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 2011

Overview

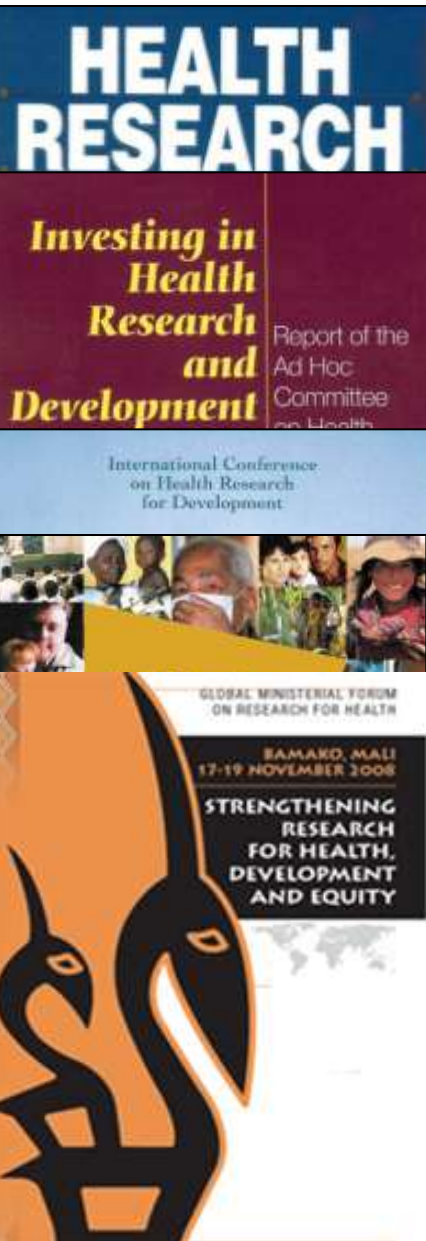Context and the need for a strategy

Process of development

Overview of the strategy

Implementation

Linkages

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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**

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The need for a strategy - complex array of initiatives
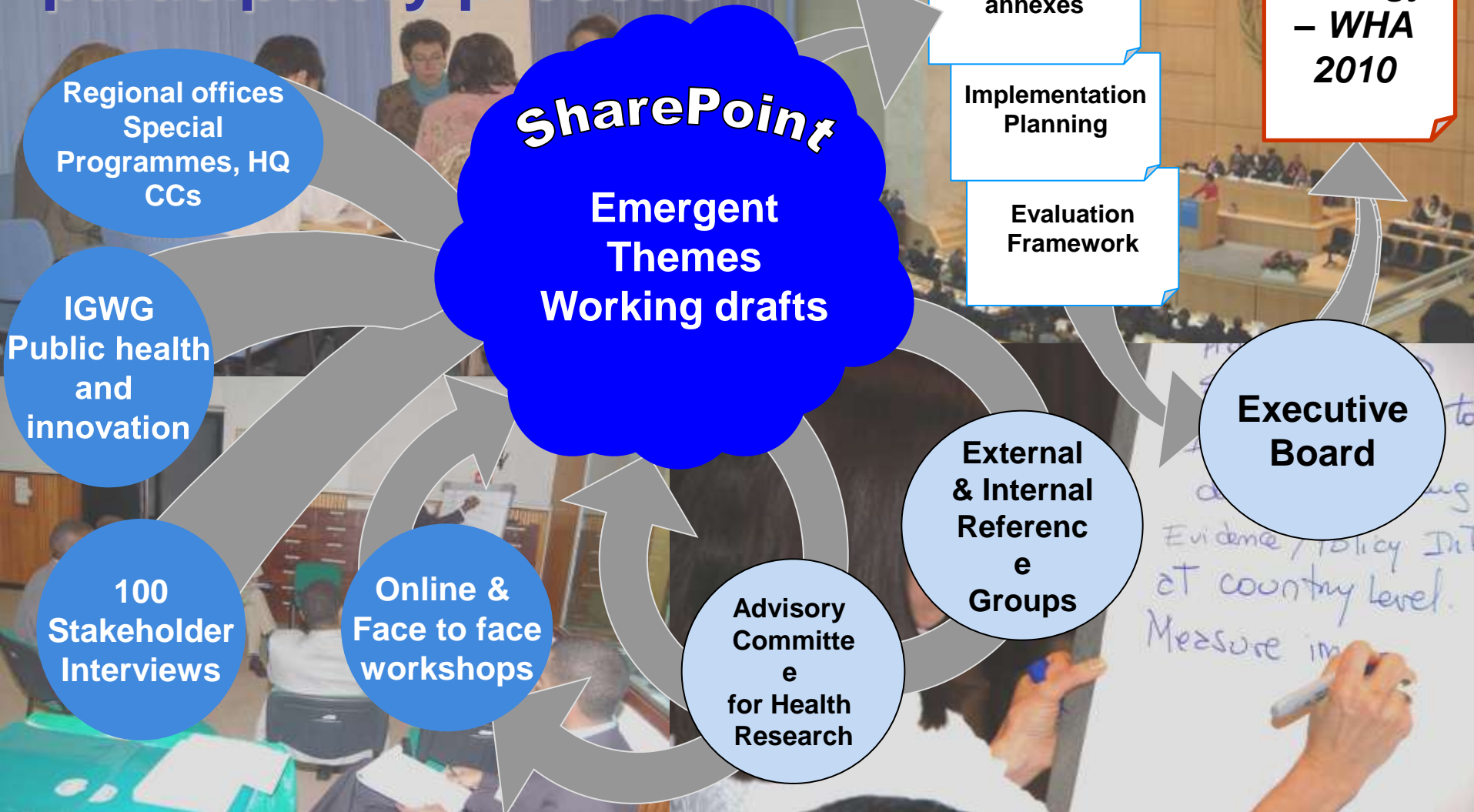
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Mandate

