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by Ministry of Health Sector Working Group, version

HEALTH RESEARCH POLICY IN UGANDA, 2012-2020



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Foreword:

This Health Research Policy has been guided by the aspirations of the National Development Plan which emphasised the importance of science and innovation in the promotion of health and socio economic development. It is also informed by the second National Health Policy (NHP II) which prioritises research in order to support evidence-based policy and intervention formulation. The NHP II further aspires to create a culture in which health research plays a significant role in guiding policy formulation and action to improve the health and development of the people of Uganda. The UNHRO Act 2009 puts in place a framework for coordination and harmonisation of health research and its application in the country.

This National Health Research Policy has been developed in a highly participatory manner and consultations have been held with technical working groups in the health sector, academia, technical staff of Constituent Institutes and other stakeholders. Regional workshops were held with district health officers to get their input into the policy.

This policy strengthens stewardship and governance of health research in the country and establishes a mechanism for alignment, harmonisation and coordination of health research within the context of Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP), the NHP II and HSSIP 2010/11 – 2014/15. It also provides a framework for application of evidence in policy development and practice. It should guide ALL parties involved in health research in the country over the period 2012 - 2020

The GoU will prioritize scientific opportunities on the basis of their potential impact to improve health, the readiness of the scientific community to accomplish them, and their alignment to the core values.

I wish to thank in a special way the Board of UNHRO and WHO country office that has supported the development of this National Health Research Policy.

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Minister of Health

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AU:	African Union
DHO:	District Health Officer
EAC:	East African Community
GoU:	Government of Uganda
HSSIP:	Health Sector Strategy and Investment Plan
IPR:	Intellectual Property Rights
IRCs:	Institutional Review Committees
MOH:	Ministry of Health
NDA:	National Drug Authority
NDP:	National Development Plan
NHP II	Second National Health Policy
UNCST:	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
UNHRO:	Uganda National Health Research Organisation
WHO:	World Health Organisation

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Glossary

Health research: The conception or creation of new knowledge, products, processes, methods and systems related to any aspect of health, the factors affecting it and ways of promoting and improving it. Research is viewed as multidisciplinary, embracing the disciplines of biomedical science, political economy, social sciences, behavioural sciences and economics.

Health research encompasses the spectrum from the biomedical sciences to health policy and systems research, social sciences, traditional and complementary medicine, political sciences, health economics, behavioural and operational research, and research into the relationship between health and the cultural, economic, physical, political, social and policy environments.

Knowledge translation: A set of principles, tools and practices that enable people to create knowledge and to share, translate and apply what they know to create value and improve effectiveness.

Stakeholders in health research: This Health Research Policy is primarily intended to guide the Stakeholders and interested parties involved in health or health related matters including all researchers intending to conduct research in Uganda, political leaders, administrators, technocrats, policy and decision makers, development partners, communities and the general public and research participants and any special groups.

1.0 Introduction

The development of the National Health Research policy has been informed by global and national guidance which recognise health research as a key component of economic development. The Algiers Declaration on Research for Health in the African Region and the 59th WHO Regional Committee resolution on the framework for the implementation of the declaration committed African states to strengthening of national health research systems, among others, in order to improve the health of the population. Countries were further urged to develop health research policies and strategic frameworks to guide coordination and harmonisation of health research activities at country level. The Bamako call on action to Research for Health further emphasised the need for countries to development of policies for health research in order to secure ownership and control of their research for health agendas. On the other hand, the African Union has emphasised the use of evidence as the basis for sound public health policy and practice calling for strengthening of health research capacities in countries. The EAC has established a Health Research Commission for the coordination of health researchers well for the translation of research findings into policy and practice within the partner States.

At the country level, the National Development Plan (NDP), which is the overall development framework for the country, emphasises the importance of science and innovation in the promotion of health and socio economic development. The Second National Health Policy (NHP II) operationalises the aspirations of the NDP relevant to the health sector. It aspires to create a culture in which health research plays a significant role in guiding policy formulation and action to improve the health and development of the people of Uganda. The current Health Sector Strategic and Investment Plan (HSSIP) 2010/11 – 2014/15 also endorses the use of evidence based policies and interventions through research. In 2009, the Parliament of Uganda enacted the UNHRO Act 2009 to provide an enabling environment for health research. The Act has since been gazetted and formalised. The Act puts in place a framework for coordination and harmonisation of health research and its application in the country. There is now a Secretariat and a Board for UNHRO to operationalize implementation.

