



Future Health Systems at Forum 2015
**The network approach to strengthening health systems
research capacity: experiences from the global South**

Wednesday, 26 August 2015 • 16:30 - 17:45

Meeting Room 4, Philippine International Convention Centre, Manila, Philippines



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Health Systems

Health Systems

Research

- **broad** and comprise many elements (governance; workforce; financing; information systems; products and technologies; service delivery) and interactions between them.
- **affected** by factors such as health education, community and individual action, the legislative and regulatory context and current and emerging social, economic and cultural circumstances.
- HSyR draws on a **variety of disciplines**: economics, sociology, anthropology, political science and epidemiology
- HSyR is predominantly an **applied field** that starts with a problem or topic that arises from practical policy or implementation experience, and selects methods, whether qualitative or quantitative, that address this in the most appropriate manner
- HSyR is different to classical public health research in that it has less of a focus on diseases and disease interventions than on the generic **structures and processes through which these interventions are implemented.**

Source: <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/>

The call for a network approach

- Many different types of actors are involved in health systems research, including universities, think tanks, ministries of health, and health service delivery organizations. **Strengthening networks between these different actors**, in the same country, is critical. Source: Draft WHO symposium paper: What must be done to enhance capacity for health systems research?
- **Development of networks between different research organizations** (both within countries, and regionally or internationally), links to policy and decision-makers within the health system, and established national systems for identifying priority health systems research needs and supporting such research is critical Source: “Conceptual Framework for Institutional Capacity-Building” Health Systems 20/20, USAID
- **Capacity development** interventions typically need to be multi-faceted, responding to capacity needs at different levels (individual, organizational and environment/network) and tailored to the context where they are being implemented.

Network experiences of interest

- **Governance** of multi-partner capacity building networks
- The network approach to **priority setting**
- **Power dynamics** within and across partners (and donors)
- **Advantages** and **challenges** of a network approach to HSR capacity strengthening
- Transcending **individual** capacity strengthening to organizational, network, society?
- **Trickle down effects** of network relations, brokering and coalition building
- Monitoring and **evaluation** of outcomes
- Post-funding **sustainability**

The network approach to strengthening health systems research capacity: experiences from the global South

“LMIC-led” networked consortia have emerged in recent years as a novel attempt to develop health systems research (HSR) capacity. They are intended as a means of harnessing varied organizational strengths and establishing more sustained country capacity for HSR. Join Future Health Systems partners and other consortia from Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia peers at this talk show inspired panel session to share experience and learning on issues such as governance, priority setting, and donor negotiations; and to debate poignant questions around implementation challenges and long-term sustainability.

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Future Health Systems: The Africa Hub

Developing Capacity for Health Systems Research collaboratively



- **Objective:** Collaboratively build and strengthen capacity for undertaking and communicating Health Systems Research in East and Central African SPHs
- **Membership:** Seven SPHs in six countries in East and Central Africa
- **Key strategies:** Trainings (short courses), workshops, Research and dissemination grants, joint research proposal training and writing, support for curriculum reviews, media trainings, conference presentations, inter-institutional student supervision, and student mentorship
- **Key outcomes:** Regional short course curriculum, Library in Box, PR Publications, current on-going student researchers, supported graduate dissertation completion, honorary lecturers, policy engagements, etc.



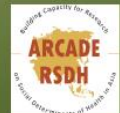
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ARCADE: building sustainable capacity for health research in Africa and Asia

- ARCADE (Africa/Asian Regional Capacity Development) is a large-scale **education project** that aims to support development of research capacity through innovative technological methods.
- **16 partnering** institutions across Europe, Asia and Africa.
- ARCADE partners develop and deliver **accessible online courses, blended learning modules, and joint programmes** that will enable training of researchers in LMIC who might not otherwise have access to such material.
- **Successes:** New partnerships, joint-degree programmes, e-learning platform, freely accessible courses, grant writing workshops for students.
- **Challenges:** Internet access, insufficient bandwidth.



www.hpsa-africa.org

@hpsa_africa

Overall objective

Increase African capacity to produce and use HPSR

Key CB strategies

- Assessment of HPSR capacity assets and needs
- CHEPSAA Emerging Leaders Programme
- Capacity building in curriculum development and the creation of two open access courses: *Introduction to Complex Health Systems* and *Introduction to Health Policy and Systems Research*
- Networking between consortium partners and other stakeholders

Selected outcomes

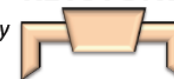
- Better understanding and wide publication of capacity assets and needs
- Emerging researchers and educators with enhanced capacity and the intention to stay in HPSR field
- Better curricula & teaching and wide dissemination of teaching across the world
- Contribution to creation of critical mass of scholars in Africa

Partner organisations and geograpy

- 7 African universities (South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria) and 4 European universities (Switzerland, UK, Sweden)

KEYSTONE

Building HPSR Capacity



Building the HPSR Community

KEYSTONE Objectives:

- **Initiative:** to enhance the production of relevant HPSR knowledge to meet the needs of the country
- **Course:** to develop individual capacities and channelize latent capacities of participants, for investigating and addressing real-world problems of health systems and policy, through rigorous immersion in current HPSR approaches, frameworks and methodologies

Network: 15 Institutions (national & international)

Key strategies:

- **Building individual HPSR capacity** through rigorous short course training in current HPSR frameworks and methodologies
- **Cross-disciplinary engagement** of researchers, health systems actors, and other learning networks, in learning and teaching HPSR
- **Active dialogue** with health system decision-makers and community-based organizations to ground the development of the HPSR field in real-world priorities
- **Building organizational HPSR capacity** by supporting partner organizations and alumni in replicating the short course in different settings

Key outcomes: first iteration of the short course has been rolled out to 20 participants and online mentoring ongoing



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