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"*

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Strategy development - a participatory process

SharePoint

Emergent Themes Working drafts

Regional offices Special Programmes, HQ CCs

IGWG Public health and innovation

100 Stakeholder Interviews

Online & Face to face workshops

Advisory Committee for Health Research

External & Internal Reference Groups

Strategy+ annexes

Implementation Planning

Evaluation Framework

Executive Board

WHO Research Strategy – WHA 2010

Rolling Dialogue: Virtual & Face-to-Face

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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.

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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.
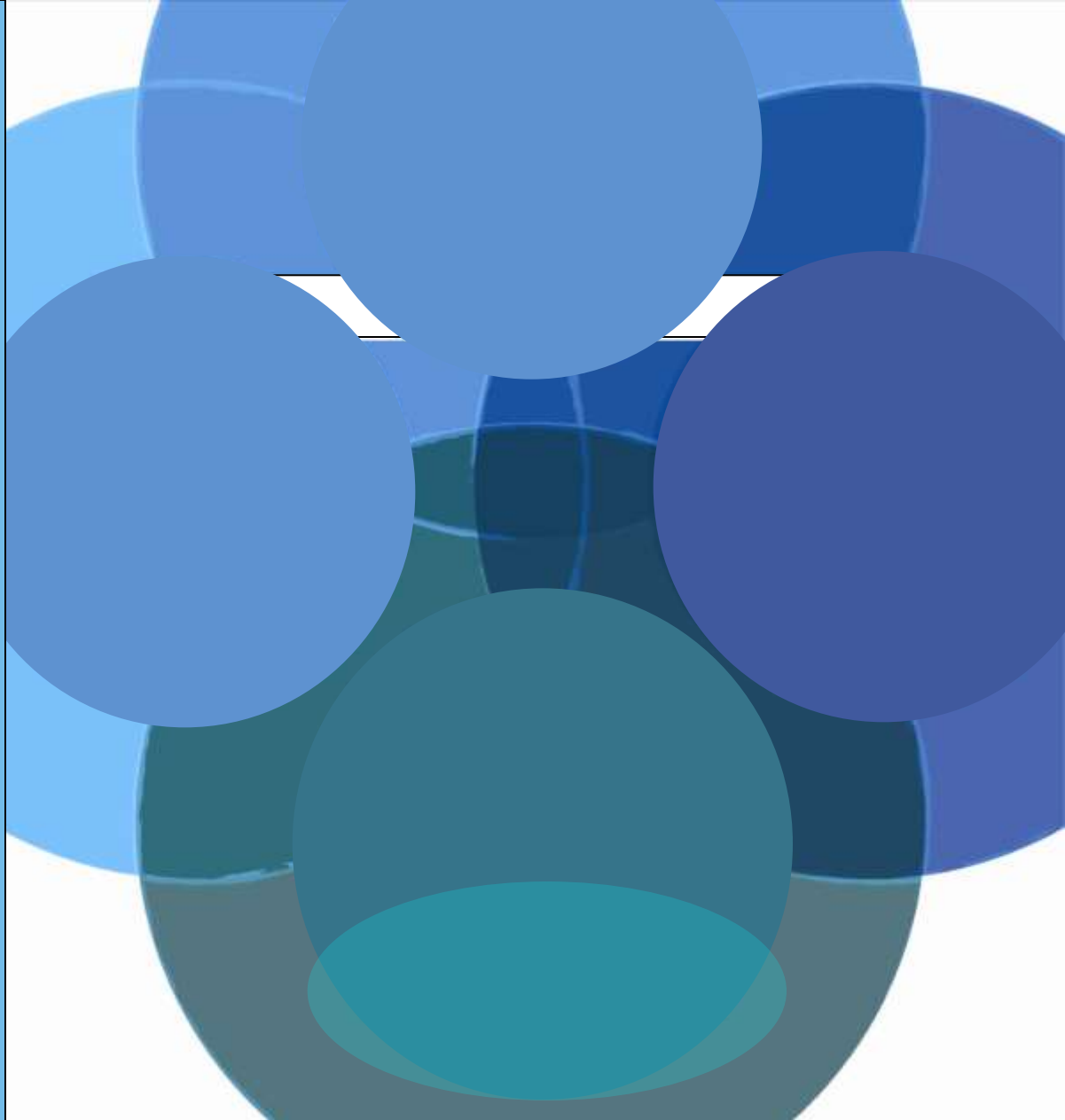

