

Mechanism for review of investments in research capacity strengthening in low- and middle-income countries

What is the mechanism?

- [ESSENCE on Health Research](#), a group of funders of health research capacity strengthening in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), has proposed a mechanism for funders to review their investments so they can collaboratively identify and fill gaps.
- The mechanism includes three interdependent workstreams:
 - One is led by the [World Health Organization Global Observatory on Health Research and Development \(R&D\)](#) which, pending availability of resources, will establish metrics and support data collection to characterize health research capacity at the national and institutional level in a standardized way.
 - Another is led by [World RePORT](#), an open-access, interactive mapping database project highlighting biomedical research investments and partnerships from some of the world's largest funding organizations.
 - And the final one is ESSENCE which periodically convenes global funders and stakeholders to review investments, identify gaps and make future plans in order to enhance coordination and collaboration on investments.

What will be achieved?

- The expected outcomes are increases in efficiency and equity in capacity strengthening efforts while decreasing duplication of efforts. The expected impacts are increased research on national health priorities as well as improved pandemic preparedness.

What should funders of health research do?

- Participate in Global Observatory efforts to establish metrics and collect data on health research capacity.
- Share data on health research and capacity building with World RePORT.
- Participate in periodic ESSENCE coordination meetings.
- Partner in increasing efficiency and equity in capacity strengthening efforts while decreasing duplication of efforts, which will increase overall capacity and decrease the prevalence of lowest-capacity areas.
- Provide funding for these activities to the WHO Global Observatory on Health R&D, to World RePORT and to ESSENCE.

More information:

- The World Bank and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) 2018 report - [*Money and Microbes: Strengthening clinical research capacity to prevent epidemics*](#) - recommended that clinical research capacity be considered an essential element of pandemic preparedness in LMICs and that ESSENCE articulate a mechanism for review of investments and coordination of capacity strengthening efforts.
- To create the proposed mechanism, ESSENCE, with input from the [Global Coordination Mechanism for R&D preparedness](#) and LMIC representatives, convened a working group, engaged a consultant who conducted a literature review and key informant interviews, and held a consultation with 40 diverse stakeholders involved in health research capacity strengthening in LMICs.

Additional Links:

- [Minutes of ESSENCE Stakeholders Meeting on Follow up to International Vaccine Research Taskforce \(IVTF\) Recommendations](#)
- [Background document for ESSENCE Stakeholders Meeting on Follow-up to International Vaccine Research Taskforce \(IVTF\) Recommendations](#)

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