MUTUAL BENEFITS FOR PARTNERS

The Alliance welcomes new partners – research and training institutions, national and local governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations – who are inspired by the aims of the partnership and wish to join and contribute to a committed and growing global HPSR community. Contact us today to find out how you too can make a lasting difference.

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research
World Health Organization
20 avenue Appia
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Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 791 2973
Fax: +41 22 791 4817
E-mail: alliancehpsr@who.int

The Alliance also welcomes your success stories and challenges in HPSR. We will feature these stories on our web site and circulate them among our members, with the aim of stimulating learning and debate.

http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/en/

GOVERNANCE

Day-to-day operations are managed by the Alliance Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. Overall operations of the Alliance are overseen by a Board. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee is responsible for providing scientific and technical advice to the Board and Secretariat.

The Alliance gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID).

© Copyright World Health Organization (WHO), 2012
Founded in 1999, the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research – an international collaboration, hosted by the World Health Organization, promotes the generation and use of health policy and systems research (HPSR) as a means to improve the health systems of low- and middle-income countries. Working with more than 350 partners around the world, the Alliance aims to:

- stimulate the generation and synthesis of policy-relevant health systems knowledge, encompassing evidence, tools and methods;
- promote the dissemination and use of health policy and systems knowledge to improve the performance of health systems;
- facilitate the development of capacity for the generation, dissemination and use of health policy and systems research knowledge among researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders.

WHY HPSR MATTERS
Every day, ministers of health, policy-makers and health service managers make critical decisions about how to organize health systems. Should primary care be extended through the use of community health workers? Should fees be charged to patients who use health centres? Will performance-related pay motivate health workers to provide better care? Such decisions are likely to lead to better results if they are informed by evidence. HPSR can produce the reliable and rigorous evidence which helps to inform such decisions.

PROMISE AND POTENTIAL OF HPSR
Knowledge generated by HPSR strengthens health systems, drives progress towards universal health coverage and helps deliver the promise of better health for all. In witnessing first-hand how national investment in HPSR makes a difference, the Alliance has gained an understanding of the critical factors that are vital for success in countries. These include:

- setting-up HPSR institutions with able leadership and staff;
- engaging top health researchers and health leaders to highlight the importance of HPSR;
- increasing allocation of resources for HPSR;
- involving press and public opinion in debating the issue;
- involving international funders;
- taking steps to embed research into decision-making.

MORE THAN A DECADE OF SUCCESS
In its first decade, the Alliance carved out a distinct niche and has proven its capability as an effective leader, creating and galvanizing a global community of research, policy and decision-makers. It has played a catalytic role in establishing long-lasting partnerships, bringing together research and policy pioneers intent on breaking traditional moulds and supporting a new collegial paradigm in health decision-making. Combining its assets as a youthful, dynamic, ideas-based organization, the Alliance advocates for equitable and innovative ways of working that will continue to influence the evolution and impact of HPSR over the course of the current decade.

Generating policy-relevant knowledge
Through its grant programme, the Alliance has supported hundreds of researchers, funding research that can inform efforts to strengthen health systems.

Building capacity through systematic review centres
The Alliance has initiated and supported an international collaboration for synthesizing health systems evidence, a programme that will yield ample rewards in the coming years.

Creating and nurturing an innovative and equitable network
The Alliance works with a network of national decision-makers and researchers to build demand for research-driven policy-making and has established regional hubs in the African, Asian, and South American regions.

Helping countries and donors allocate resources for HPSR effectively
The Alliance runs participatory priority setting exercises to help existing and potential funders to decide how to spend limited HPSR resources at the country level. Through regular monitoring of the field, it also identifies priority needs for evidence and gaps in capacity for the generation and use of evidence.

Investing in the future
It also stewards a global network of young researchers and interns, investing in a new generation of young people – the potential decision-makers of the future, who are committed to bridging the realms of policy and research.

Complementing the work of WHO
As a trusted partner of its host organization, the Alliance complements the mission and mandate of WHO in all that it does and benefits from established relationships and direct access to key decision-makers in Member States.

Leading the development of WHO’s HPSR Strategy
Launched at the Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR) in Beijing, the landmark strategy showcases country success stories and casts a net of optimism to other countries interested in following their model in the future.

Bringing stakeholders together at regular Global Symposia on HSR
As a key Organizing Partner, the Alliance played a leading role in organizing the First Global Symposium (2010, Montreux, Switzerland) and the Second Symposium (2012, Beijing, China). It will play a similar role in the lead up to the planned Third Symposium in 2014.

Building goodwill and recognition for the Alliance
Strong visibility of the Alliance, and what it stands for, in journals, among policy actors and the research community at large, has ensured increasing respect for and growing commitment to its leadership role.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF HEALTH POLICY AND SYSTEMS RESEARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>WHO Advisory Committee on Medical Research endorses definition of health services/systems research</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>WHO Ad Hoc Committee on Health Research proposes way for foundation of the Alliance</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Alliance Founded bringing together international collaborators to intensify HPSR in low- and middle-income countries</td>
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1999–2015: PROUD OF PAST, FOCUSED ON FUTURE
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HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF HEALTH POLICY AND SYSTEMS RESEARCH

1999–2015: PROUD OF PAST, FOCUSED ON FUTURE

1996: The Alliance was founded with more than 350 partners around the world, the Alliance aims to:

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Ministerial Summit on Health Research, Mexico City, Mexico

Mexico Declaration calls for more investment in HPSR

Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health, Bamako, Mali

recognizes need to improve capacity and promote knowledge translation

First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Montreux, Switzerland

brings 1500 stakeholders together for the first time

Launch of WHO HPSR Strategy

Second Global Symposium on HSR, Beijing, China
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