Capacity
Strengthening health research systems

WHO strategy on research for health

Priorities
Meeting health needs

Standards
Good research practice

Translation
Evidence into practice

World Health Organization

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World Health Organization

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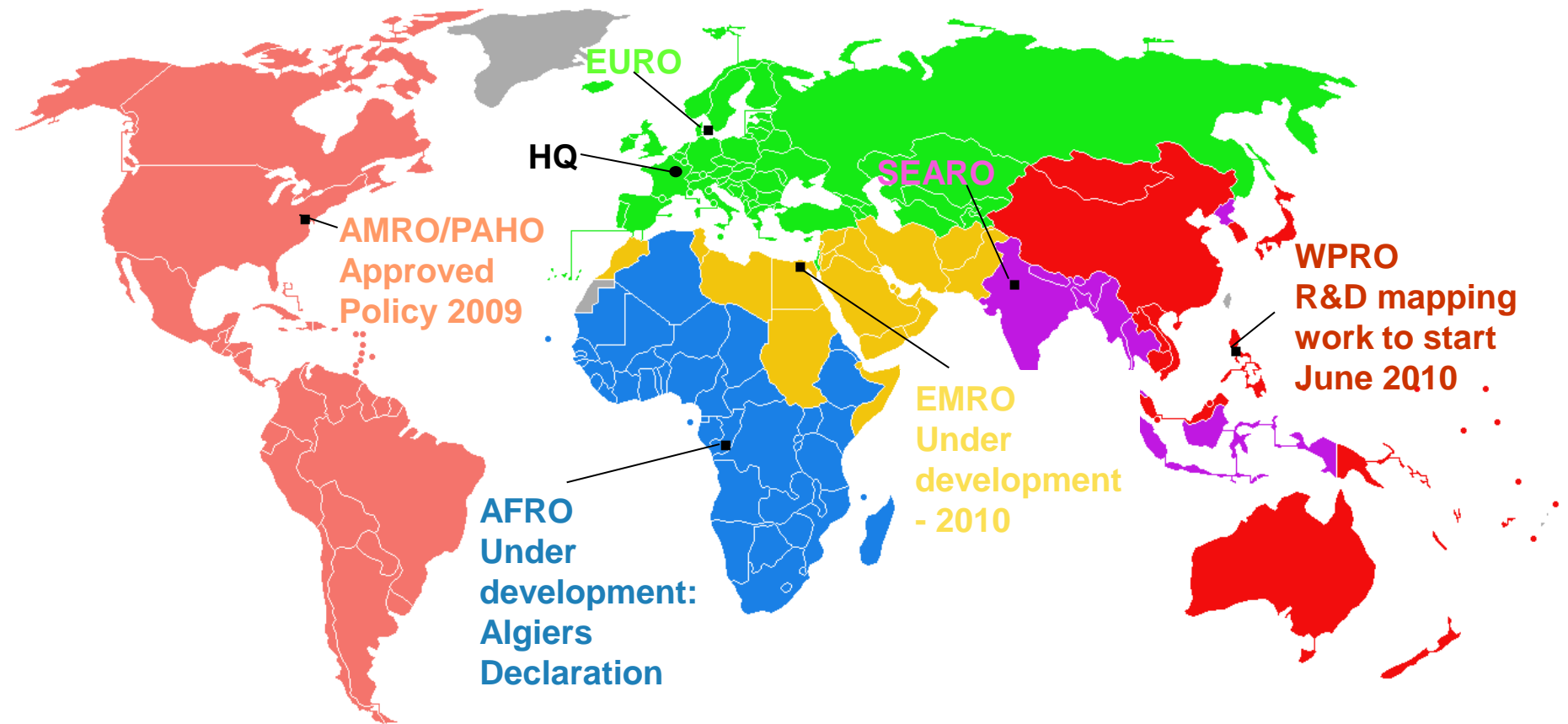
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Summary: implementation to date and next steps

