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# **Training on reproductive health research in Afghanistan: facts and challenges**

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Training Course in Reproductive Health Research  
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# Background Information

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Characteristic of post-war reconstruction of health system in Afghanistan:

- Donor-driven (World Bank, USAID, European Commission, other bilateral and multilateral donors)
- NGOs the main implementers
- Stewardship role of the Ministry of Public Health



# Problem and justification

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- Afghanistan lags behind other countries in terms of research and training on research.
- Absence of a scientific research culture among health professionals.
- Medical universities and teaching hospitals fail to follow the trend towards integrated multidisciplinary approaches in research.
- At the moment, there is a rigid divide between clinical and other domains.
- Most medical institutions lack qualified researchers, resulting in an acutely poor research portfolio.
- Most of research activities and trainings are conducted by external institutions and the policy to make research as local dynamics needs to be developed.

# Problem and Justification (Current situation)

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- **High number of institutions involved in training and research (Donors, Universities, Health institutions and authorities, NGOs).**
- **Uncoordinated and fragmented approaches by multiple players.**
- **Lack of solid data and information about the trainings and workshops organized by the Ministry of Health and other institutions.**
- **Lack of evidence on the impact of training courses in reproductive health and reproductive health research.**
- **Absence of a quality control, evaluation and follow-up of training and research conducted by different institutions.**



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## ○ Goal & Objective

- To develop a national policy on training and research in reproductive health towards reduction of reproductive morbidity and mortality and to improvement of reproductive health.
- To identify the shortcomings in the process of human resource capacity building in the field of reproductive health research.
- To strengthen the capacity of MOPH to better coordinate the training and research activities and to make the optimal use of resources available for training and research.



# Research Question

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- What are the factors affecting the efficiency of human capacity development in reproductive health research in Afghanistan?



# Conceptual framework and literature search

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- Policy coherence in development cooperation, a newly developed notion to study and analyse the effectiveness of the efforts of cooperation entities in developing countries, to study if these efforts are in line with the objectives of a beneficiary country.



# Hypothesis

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- Absence of coherent national policy on human resource capacity building and research can reduce the efficiency of the resources allocated for this purpose.
- Lack of coordination among the stakeholders has serious negative effects on development of research culture in Afghanistan.





# Methodology

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- Qualitative research project combining several methods (triangulation):
  - Documentary research
  - Observational participation
  - Focus group discussion
  - Interview



# Outcome & Recommendation

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- The study result will help the MOPH to design a coherent national policy on training and research in reproductive health.
- To improve the capacity of MOPH to plan, implement and coordinate research activities towards reduction of reproductive morbidity and mortality and to improvement of reproductive health.