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Guinea

HEALTH RESEARCH



Strengthening of Guinea Health sector Post-Ebola: a revised document to guide health research priorities.

In the post-Ebola era, nations must be able to conduct research rapidly to inform critical policy initiatives. Guinea, one of the countries hardest hit by the Ebola epidemic, took a major step in that direction with the validation of the revised National Health Research Policy during a workshop in Conakry on August 16, 2017. The Political Health Advisor of the Guinean Ministry of Health (MOH), Dr. Mohamed Lamine Yansane, presided over the validation of the revision, which received technical and financial support from the United States Agency of International Development's (USAID) Health Finance and Governance Project (HFG) Guinea. The MOH wanted to update 15-year-old research guidelines to create an effective system to manage research requests and improve Guinea's capacity to use research findings to inform policy and decision-making. This document will strengthen the capacity of the Bureau of Strategic Development (BSD), whose Research Unit oversees research activities at the

national level. "We are pleased to be validating this document, which provides a general direction for health research in Guinea. It was necessary to review this document to consider all aspects of our experience during the Ebola crisis," said Dr. Yansane.

Reaching a consensus at the workshop was a major achievement because of the breadth of major health research stakeholders in attendance. They included the Senior Advisor to the President on Education, Professor Alpha Amadou Boro Barry, key health research institutions, professors, governmental departments, international partners, and representatives of civil society. Dr. Alpha Amadou Diallo, head of BSD's Research Unit, was pleased with the widespread support for the revision. "The senior people and representatives at this validation workshop demonstrate that different stakeholders



share the vision and strategies needed to meet the challenges of the Ministry of Health and the achievement of our objectives,” Dr. Diallo said.

The revised policy attempts to remedy the lack of research coordination that have plagued Guinea and other countries in the face of a sudden health threat. The new policy addresses five priority problems: strengthening of the health research institutional and legal framework; improving the health research organizational framework through capacity building; promoting ethics; developing partnerships and resources for health research and innovation; and disseminating research achievements. The policy focuses on removing some of the barriers to quality health research, including poor governance; inadequate infrastructure, equipment, and resources; difficulties disseminating research results and using them for policymaking; and inadequate monitoring and evaluation of research investments.

The revised document lays the groundwork for the creation of new structures at central and decentralized levels to improve coordination, the creation of platforms for dissemination and use of health research results, and the mobilization of financial resources. The new policy will help create a



network of research institutions and build their capacity. The present document constitutes the single frame of reference for health research for the next few years and reflects the adoption by Guinea of the health research strategy for the African region 2016-2020.



The Health Finance and Governance (HFG) project works with partner countries to increase their domestic resources for health, manage those precious resources more effectively, and make wise purchasing decisions. Designed to fundamentally strengthen health systems, the HFG project improves health outcomes in partner countries by expanding people's access to health care, especially priority health services. The HFG project is a five-year (2012-2017), \$209 million global project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Cooperative Agreement No: AID-OAA-A-12-00080. The HFG project is led by Abt Associates in collaboration with Avenir Health, Broad Branch Associates, Development Alternatives Inc., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Results for Development Institute, RTI International, and Training Resources Group, Inc.

For more information visit www.hfgproject.org/.

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