- **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**
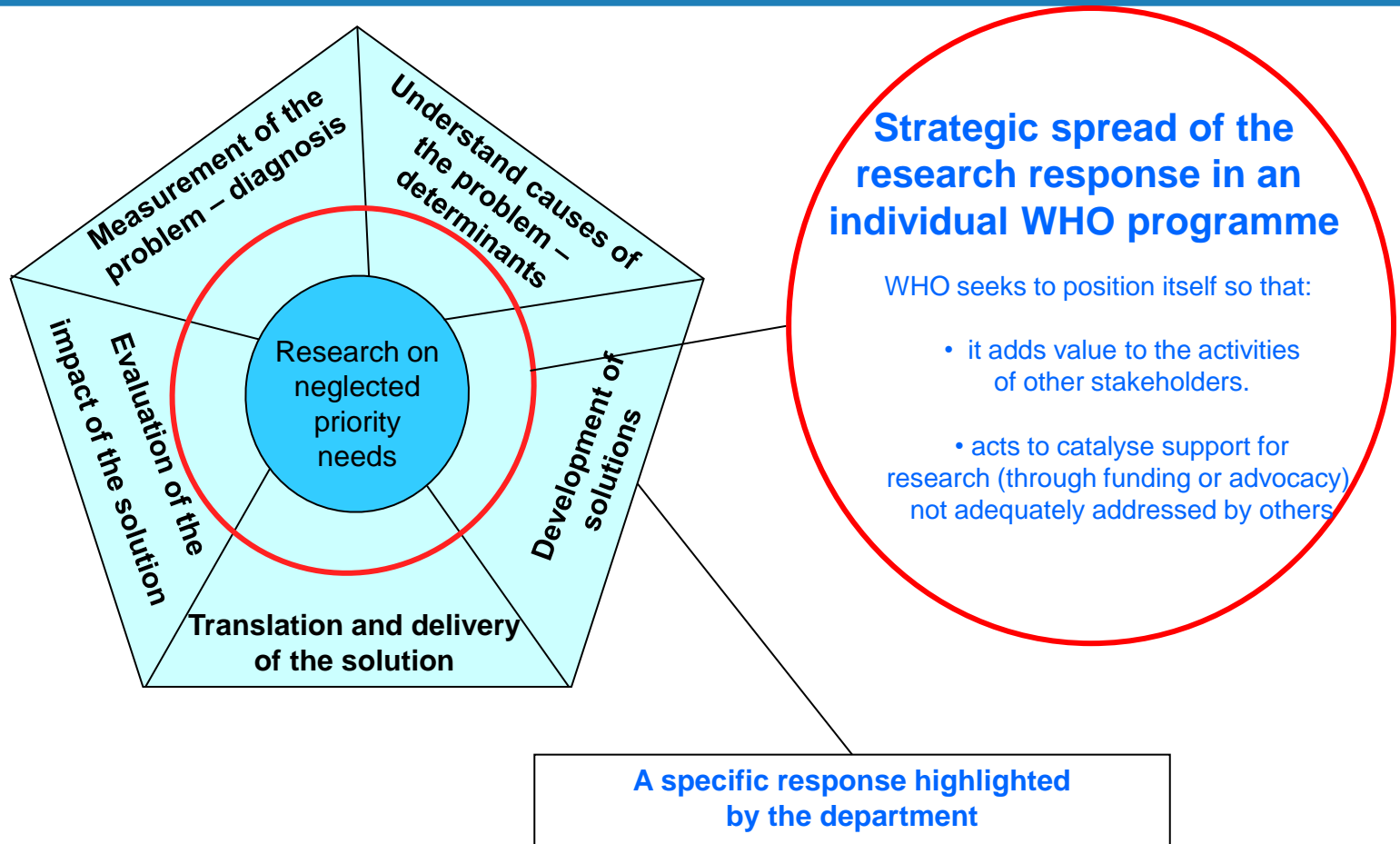 - What should it be
  - How should it be funded

