



SDGs: Role of Health Policy Research Institutions

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Why Research?

Research is a solution to a problem:

- ▶ Community-responsive research
- ▶ Setting priorities
- ▶ Creating knowledge
- ▶ Evidence-informed public policies and strengthening service delivery
- ▶ Developing new tools, technologies and interventions
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation
- ▶ Sustained socioeconomic transformation

Context for health research

National

- ▶ NDP (2015-2020) promotes science, technology and innovation
- ▶ The current NHP II – ‘NHP Implementation shall be evidence-based’
- ▶ HS Development Plan (2015-2020) – ‘health information, research and evidence generation’
- ▶ UNHRO Act, 2011- established a semi-autonomous regulatory institution for coordination, alignment and harmonisation of health research
- ▶ The Uganda NHRP (2012-2020)

Regional

- ▶ The protocol, the East African Health Research Commission (Sept, 2008)
- ▶ Abuja Declaration on health financing (2001) – 15% of national budgets on health
- ▶ AU Health Strategy (2016-2030) - ‘Evidence is the basis for sound public health policy and practice’
- ▶ Algiers Declaration on research for health (2008) - **2% national health budget and 5% ODA in health**

International

- ▶ The Ministerial Summit on Health Research Mexico (2004)
- ▶ The Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health
- ▶ SDGs 3 and 17: Support for research and development

Challenges:

- ▶ **Stewardship/ Research governance systems:**

Poor multisectoral and multidisciplinary coordination; platforms for stakeholder and community engagement for HR, collaboration of regulators – UNHRO, UNCST, NDA;

- ▶ **Setting research priorities:**

Lack of harmonization of the national HR agenda, not aligned to HS and policy priorities

- ▶ **Conduct of health research :**

Inadequate: ethical issues, lack of uniform/standard guidelines, weak enforcement of ethics standards, inadequate M/E

- ▶ **Partnerships and collaboration:**

More North-South than South-South; regional partnerships

- ▶ **Information management systems:** central inventories researchers/research/resources

- ▶ **Knowledge translation and evaluation**

- ▶ **Develop, harness and commercialize** innovations and products – IPR; mainstreaming of traditional medicine into contemporary practice,

- ▶ **Resources:** inadequate - infrastructure, IT, human resources and financing - 0.3% health sector budget on research

Health research regulation

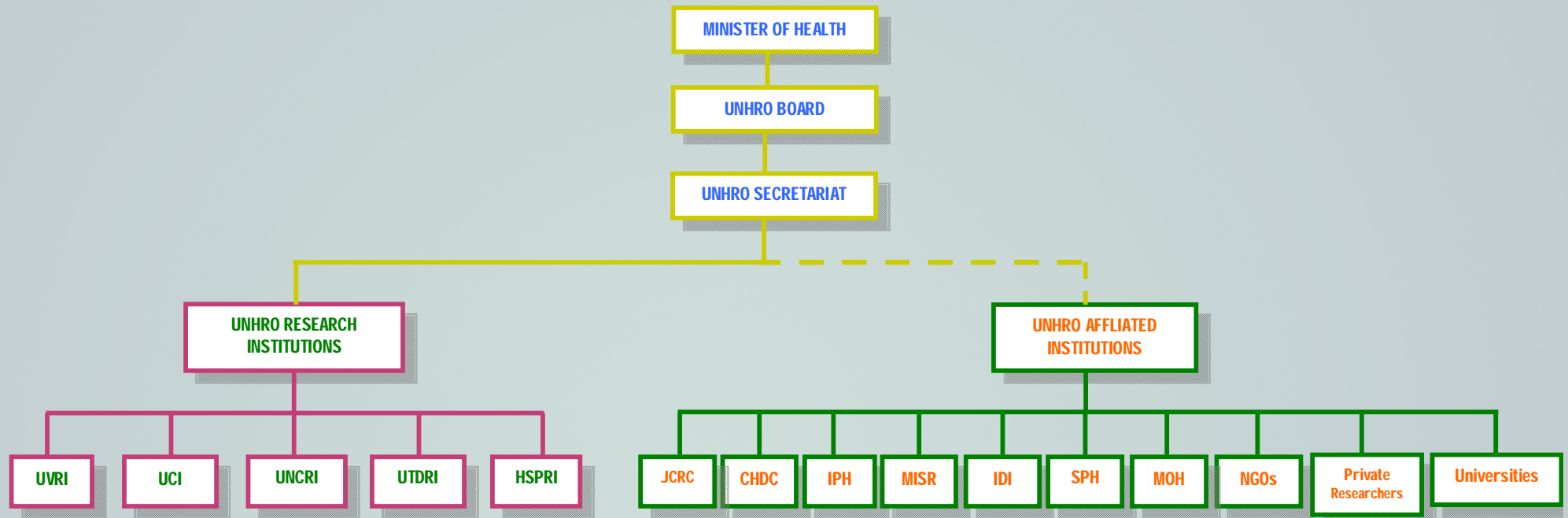
Vision:

- ▶ A culture that promotes research evidence in formulating health policy and its application for the improvement of health and socioeconomic development for the people of Uganda.

