa



Collaboration: Joint work with Public Health Intellectual Property and Innovation

- Elements 1,2 &3 Global Strategy and Plan of Action
- Establishment of joint M&E framework for:
 - GSPA
 - MTSP
 - Research for Health
- Collect data once use for many purposes
- Inform Member States on what can be monitored: innovation, capacity, IP.



Coordination

- Calls for greater harmonization and coordination in global research: Bamako Call to Action, Expert Working Group on R&D financing and Coordination (GSPA), Research for Health consultation.
- **gr8** Collaborative group 5 WHO (GSPA, RFH, TDR, RHR, AHPSR, IVR) + COHRED and GFHR. Three areas of work:
 - Implementing GSPA
 - Health systems research
 - World health Report 2012 – research for health



<http://www.healthresearchweb.org>

The screenshot shows the Health Research Web website. At the top, it says "Welcome to Health Research Web Beta Version" and "HRWeb: Key information for health research management". There are navigation links for "About HRWeb", "Who we are", "Content", and "Help". A search bar is present with a "Search" button. A world map is displayed with a prompt to "Click on the region of interest or select from the dropdown menu:". Below the map are two dropdown menus: "Select a region" and "Select a region first", followed by a "Go" button. A list of regions is shown: Africa | Americas | Asia | Caribbean | Europe | Oceania. To the right of the map is a circular diagram with "HRWeb" in the center, surrounded by "Research Projects", "Funding & Partners", "Ethics Review", "Key Institutions", "National Priorities", and "Governance & policies". Further right is a bar chart titled "Number of ethics committee per type" with categories: Transnational, National, Other, and Private. Below the chart is a "How to get started?" button. The footer contains sections for "Users of this site", "Issue / News", and "Powered By".

© 2009 COHRED.org | [Editorial policy](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | Add this page to your online bookmark site:

Many thanks

Further information can be obtained from:

http://www.who.int/rpc/research_strategy/en/index.html

Robert Terry

WHO Research for Health Strategy,
Research Policy & Cooperation (RPC/IER),
World Health Organization

Email: terryr@who.int

Tel No : +41 22 7912632

Mob No:+41 792446091

<http://www.who.int/rpc>

Acknowledgements

The WHO strategy on research for health
was developed with support from:

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The Wellcome Trust

The Department of Health, UK