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Roll out to WHO Regional Offices
1 approved, 2 in development, 3 subject to personnel changes

EURO

HQ

SEARO

AMRO/PAHO
Approved
Policy 2009

WPRO
R&D mapping
work to start
June 2010

EMRO
Under
development
- 2010

AFRO
Under
development:
Algiers
Declaration

World Health
Organization

A framework for describing the priorities in WHO programmes

Strategic spread of the research response in an individual WHO programme

WHO seeks to position itself so that:

- it adds value to the activities of other stakeholders.

- acts to catalyse support for research (through funding or advocacy) not adequately addressed by others

A specific response highlighted by the department

Research on neglected priority needs

Measurement of the problem – diagnosis

Understand causes of the problem – determinants

Development of solutions

Translation and delivery of the solution

Evaluation of the impact of the solution
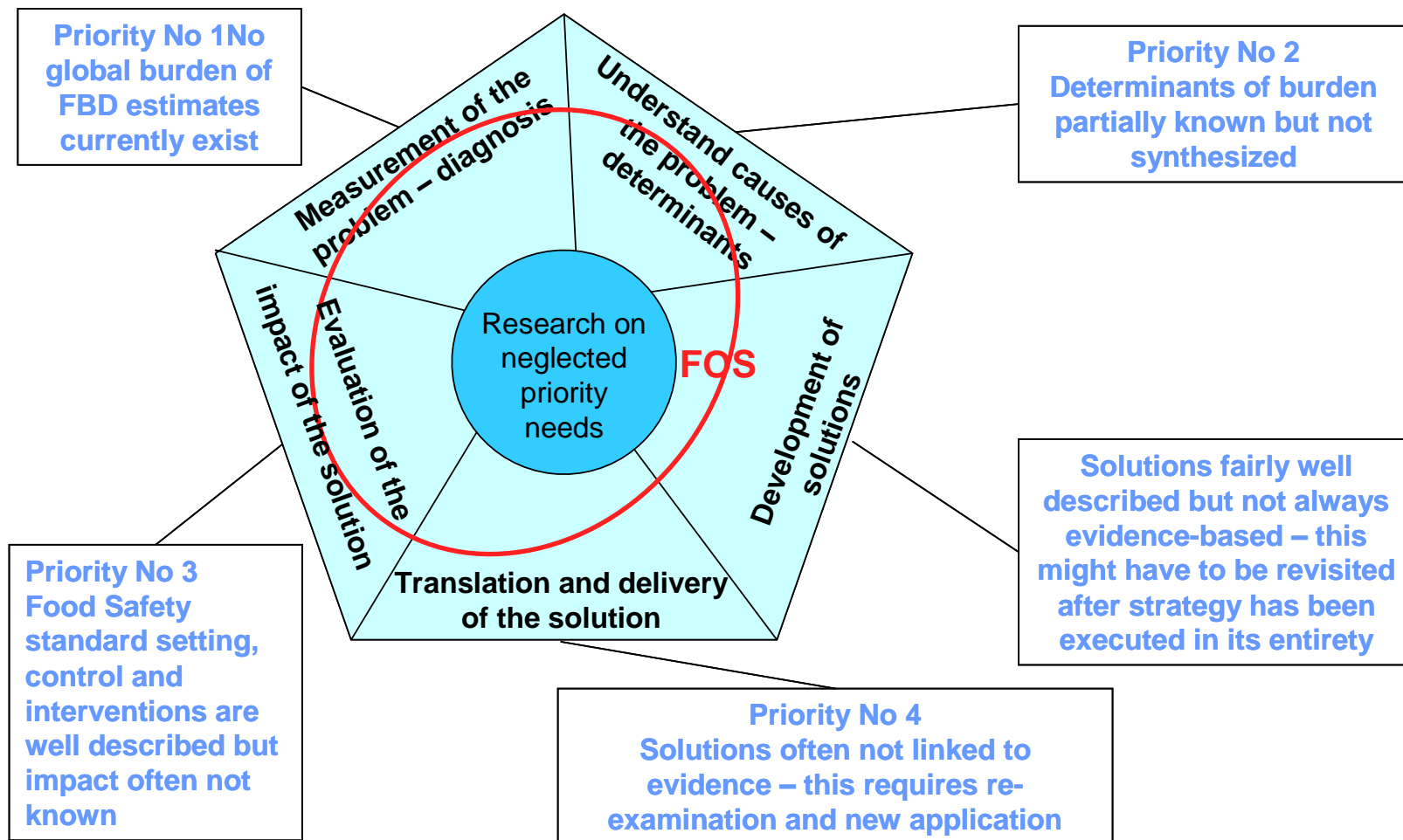
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Reference/use of strategy by WHO departments