Mission:

- ▶ To create scientific knowledge for the application of evidence based health policies and interventions for the improvement of health care delivery and socioeconomic development for the people of Uganda.

UNHRO ORGANOGAM



Abbreviation Interpretations

UVRI	Uganda Virus Research Institute
UCI	Uganda Cancer Institute
UNCRI	Uganda Natural Chemotherapeutics Institute
UTDRI	Uganda Tropical Disease Research Institute
HSPRI	Health Systems & Policy, Public Health & Epid Research Institute

JCRC	Joint Clinical Research Centre
CHDC	Child Health & Development Centre
SPH	School of Public Health
MISR	Makerere Institute of Social Research
IDI	Infectious Diseases Institute
MOH	Ministry of Health
MUJU	Makerere University John Hopkins Institute

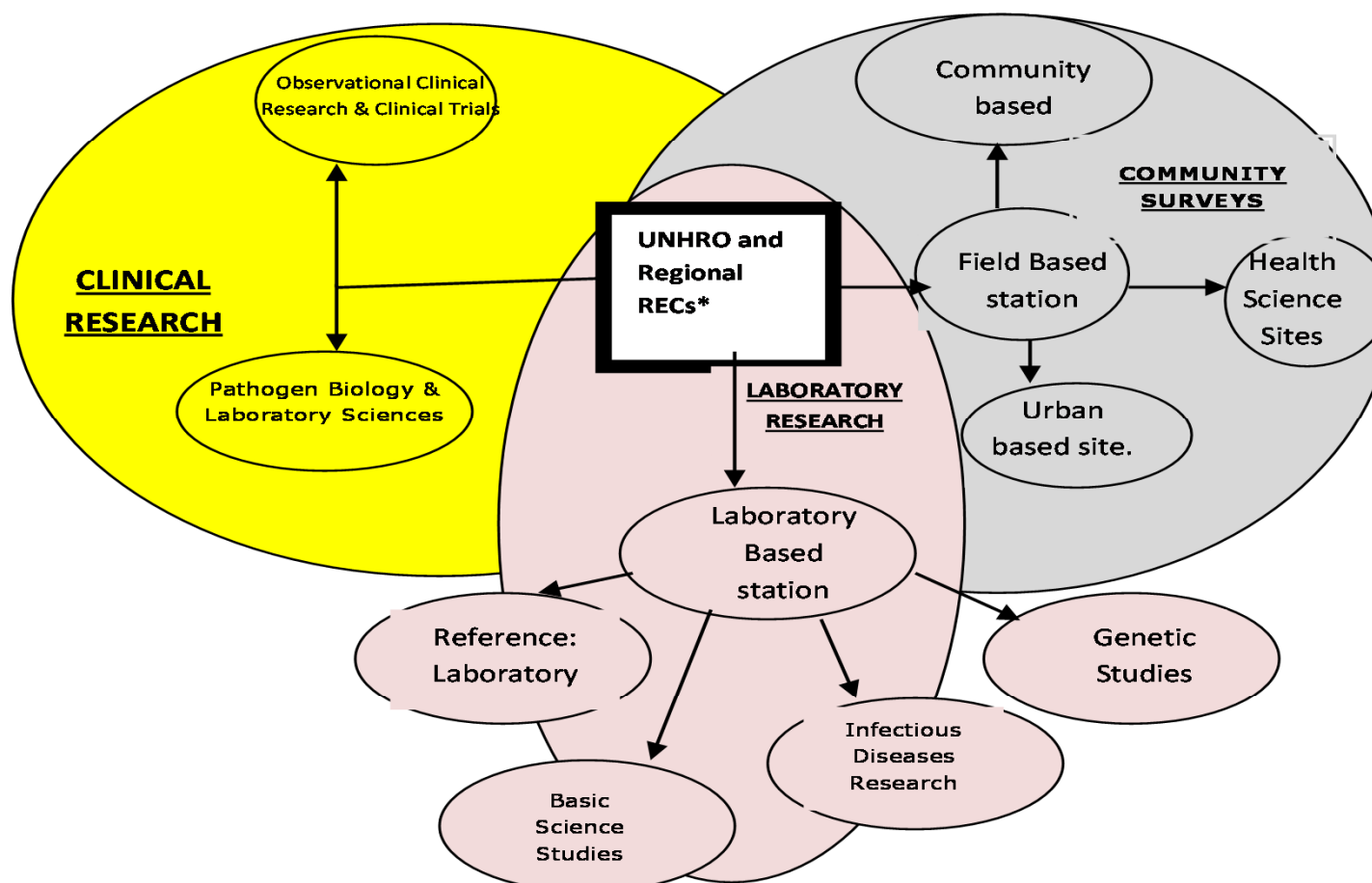
Summary of the scope and conduct of the UNHRO Research Strategy

