Instructions:

Template to be completed by the **Staff member**.
Complete one set (up to 4 tables) per activity. The complete set for each activity should not exceed two pages. Use the tables in the template provided below. If you need to provide additional information, such as graphs, tables, reports, please do so as an attachment. The essential information, however, should be included in the summary.

Table 1: Activities Undertaken in 2010-2011. **Briefly** please describe main events and outputs (e.g. workshop, publication with indicators [metrics and/or qualitative] showing the trend in activity). Describe the main outcome/impact of the activity.

Table 2: Activities Planned for 2012-2013. Provide a **brief** description of main activities planned and the intended outcome/impact of undertaking those activities.

Table 3: Future Developments. Indicate the longer term objectives of your program and if appropriate include other key players. Indicate the challenges (dependencies and/or constraints) and opportunities to achieving the goals of your program.

Table 4: Key issues. List up to three issues, and for each indicate whether they are intended for ACHR/CAIS information, discussion, or decision..

The table below is provided to assist you in completing the information requested in the template that follows.

	PAHO Policy on Research for Health
	(a) Promote the generation of relevant, ethical, and high quality research
	(b) Strengthen research governance and promote the definition of research agendas
	(c)Improve competencies and support for human resources involved in research
	(d) Seek efficiencies, enhanced impact, and ownership of research
	(e) Foster best practices and enhanced standards
	(f) Promote dissemination of and utilization of findings

Quality

Activity: Partnerships
Policy Goal: Seek efficiencies and enhanced impact and appropriation of research through effective and strategic alliances, collaboration, and the building of public trust and engagement in research
Staff member: Eleana C Villanueva

In partnership with James Lind Library	Electronic website, Testing treatments 2nd edition	PAHO will oversee translation into Spanish and Portuguese.
In partnership with MacMaster	Bridge documents	PAHO will oversee translation into Spanish and Portuguese. As the SUPPORT TOOLS, series to be available in French as well.

Table 1. Headline Activities Undertaken in 2011-2012

3.1 PASB will strengthen its capacity to understand systematic reviews of the literature, use scientific evidence and address uncertainties in the face of insufficient research evidence to develop and deliver technical cooperation.

Events/Outputs	Outcomes/Impacts	Comments/Additional Information
On-going collaboration with COHRED seeking to integrate research registries in ICTRP and HRWeb	Preparing to provide a single entry point for health systems governance that allows gathering information about clinical trials and others sources of information (http://www.healthresearchweb.org/en/americas/projects)	Integration requires collaboration between COHRED, ICTRP and other potential partners (BIREME/Cochrane, PROSPERO). Funding would need to be mobilized for this project
Health Systems Evidence integrated into BIREME's virtual health libraries (http://bireme.br)	Paperwork nearly completed, will allow consulting health systems evidence from the Evidence Portal increasing the visibility and access of this database specialized in health systems research and evidence for policies for health.	The agreement is included as an annex to the MoU that PAHO and McMaster have that will be extended
PROSPERO database of systematic reviews.	Access to an organized collection of registered protocols and completed systematic reviews. Many relevant SRs for evidence to policy are indexed in Health Systems Evidence and the Cochrane Library, both accessible to most of the region.	We have been following this closely and staying in contact as it grows, to promote it and determine how it will integrate with Cochrane's Database –to which PAHO already offers access through BIREME to most countries in the Americas.

3.2 PASB will work with Member States and partners to enrich the health sciences curricula and improve competencies in research, monitoring and evaluation

Events/Outputs	Outcomes/Impacts	Comments/Additional Information
Technical areas have worked on prioritization.	A novel exercise was done to move from priorities to specific research questions of importance to achieve MDG 5. This included identifying open questions from systematic reviews and working with experts to prioritise those most likely to impact on achieving MDG 5: the findings and methods are in publication stage.	Chapman E, Reveiz L, Chambliss A, Sangalang S, Bonfill X. **Cochrane systematic reviews are useful to map research gaps for decreasing maternal mortality**. Journal of Clinical Epidemiology - (2012) – Accepted, embargoed. Chapman E, Reveiz L, Sangalang S, Manu C, Bonfill X, Muñoz S. **Global research priorities for decreasing maternal mortality: an international Delphi-like study**. In editorial review.
Priorities set up by Member States mapped and organized	http://www.healthresearchweb.org/en/national_priorities_for_health_research The Latin American Conferences on Research and Innovation for Health have been an occasion to update and expand this information and to revamp the commitment and engagement to keep the information up to date.	Reveiz L, Elias V. Comparing national health research priorities setting methods and characteristics in Latin America and the Caribbean

	Key elements highlighted in Health in the Americas 2012	countries. Editorial review. Alger J, Becerra-Posada F, Kennedy A, Martinelli E, Cuervo
Mandates and policies scanned to identify priority topics and areas for research	In preparation for the development of the strategy on research for health, PAHO staff scanned mandates to identify research related topics.	
Response to technical cooperation on priority areas requested by sub-regional and country offices	Contributions to the expert working group on Chronic Renal Disease of Unknown origin as per request from ELS and other countries in Central America. COMISCA, PAHO, COHRED and other agencies discuss proposals to implement PAHO's Policy with a regional approach for Central America and Dominican Republic http://www.sicasalud.net/node/612 and address priority areas	

3.3. Engage in capacity building activities that help health professionals understand the process of knowledge translation, incorporate best practices and standard in research, improve research reporting and use research results in practice and policies.