- 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.

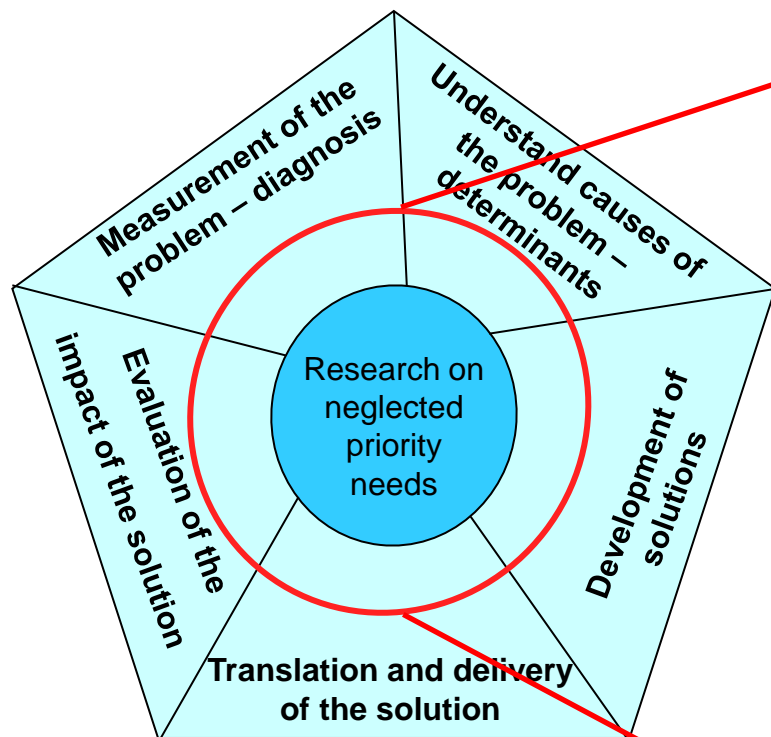 - WHO Public Health Research Agenda for **Influenza** (see subsequent slide)

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Research strategy – TDR 2006/07

TDR Research business lines

Lead discovery for drugs
(screening/optimizing drug leads for tropical diseases

- Selected drug development and field interventions (TB/HIV, helminths, other NTD)
- Innovate vector control interventions

- Innovation and access in diagnosis

- Evidence for antimalarial policy and access
- Visceral leishmaniasis elimination
- Integrated community-based interventions

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Research strategy - Foodbourne Disease group 2006/07

