

Education And Debate

Coordinating health research to promote action: the Tanzanian experience

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Developing countries carry 90% of the global burden of disease. Infections such as malaria and HIV are debilitating their economies by killing the young and economically productive workforce. Research is essential for health development, yet less than 10% of the annual global expenditure on health research is allocated to addressing developing countries' problems.¹ Poor countries must face this challenge seriously. It is essential that they create strong national research infrastructures so that they can define priorities for health research priorities; influence national, regional, and global health agendas; and lobby for a more equitable allocation of resources. This paper discusses some of the barriers to establishing coordinated health research programmes in developing countries and describes how Tanzania has developed a new research model to try and overcome these.