This policy will guide ALL health research activities for the period 2012-2020

1.1 Process of developing the Health research policy:

This National Health Research Policy has been developed in a highly participatory manner and consultations have been held with technical working groups in the health sector, academia, technical staff of Constituent Institutes and other stakeholders. Regional workshops were held with district health officers to get their input into the policy.

This policy lays down a framework to harmonise research, operationalize the functions of UNRHO specifically to provide stewardship of research agenda; coordination of health research; setting priorities; strengthening health research capacity; promoting research information sharing; ensuring good practices and ethics in the conduct of health research; knowledge translation resource mobilisation, and strengthening partnerships and collaboration in health research.

2.0 Situations analysis:

2.1 Stewardship and governance for health research:

Some guidelines for undertaking health research are in place although enforcement is poor and some are out-dated. Platforms to stakeholder engagement, relevant partnerships for research are not in place and this hampers ownership of the research agenda and translation of research results. Collaborative efforts with relevant bodies for example, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), National Drug Authority (NDA) and Institutional Review Committees (IRCs) are ongoing but need strengthening. Health being a multisectoral and multidisciplinary issue, there is a lot of benefit from involvement of other sectors and disciplines. Currently, mechanisms for enforcing intersectoral collaboration is weak.

2.2 Setting research priorities;

Although a lot of research has been undertaken in the country, it has not been very responsive to local knowledge gaps and information needs. The lack a policy framework and a systematic process to set a research agenda and, poor coordination have partly contributed to this. Research undertaken is not well aligned to the National Strategic and Investment Plan and indeed to the national health research priorities.. The application of traditional medicine has not also been fully harnessed.

2.3 Ethical issues:

Adherence to good practices and ethical guidelines has been weak partly due to weak enforcement, lack of awareness on the side of researchers and poor facilitation of the UNHRO secretariat to supervise and follow up on research work. Guidelines and standards are out-dated in some areas.

2.4 Funding for research:

Research undertaken has largely been donor funded and donor driven with minimal involvement of local institutions and as such may not be well contextualised. Global health initiatives have supported research work in the country although this has been restricted to benefiting programmes. Government funding for health research is inadequate beyond payment of wages and logistics for the research institutions. There is no systematic framework for resource mobilisation to undertake research at national, regional including regional referral hospitals and district levels. Although the Algiers declaration on health researchers urged member states to allocate at least 2% of their national health expenditure on research, this is yet to be realised in the case of Uganda.

2.5 Sharing and translation of research:

There are duplications in research in some instances and this has been a result of lack of information sharing and a central repository for research in the country. Registration and follow up of completed, on-going and planned research is partially undertaken. Research is meant to provide solutions to identified challenges thus the importance of informing health policy development and programme implementation. This has been hampered by poor dissemination, lack of platforms for engagement and minimal stakeholder dialogue. Community participation is weak and there is a de-link between research and policy development processes in several instances.

2.6 Capacity to undertake research:

The capacity for research is limited by both numbers and skills of researchers and infrastructure. The quality of research undertaken has varied with decentralised level practically conducting no research at all. Researchers typically face limited career paths and few opportunities for advancement. Low motivation packages discourage promising young researchers. The institutional infrastructure is old and out dated. The tools and facilities for research are inadequate and wanting. No systematic efforts have been made to improve capacity in areas of training and mentoring programmes and improving infrastructure for undertaking research.

2.7 Intellectual property rights:

Several research innovations have taken in place with minimal benefit to the local populations. New tools and interventions have been discovered in Uganda but the country has had to pay high cost to access them. Research capacity to develop quality products to be patented is weak. The current legal framework of Intellectual Property rights covers all kinds of innovations covered by several laws¹. ¹These laws are administered by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB). Collaboration with URSB is therefore vital.

3.0 Rationale

Health research needs to play a more significant role in guiding policy formulation and action to improve the health and development of the people in Uganda. Research is a process through which we attempt to systematically and with the support of data provide a solution to a problem and get greater understanding of a phenomenon. This clear understanding contributes to strengthening health systems, effectiveness and efficiency in health service delivery, and in the long increased productivity and socio economic development. This is in line with the pronounced aspiration of the NDP which stresses science and innovation as a fundamental tool for transforming society.

In the effort to improve the health of all Ugandans, the GoU will prioritize scientific opportunities on the basis of their potential impact to improve health, the readiness of the scientific community to accomplish them, and their alignment to the core values.