Priority No 1 No global burden of FBD estimates currently exist

Priority No 2 Determinants of burden partially known but not synthesized

Priority No 3 Food Safety standard setting, control and interventions are well described but impact often not known

Solutions fairly well described but not always evidence-based – this might have to be revisited after strategy has been executed in its entirety

Priority No 4 Solutions often not linked to evidence – this requires re-examination and new application

Measurement of the problem – diagnosis

Understand causes of the problem – determinants

Evaluation of the impact of the solution

Development of solutions

Research on neglected priority needs

FOS

Translation and delivery of the solution

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Global consultation on public health research agenda for influenza November 2009

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

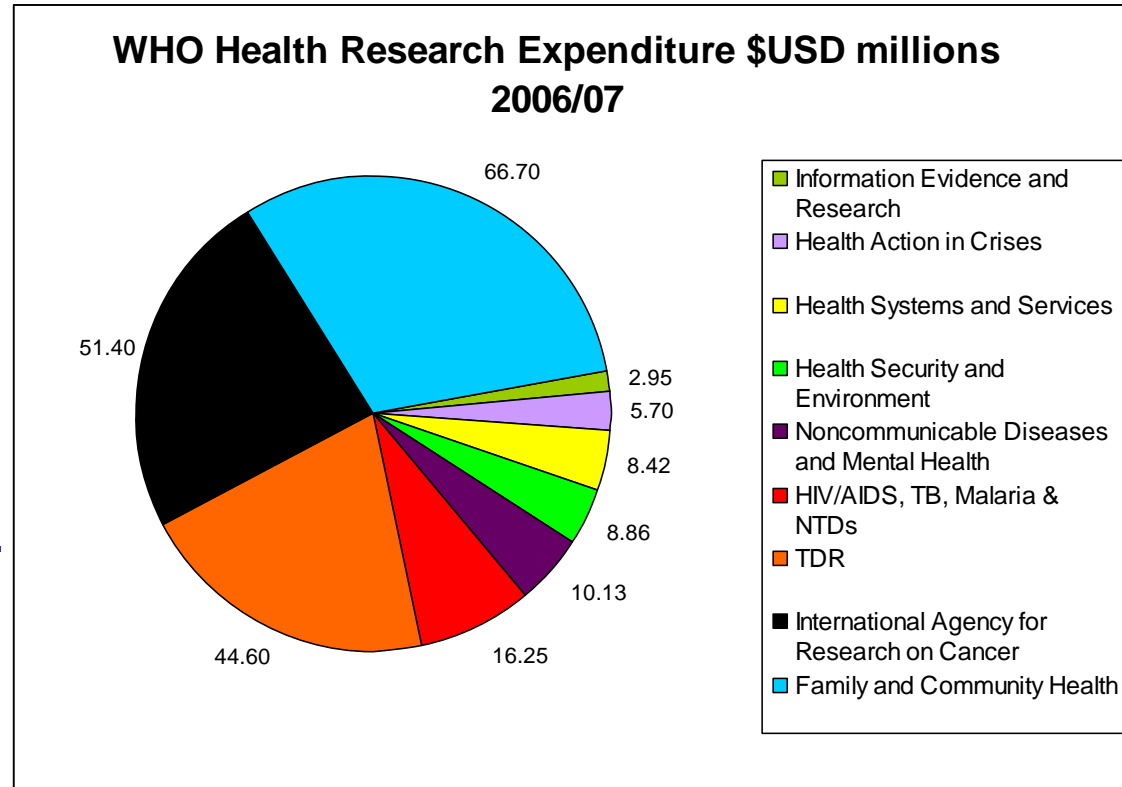Stream 4. (Delivery / Evaluation)

