

Research and Development in Human Reproduction

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Financial Arrangements for FY09 (Amount in US \$ Million)	
Total Budget: DGF Funding Request: DGF Percentage:	17.00 1.50 9%
Objectives and Expected Outcomes	
<p>The Human Reproduction Program (HRP) originated in 1972 as a WHO special program to support and evaluate international research and development related to human reproduction, with particular reference to the needs of developing countries. The World Bank became a cosponsor—along with UNFPA, UNDP and WHO—of a re-structured "UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Program of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction" in FY88. The Special Program carries out two broad types of activities: (1) coordinating research through a global network; and</p> <p>(2) building national capacity in fertility and sexual and reproductive health research. A major HRP objective has been to monitor and provide information on the safety and efficacy of the most widely used contraceptives, which is an invaluable global public good. HRP has also engaged in basic and applied contraceptive research and in research on priority sexual and reproductive health problems that affect poor and vulnerable groups, particularly poor women and adolescents.</p>	
Main Components	
<p>HRP seeks to advance the agenda agreed upon at the International Conference on Population and Development held in 1994 and the actions promoted in the Global Reproductive Health strategy adopted by Member States in 2004 and the Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections in 2006. HRP's agenda includes: (i) Family planning: Research and development of new and improved methods of contraception and assessment of their efficacy and safety; and research, development and clinical standard setting related to infertility. (ii) Maternal and neonatal health: Focus on research and development of new and improved preventative and curative interventions in maternal and perinatal health; and the preparation of clinical standards, norms and tools in maternal and perinatal health, including their field testing. (iii) Control of reproductive tract infections (RTI) and sexually transmitted infections (STI): Research and development of new technologies, methods and strategies for prevention and control of STIs including HIV and HPV, mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and microbicides; (iv) Prevention of unsafe abortion: Research and development of interventions for preventing unsafe abortion and post-abortion care. (v) Technical support: Building research capacity, research synthesis through systematic reviews, facilitating dissemination of research findings, and improving quality of sexual and reproductive health; and research on the impact of health sector reform on sexual and reproductive health.</p>	
Performance Indicators	
<p>WHO Organization Wide Expected Result 4.2. (Page 41 in Medium Term Strategic Plan 2008-2013) (Reference: OWER 4.2) National research capacity strengthened as necessary and new evidence, products, technologies, and interventions and delivery approaches of global and/or national relevance available to improve maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, to promote active and healthy ageing, and to improve sexual and reproductive health. Indicators: 4.2.1 Number of new research centers strengthened through comprehensive institutional development and support; 4.2.2 Number of completed studies on priority issues in the relevant field of health.; 4.2.3 Number of new or updated systematic reviews on best practices, policies and standards of care.</p>	

Progress and Achievements

HRP submits progress reports in terms of annual "Highlights" documents and detailed "Annual Technical Reports" on the achievement of the outputs above. These are presented in detail at annual meetings of HRP's Governing body, the Policy and Coordination Committee, of which the World Bank is a cosponsor-member.

An external evaluation of HRP was conducted in 2007 by an evaluation team from the Swiss Centre for International Health of the Swiss Tropical Institute and Management Sciences for Health, under the guidance of an Evaluation Monitoring Team composed of Policy and Coordination Committee members. The evaluation concluded: "When considering the main conclusions and recommendations of the previous evaluation, much has changed, and many problems have been addressed and solved, as highlighted in this case-study. The most notable differences are in the financial situation, increased diversity of income, strong bonds between HRP and its partners in advocating for the Cairo agenda, and a greater role of sexual and reproductive health in the MDGs."

Partners

UNDP, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, The United Nations Foundation and many bilateral donors and foundations.

Governance and Management

The **Policy and Coordination Committee (PCC)** meets annually and sets overall policy and program direction.

A **Standing Committee (SC)**, composed of representatives of co-sponsoring agencies, meets three times each year to review HRP's plans of action, make proposals to the PCC on financing, and review HRP's allocation of resources and other issues.

A **Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)**, reporting to the PCC and the SC, reviews the content, scope, & dimensions of HRP & recommends priorities and a plan of action.

A **Gender Advisory Panel** provides advice and guidance on matters relating to gender. Through a strategic planning process managed by STAG and approved by PCC, HRP has developed a six-year strategic plan covering the period 2004-2009, which also forms the basis of biennial plans of work.

Exit Strategy

The research, research training and research capacity strengthening provided by HRP is an ongoing need and is in line with the reproductive health approach of the HNP strategy. The importance of this work was highlighted in the report of the Millennium Project, which concluded that sexual and reproductive health is key to the achievement of all of the MDGs. Such was further endorsed at the UN World Summit in September 2005. The external independent evaluation report has been completed and circulated. It is be formally endorsed at the Governing Council meeting which will be held on June 25, 2008. Periodic reviews and consultation with co-sponsor are recommended to determine the continuation and level of funding support to the program.