This policy establishes a mechanism for coordination and implementation of health research within the context of Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP), the NHP II and HSSIP 2010/11 – 2014/15.

This policy should guide ALL parties involved in health research in the country over the period 2012 - 2020.

4.0 Vision, mission, core values:

¹ These laws are: the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act 2006, the Patents Act Cap 216, the Patents (Amendment) Act 2002, the Trademarks Act No 17 of 2010, the United Kingdom's Designs (Protection) Act Cap 218, the Trade Secrets Protection Act 2009, and their implementing regulations.

4.1 Vision

A culture in which health policy and application is driven by research evidence to improve health and socioeconomic development for the people of Uganda.

4.2 Mission Statement

To provide stewardship and coordination for the conduct and application of quality health research in the country.

4.3 Core values

- **Integrity and honesty:** Undertaking research and its application will be done in a transparent and credible manner and avoiding plagiarisms.
- **Professionalism:** A high level of professionalism will be ensured in the conduct research and its application.
- **Community responsiveness:** Communities are the main beneficiaries of research products. Efforts to ensure that all research responds to the needs of the community.
- **Good ethical practices:** All research will subscribe to good ethical principles, respect the dignity of research subjects and ensure rational access to the benefits to research as much as possible.
- **Gender responsiveness:** Good research must be gender sensitive if it is to promote health and development of the people. The process of priority setting, developing research protocols and implementing the research process will be gender sensitive.
- **Equity in research:** Research will take consideration equity concerns within the population. Research needs of deprived populations and vulnerable groups will specifically be addressed.

5.0 Policy objectives and strategies:

The Policy Strategic Objectives are:

- 5.1 To strengthen leadership and governance systems in health research
- 5.2 To strengthen the conduct of health research management systems
- 5.3 To strengthen partnerships for health research and development
- 5.4 To strengthen health research information management and knowledge translation systems
- 5.5 To establish sustainable financial and human resources and management for health research
- 5.6 To promote Intellectual Properties Rights (IPRs)

Research governance and management systems

5.1 Strategic objective (SO) 1: To strengthen leadership and governance systems in health research

This will involve streamlining management roles and responsibilities, aligning and harmonizing health research plans and priorities as well as accessing research evidence to policy makers to improve decision making and health care.

The government under the leadership of UNHRO will ensure harmonisation, alignment and coordination of health research in the country. Health research requires collaboration between many different disciplines: biomedical, social and behavioural. Health being a multisectoral issue requires multidisciplinary efforts to identify possible solutions. The participation of all relevant disciplines and sectors in all processes from research priority setting, undertaking research and dissemination is essential. Inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral collaboration in research must start at the early stage of identifying the research question and must continue up to the dissemination of research findings.

This multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral approach will be pursued in all research processes and application of findings.

5.1.1: Strategic actions to strengthen governance and research management and systems

In order to achieve this, the government shall adopt the following Strategies (S):

S1: Streamline roles, functions, responsibilities and authority within UNHRO, UNCST and affiliated institutions

S2: Develop and implement a national health research plan and agenda with specific priority areas

S3: Develop management systems and tools to support governance and leadership.

S4: Develop skills for leadership management and technical support supervision

S5: Strengthen Advocacy

5.2 Strategic objective (SO) 2: To strengthen the conduct of research management systems

This will involve systematic ethical procedural guidelines, best practices, conducive environment and enhancing quality and harmonizing institutions and other stakeholders in health research.

Mechanisms will be made to ensure the highest possible ethical code of conduct and practise for health research in Uganda, including the safety and rights of research participants as well as the researchers.

5.2.1 Strategic Actions to improve health research conduct and management systems

In order to achieve this, the government under the leadership of UNHRO shall undertake the following Strategies (S):

- S1: Develop and mainstream an ethical code of conduct for health research
- S2: Develop and institutionalise systems and tools for the control and maintenance of good research practices
- S3: Develop an overarching framework for Monitoring and technical supervision of research at institutional, district and community levels
- S4: Develop and maintain mechanisms for quality assurance in research

Partnerships and Collaboration

5.3. Strategic objective SO3: To strengthen partnerships for research and development

This will involve coordinating stakeholders operations and practice, mobilizing resources and skills and focusing on optimizing relationship with partners including communities and NGOs for mutual benefits.