Priority thematic areas:

**Observational
Clinical
Research &
Clinical Trials**

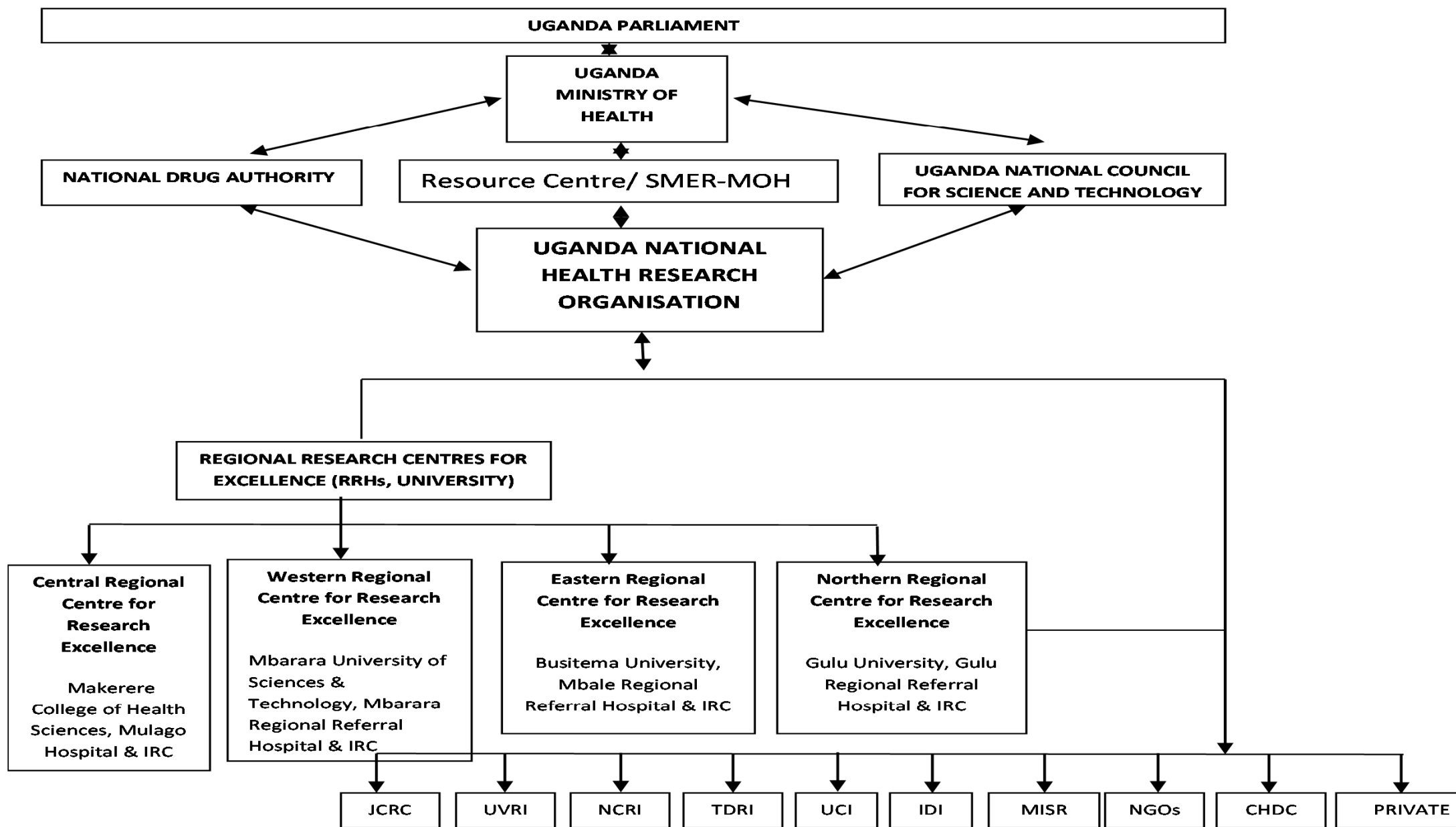
**Community
surveys**

**Laboratory
Research**



Note: *Yellow* = Observational clinical research and clinical trials; *Grey* = Community surveys research; *Purple* = Laboratory research; RECs* = Regional Research Excellence Centres

National Research capacity building Framework and coordination



Key: Sector Working Group/Ministry of Health, Monitoring Evaluation and Research - SMER

UNHRO Strategic objectives :

1. To strengthen **leadership and governance** in health research
2. To improve institutional **research management** systems
3. To promote **partnerships and collaboration** for research and development
4. To strengthen health research **information management and knowledge translation** systems
5. To establish sustainable **financial, human resources and logistical** systems
6. To develop and harness **innovations, technological products** for health care

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

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.