Events/Outputs	Outcomes/Impacts	Comments/Additional Information
Identification of research needs in EVIPNet Americas country teams	Funding remains an issue. Research needs have been identified in the development of evidence summaries for policy.	See report of EVIPNet by Evelina Chapman in the Annexes section.
Re-establishing the grants programme.	Grants programme stays closed. Funding agencies approached and work needs to be done with PAHO's External Relations and Partnerships office. Applications (2) to the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union were turned down. Information about grants applications regularly disseminated on different media.	Bringing partners to the table to fund research proposals requires building the support from internal and external partners, and dedicated coordination. A grants program generates incentives for research in priority areas.
Cochrane – PAHO award for systematic reviews relevant to public health, equity, and health systems research	The prize was last awarded in 2011; a new call will be issued for 2013.	
Work with strategic partners to promote grants in key topics, and partnerships to advance research	Participation in the advisory board of EU-LAC Health, a project sponsored by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union to promote the development of partnerships and research between Europe and LatinAmerica. Scoping meeting held in Rio de Janeiro (2012) with support from FioCruz. PAHO supported a successful application by the Universidad de Barcelona to Erasmus Mundus to establish a research network on reducing perinatal mortality. The project is beginning now and links are being proposed with EU-LAC Health. The NIH-NCI/Ministry of Health of Colombia workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean aimed to promote successful application to NIH grants for researchers from Latin America, including some working on priority topics such as renal disease	
TDR supports research in LAC through a focal point coordinating research activities	Supports research proposals on neglected tropical diseases, capacity building including EPPES training	Integration into research management coordination.

3.4 PASB will help Member States address, through appropriate research and development of strategic incentives, the factors that determine migration and alienation of researchers, and promote the development, retention, and thriving of productive research groups and networks.

Events/Outputs	Outcomes/Impacts	Comments/Additional Information
		Same references as 1.2 on research priorities and EVIPNet report.

Quality

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Table 3. Future Developments

Objectives	Challenges/Opportunities	Comments/Additional Information
Update and enhance indicators of scientific production and capacities: agreements and work plans with BIREME, RICyT	RICyT and BIREME have capacities and experience; need to harmonize standards for assessment	May require MoU's and LoA's including resource mobilization to set up adequate sustainable monitoring and evaluation systems.
Develop a network of research institutions and partnerships to promote health systems research		Securing resources to participate and network at the events where these debates and networking takes place.
Developing a cadre of MPHs from the region with skills to advance key elements of PAHO's Policy on Resarch for Health	Develop a network of MPH programs in the region where knowledge translation strategies promoted by PAHO, and standards become integral to the training programs.	Preliminary conversations have resulted in several universities expressing interest; one has already submitted a draft of terms of reference for a MoU. These universities participate in EVIPNet, offering a lab to practice.
Monitoring of standards of research publications	Bireme, Pan American Journal of Public Health, PAHO promote and monitor adherence to standards as agreed with VHLs/LILACS/SCIELO.	Key to Engagement of leaders from the region in influential committees monitoring and implementing research publication standards
Raise the standards of ethical review in the region	Use existing maps and agreements to work with ethics review networks and committees in raising the standards of review, and establishing accreditation processes where needed.	Limited evidence (assessment from proposals submitted to PAHO with approval of local (and sponsors) ethic review committees) suggests that the standards for ethical review vary significantly and needs to be raised.
3rd Global Symposium o health systems research	Seek a substantial participation from the region	

Table 4. Key Issues

	Indicate if information is provided for Information, Discussion or Decision
1. Integration of platforms and databases	How to better integrate existing and developing databases providing access to key information about national health research systems, and evidence for policies for health.
2. How to better use influence and existing resources to engage funding agencies and research sponsors in addressing regional and country priorities? Is it possible (and how) to achieve harmonization and collaboration given the different agendas and needs of development agencies and donors?	
3. What options should be considered in promoting research governance and coordination at PAHO? Does the location of the coordinating entities matter? What outputs add value to managers and leaders in organizations promoting adherence and supporting research management and coordination?	
4. What contributions are more likely to enhance influence and promote engagement in defining research agendas and standards for quality research?	In the face of cuts, how can we better position the organization to lead and influence the research and research strengthening agendas.
5. What approaches may work better to engage key partners in raising the standards of research ethics (including methodology) reviews in LAC?	3 WHO-CCs in the region offering training but accreditation needs to be complemented with monitoring and evaluation to assess change, and with the database of ethics review committees to ensure adequate coverage.

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