5.3.1 Strategies (S) to strengthen partnerships and collaboration

In order to achieve these, the following strategic actions will be carried out:

- S1: Proactively engage existing and potential partnerships in national health agenda
- S2: Develop a framework for stakeholders cooperation and coherence at international, national, district including the community and NGOs.
- S3: Develop communication and information mechanisms to support collaboration and social mobilisation for research at all levels.

Information Management and Translation

5.4 Strategic objective (SO) 4: To strengthen health research information management and knowledge translation systems

This will be assured by steady exchange of information among the various stakeholders and translation of knowledge as a process and strategy for uptake of research evidence to improve health outcomes and interventions.

Efforts will be made to minimise duplication and fragmentation of research and ensure effective dissemination of research findings. Emphasis will be made to promote dialogue and sharing of information between researchers, policy makers, and communities and translation of research findings into policy.

Emphasis will also be given to how research can be used to guide the development and implementation of policy on health promotion, diseases prevention, preventive treatment and health service delivery under the HSSPIP III strategic plan.

5.4.1 Strategies to strengthen information management and knowledge translation

The following strategies will be carried out to achieve the above objective:

S1: Develop a system and database/ inventories for the collation, analysis, storage, archiving, retrieval of information

S2: Develop dissemination mechanisms, fora and communication networks for sharing of research findings

S3: Set-up a national knowledge translation platform for health research evidence and application.

S3: Train and build capacity of policy makers and researchers in access, synthesis and use of research evidence

Resources Management

5.5 Strategic objective SO 5: To establish sustainable financial and human resources and management for health research

This will involve working proactively with all stakeholders to facilitate mobilization of financial resources and exercise a high level of integrity, transparency and remain accountable in utilization of the resources. With regard to human resources, by developing strategies and setting targets for staff recruitment and retention enriched by basic and skills capacity building programs. Investment in infrastructure development will be carried out through construction, rehabilitation, and updating and modernization of logistics and equipment and embracing of the ICT.

Funding and other resources for research in the country irrespective of source must be harnessed and applied to the prioritised agenda as much as possible. Additional funds will be mobilised, allocated and monitored to ensure proper utilisation of financial resources for health research. Funding research activities outside the agenda must rationally subscribe to agreed criteria. Resources must be managed well.

5.5.1 Strategies for management of resources

In order to achieve the above the following strategic actions shall be undertaken:

S1: Develop and implement financial plan for mobilization, diversification of sources, rational utilization and accountability

S2: Develop and implement a human resource capacity building plan including programs for mentoring, and motivation

S3: Mainstream health research training into medical training institutions and strengthen advanced training

S4: Invest in infrastructure through phased rehabilitation and modernisation, procurement of logistics and equipment and ICT

5.6 Strategic objective (SO) 6: To promote Intellectual Properties Rights (IPRs)

To promote the protection of IPRs UNHRO in collaboration with UNCST and relevant agencies work to promote intellectual properties rights for innovations generated locally.

5.6.1 Strategies to promote Intellectual Properties Rights (IPRs)

To achieve this UNHRO shall:

S1: Strengthen the development of innovations relating to new tools and products

S2: Work in collaboration with UNCST to support researchers in the protection and promotion of IPR and patenting.

6.0 Communication and dissemination

Appropriate Communication is vital for information sharing and dissemination of findings. A framework for modernizing and strengthening communication at all levels will be developed and implemented.

7.0 Implementation arrangements

The Government through the ministry of Health and UNHRO will be responsible for overall coordination and guidance of health research in the country. UNHRO will itself be guided by the National Development Policy, the National Health Policy, the HSSIP and other macro development policies of the country. It will work in liaison with universities, other research institutions, and other regulatory bodies, professional associations, in collaboration with the UNCST. At the district

level, research will be coordinated and monitored by the DHO, who will be guided by this policy as well as other national policies.

A strategic plan will be developed for implementation of this policy. Persons and researchers duly authorised and acting on behalf of the Organisation shall not be liable for any act done or omitted to be done by him or her in good faith for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act (Art 32).

UNHRO Board will appoint a National Review Committee to oversee the operations of IRCs. The UNHRO Board will approve IRCs and District Institutional Review Committees in consultation with the UNCST. This policy will guide ALL health research activities for the period 2012 – 2022.

8.0 Monitoring and evaluation

Each research institution should have in-built mechanisms for continuous monitoring of the research development, identifying and addressing unethical research, research plagiarism and mechanisms for redress. UNHRO will develop an instrument to be used in the monitoring process. There will be periodic evaluation of the national research development by external evaluators. The result of the evaluation will assist in guiding national health research development in the country.