Mission: To create scientific knowledge for the application of evidence based health policies and interventions for the improvement of health care delivery and socioeconomic development for the people of Uganda.

Pillar 1 Health Research System	Pillar 2 Health Research Management	Pillar 3 Partnership and Collaboration	Pillar 4 Information Management Systems	Pillar 5 Resource Management	Pillar 6 Research Innovations: create knowledge
SO1: To strengthen leadership and governance in health research	SO2: To improve institutional research Management systems	SO3: To promote partnerships for research and development	SO4: To strengthen health research information management and knowledge translation	SO5: To establish sustainable financial, human resources and logistical system	SO6: To create knowledge to develop and harness innovations and products for health care care
<p>SA1: Streamline roles, functions, responsibilities and authority within UNHRO, UNCST and affiliated institutions</p> <p>SA2: Develop and implement a national health research agenda and plan with specific priorities</p> <p>SA3: Develop management systems and tools to support governance and leadership at national, regional and institution</p> <p>SA4: Develop skills for leadership and management and technical support supervision</p> <p>SA5: Strengthen transparency and advocacy</p>	<p>SA1: Develop and mainstream an ethical code of conduct for health research</p> <p>SA2: Develop an overarching framework for management, technical supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation of research at all levels</p> <p>SA3: Develop and maintain mechanisms for quality assurance in research.</p>	<p>SA1: Proactively engage existing and potential partnerships in national health agenda</p> <p>SA2: Develop communication and information exchange mechanisms to support collaboration at all levels</p> <p>SA3: Develop a framework for stakeholders cooperation and coherence at all levels</p>	<p>SA1: Develop a data management system for the collation, analysis, storage, archiving, and retrieval of information.</p> <p>SA2: Develop dissemination mechanisms, fora and communication networks for sharing of research findings</p> <p>SA3: Set-up a national knowledge translation platform for health research evidence and application.</p> <p>SA4: Train policy makers and researchers in access, synthesis and use of research evidence</p>	<p>SA1: Develop and implement financial plan</p> <p>SA2: Exercise prudence in deployment, use and accountability of financial resources</p> <p>SA3: Develop and implement a human resource capacity building plan</p> <p>SA4: Mainstream basic, specialised and advanced health research training across disciplines</p> <p>SA5: Invest in infrastructure through phased rehabilitation and modernisation, procurement of logistics and equipment</p>	<p>SA1: Harness and innovate locally appropriate technologies and tools tin in health care delivery systems</p> <p>SA2: Develop traditional and complementary medicine for application and integration into health care delivery</p> <p>SA3: Support the commercialisation of new tools, innovations, and technologies in health care including the protection of intellectual property rights and other incentives</p> <p>SA4: Enact appropriate enabling legislation on traditional and complementary medicine</p>

MDGs and SDGs: Some differences

► **Participation at all levels:**

The SDGs address ... critical elements ... with far stronger gender goals, people's participation and partnering of local government

► **Funding:**

The SDGs put sustainable, inclusive economic development at the core of the strategy, and address the ability of countries to address social challenges largely through improving their own revenue generating capabilities

MDGs and SDGs: Some differences

► Data, monitoring and accountability:

SDG 17.18

By 2020, enhance **capacity-building** support to **developing countries**, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, **to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location** and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

SDG 17.19

By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Funding for research remains grossly inadequate

► Multi-stakeholder partnerships:

SDG 17.16

Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

SDG 17.17

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Strengthening capacity for national and regional (ESA) health research

Research environment:

- ▶ Strengthen national ethics review frameworks
- ▶ Establish and strengthen national research regulatory frameworks
- ▶ Harmonize regulatory, ethics clearance systems, and QC/QA in the region (East Africa)
- ▶ Enhance resource mobilisation, sharing, and utilisation, expertise, training, centres of excellence, information systems
- ▶ Strengthen national and regional frameworks on intellectual property rights, copyrights, patents, etc.

Strengthening capacity for regional (ESA) health research

Knowledge management:

- ▶ Web portal: The East African comprehensive compendium of health information
- ▶ Journal: The East African Health Research Journal (EAHRJ): print and electronic versions
- ▶ Biennial Conference: East African Health & Scientific conference, international Exhibition, and Trade fair
- ▶ Database on key health indicators
- ▶ Platform for translation of research findings for policy and practice – **REACH Policy Initiative**



UNHRO

**Uganda National Health
Research Organisation**