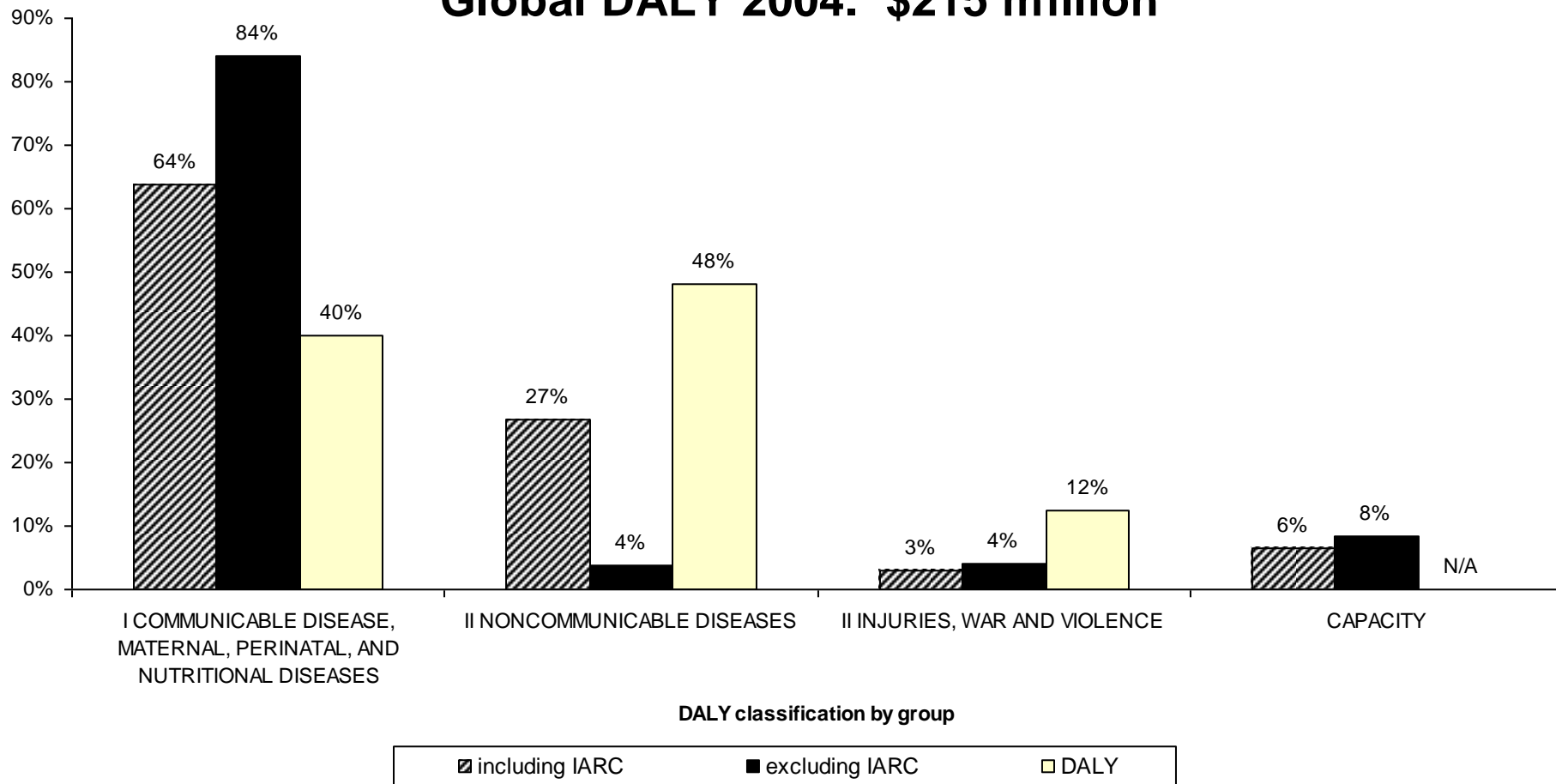Optimizing the treatment of patients

Stream 5. (Translation)

Promoting the development and application of modern public health tools

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

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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 Health Research Expenditure $USD millions 2006/07

- 66.70
- 2.95
- 5.70
- 8.42
- 8.86
- 10.13
- 16.25
- 44.60
- 51.40

Legend:
- Information Evidence and Research
- Health Action in Crises
- Health Systems and Services
- Health Security and Environment
- Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health
- HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria & NTDs
- TDR
- International Agency for Research on Cancer
- Family and Community Health

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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

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Classification of research at a strategic level

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

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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

Research Priorities

World Health Organization

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Research Priorities

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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.

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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

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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.

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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

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http://www.healthresearchweb.org

Many thanks

Further information can be obtained from:

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

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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

World Health Organization