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- 5.1 To provide stewardship and governance for the coordination of health research in the country
- 5.2 To set the essential national health research priorities
- 5.3 To attain the highest possible level of ethical conduct in health research
- 5.4 To mobilise funds for research sustenance
- 5.5 To promote dialogue and sharing of information between researchers, policy makers, and communities and translation of research findings into policy
- 5.6 To build capacity to undertake research including human resource and infrastructure development
- 5.7 To promote Intellectual Properties Rights (IPRs)
- 5.8 To ensure adequate monitoring of all research activities

5.1 To provide stewardship and governance for coordination of health research:

The government under the leadership of UNHRO will ensure harmonisation, alignment and coordination of health research in the country. Health research requires collaboration between many different disciplines: biomedical, social and behavioural. Health being a multisectoral issue requires multidisciplinary efforts to identify possible solutions. The participation of all relevant disciplines and sectors in all processes from research priority setting, undertaking research and dissemination is essential. Inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral collaboration in research must start at the early stage of identifying the research question and must continue up to the dissemination of research findings.

This multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral approach will be pursued in all research processes and application of findings.

5.1.1 Strategies to provide stewardship and governance for coordination

In order to achieve this, the government shall adopt the following strategies:

- 5.1.1.1 Develop a strategic plan to operationalize the UNHRO Act 2009.
- 5.1.1.2 To strengthen the UNHRO Board, its secretariat and its institutions for implementation of the UNHRO mandates.
- 5.1.1.3 Develop and update guidelines and standards for health research in the country
- 5.1.1.4 Establish platforms for consultation, stakeholder engagement and community participation in research processes and application of research findings.
- 5.1.1.5 Establish partnerships within and outside the country as deemed appropriate to implementing the research agenda.
- 5.1.1.6 Establish a framework for multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral collaboration in research and its application in Uganda.

5.1.1.7 Work closely with related institutions in line with the mandates as provided in the statutes of these institutions.

5.1.1.8 Strengthen the District Health Officers role in coordinating health research in the district.

5.1.1.9 Ensure that research in Uganda reflect attention to the various gender dimensions of research

5.2 To set national research priorities:

Efforts will be made to ensure that prioritised research needs are identified addressing information gaps for effective Planning and delivery of health interventions at all levels. Each district is to develop its own research agenda within the national framework of research priorities. All research originating from outside the district should be discussed by the district from its inception to the dissemination and utilization of the research findings.

5.2.1 Strategies to set national research priorities

In order to achieve this, government under the leadership of UNHRO, shall:

5.2.1.1 Develop and regularly update an inventory of all institutions involved in health research in the country

5.2.1.2 Develop and implement a prioritised national health research agenda in a consultative manner.

5.2.1.3 Establish a mechanism to monitor implementation of the prioritised research agenda

5.2.1.4 Promote research into traditional medicine and practices and their conservation

5.2.1.5 Strengthen the districts capacity to develop and monitor implementation of their own research agenda within the national framework of research priorities.

5.3 To attain the highest possible level of ethical conduct in health research

Mechanisms will made to ensure the highest possible ethical code of conduct and practise for health research in Uganda, including the safety and rights of research participants as well as the researchers.

5.3.1 Strategies to attain the highest possible level of ethical conduct in health research

In order to achieve this, the government under the leadership of UNHRO shall:

5.3.1.1 Develop and enforce guidelines for approval of health research

5.3.1.2 Develop an ethical code of conduct for health research in Uganda,

5.3.1.3 Establish IRC's, approved by the UNHRO Board, in all institution where health research is conducted.

5.3.1.4 Appoint a National Review Committee to oversee ethical issues including safety of researchers and research subjects.

5.3.1.5 Strengthen UNHRO secretariat to undertake its functions in line with the UNHRO Act 2009.

5.3.1.6 The District Health Officer in collaboration with UNHRO will monitor all research in progress in the district in accordance with the national guidelines.

5.3.1.7 Promote responsible conduct of research in the country

5.4 To mobilise funds for research:

Funding for research in the country irrespective of source must be harnessed and applied to the prioritised agenda as much as possible. Additional funds will be mobilised, allocated and monitored to ensure proper utilisation of financial resources for health research. Funding research activities outside the agenda must rationally subscribe to agreed criteria.

5.4.1 Strategies to mobilise funds for research

In order to achieve this, Government shall:

5.4.1.1 Increase it's spending on health research in line with the Algiers Declaration which stipulated that at least 2% of national health expenditure should be on health research.

5.4.1.2 Develop a framework for mobilising research funds and their effective and efficient utilisation under the leadership of UNHRO

5.4.1.3 Harness development partners' and government funds to successfully implement the national health research agenda.

5.4.1.4 Develop criteria in a consultative manner to guide funding research activities outside the prioritised research agenda.

5.4.1.5 Support the efforts of UNHRO and health research institutions in Uganda to solicit funds from other sources including individuals, the private sector and Development Partners.

5.4.1.6 Optimise prudent utilisation of resources.

5.5 To promote Sharing and translation of research:

Efforts will be made to minimise duplication and fragmentation of research and ensure effective dissemination of research findings. Emphasis will be made to promote dialogue and sharing of information between researchers, policy makers, and communities and translation of research findings into policy.

Emphasis will also be given to how research can be used to guide the development and implementation of policy on health promotion, diseases prevention, preventive treatment and health service delivery under the HSSPIP III strategic plan.

5.5.1 Strategies to promote sharing and translation of research

In order to achieve this, Government, under the leadership of UNHRO shall:

5.5.1.1 Develop and regularly update an inventory of health research

5.5.1.2 Put in place dissemination mechanisms, fora and communication networks for sharing of research findings

5.5.1.3 Build capacity of policy makers and researchers in dissemination and application of research findings

5.6 To build capacity to undertake research:

To develop and sustain health research capacity at the national, district and health sub-district levels capacity building will be required in key areas. Research capacity includes human resource, financial resource and the research environment. Training in research should be part of the curriculum in Health training institutions

Efforts will be made to ensure increased numbers of researchers in the countries and skills improvement where gaps are identified. Required logistics and infrastructure investments will be made to enhance the capacity of the country undertake laboratory based research.

5.6.1 Strategies to build capacity to undertake research:

In order to achieve this, the government under the leadership of UNHRO shall:

5.6.1.1 Undertake capacity assessment of all available research institutions in the country

5.6.1.2 Strengthen national and institutional research systems

5.6.1.3 Develop and support a capacity building plan addressing identified gaps

5.6.1.4 Develop and implement mentoring programmes to enhance skills of researchers including those in complementary medicine

5.6.1.5 In collaboration with institutions of higher learning, train health workers at central and district level in the development of research proposals and principles of conducting research.

5.6.1.6 Harness community involvement in health research

5.6.1.7 Develop and implement motivation schemes to improve attraction and retention of researchers

5.6.1.8 Engage health training institutions to incorporate research training in the pre-service curriculum.

5.7 To promote Intellectual Properties Rights (IPRs)

To promote the protection of IPRs UNHRO in collaboration with UNCST and relevant agencies work to promote intellectual properties rights for innovations generated locally.

5.7.1 Strategies to promote Intellectual Properties Rights (IPRs)

To achieve this UNHRO shall:

5.7.1.1 Promote development of innovations relating to new tools and products

5.7.1.2 Work in collaboration with UNCST to support researchers in the protection and promotion of IPR and patenting.

6.0 Communication and dissemination

Appropriate Communication is vital for information sharing and dissemination of findings. A framework for modernizing and strengthening communication at all levels will be developed and implemented.

7.0 Implementation arrangements

The Government through the ministry of Health and UNHRO will be responsible for overall coordination and guidance of health research in the country. UNHRO will itself be guided by the National Development Policy, the National Health Policy, the HSSIP and other macro development policies of the country. It will work in liaison with universities, other research institutions, and other regulatory bodies, professional associations, in collaboration with the UNCST. At the district level, research will be coordinated and monitored by the DHO, who will be guided by this policy as well as other national policies.

A strategic plan will be developed for implementation of this policy. Persons and researchers duly authorised and acting on behalf of the Organisation shall not be liable for any act done or omitted to be done by him or her in good faith for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act (Art 32).

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8.0 Monitoring and evaluation

Each research institution should have in-built mechanisms for continuous monitoring of the research development, identifying and addressing unethical research, research plagiarism and mechanisms for redress. UNHRO will develop an instrument to be used in the monitoring process. There will be periodic evaluation of the national research development by external evaluators. The result of the evaluation will assist in guiding national health research development in the country.

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11. The EAC Health Research Commission: Protocol for the coordination of health research as well for the translation of research findings into policy and practice within the partner States, Arusha 2008.

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