SEAMEO CENTRES POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK (CPRN) SUMMIT 2025

Building Bridges to a Sustainable Future: Inclusive Collaboration and Innovation in Education, Science, and Culture

ACCELERATING THE HEALTH POLICY AND SYSTEMS RESEARCH (HPSR) CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

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Reflection: COVID-19 and its effect on a country's health system

What is HPSR?

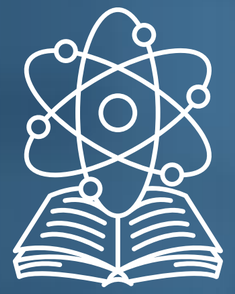
HPSR seeks to understand and improve how societies organize themselves in achieving collective health goals and how different actors interact in the policy and implementation process to contribute to policy outcomes

- **Gilson (ed.), 2012**

A simplified definition: HPSR is a field of study that considers how health systems are organised, financed and governed (i.e. the ‘building blocks’), and for what purpose (i.e. health, equity, value, outcomes); who drives these processes and how do they manifest [actors]; and what institutional, social and political factors make health systems as they are [power/context].

HPSR Approaches

Application of systems thinking



Use of theory and framework

Encourage mixed-methods study design

Developing Strategy for Research Uptake

HPSR Capacity Development

General Objective:

To accelerate the expansion of HPSR capacity in Malaysia, and in Western Pacific Region, to support health system strengthening

Specific objectives

1. To map and assess existing HPSR capacity.
2. To identify gaps, opportunities and priorities in HPSR and identifies the audiences to which the training package should be tailored.
3. To apply an innovative conceptual framework/ theory of change to track training outcomes and processes.

The Development Processes

Document reviews

- 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025
- Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- Malaysia Health System Research Report

Online survey

- Program officers
- Researcher officers
- Lecturers
- Health professionals

Stakeholder input and engagement

- Planning Division, MOH
- HPSR experts
- Relevant Health Programmes
- Health system activists
- NGOs
- Community leaders

Workshops and networking events

- Training for Trainers
- Health programmes & researchers
- States health officers & researchers
- Networking events

Study Findings

Document reviews

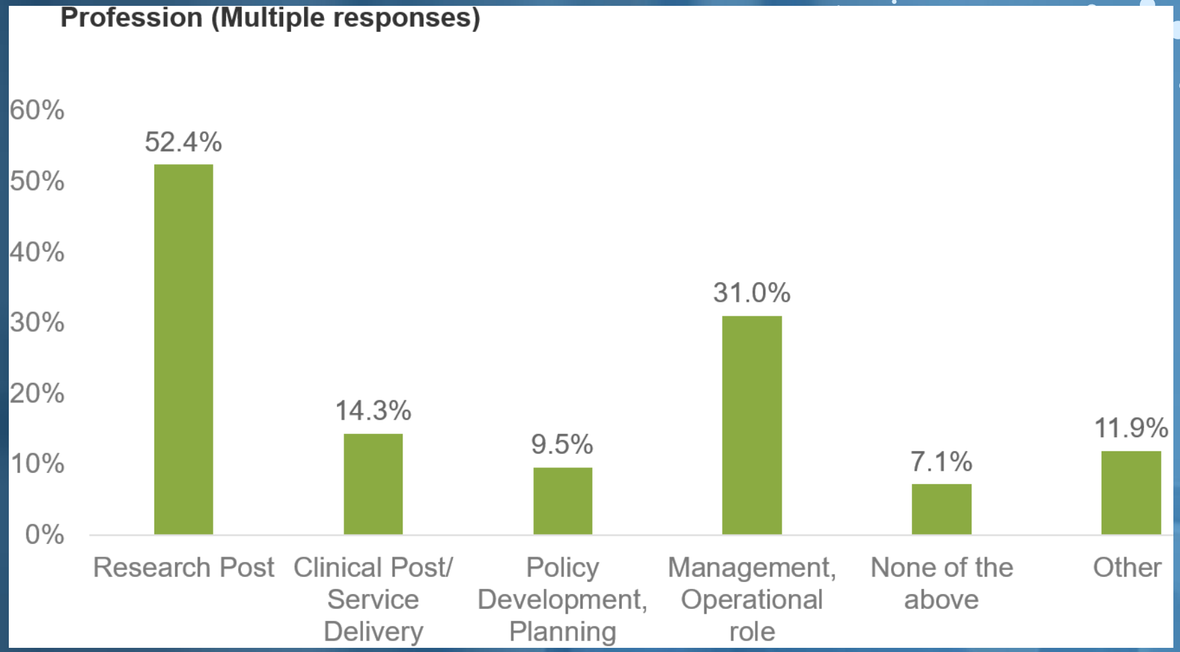
- 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025
- Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- Malaysia Health System Research Report

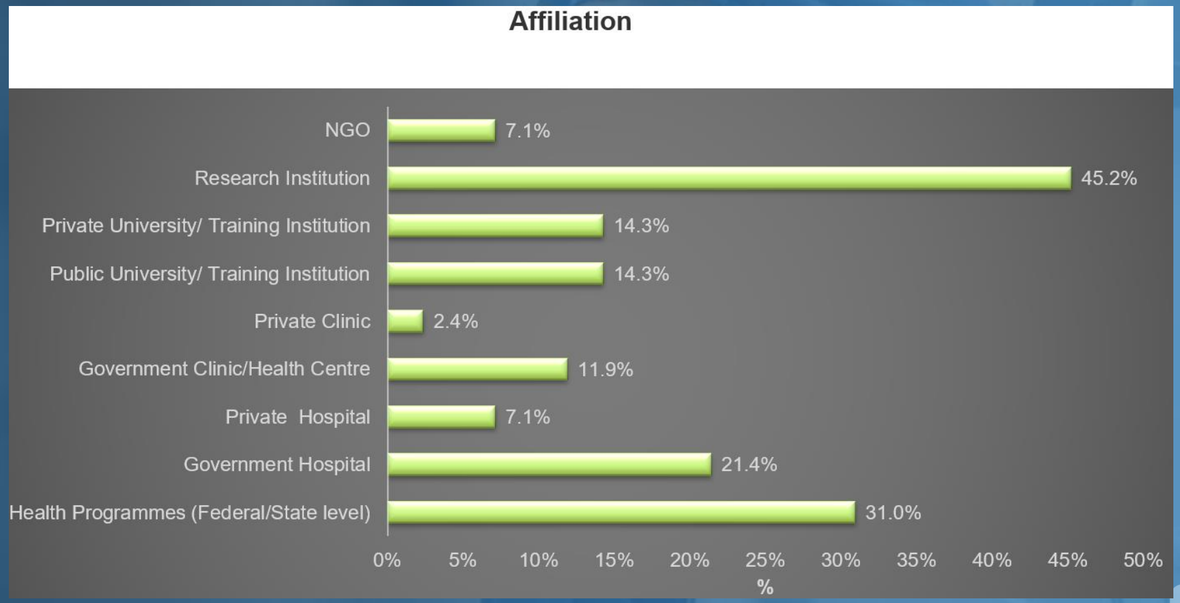
Identified strategies that could be adopted/adapted to accelerate capacity development

Study Findings

Online survey
N=157

Only 50.32% have HPSR training





*HPSR training (include Implementation Research, Health Systems Research, Health Policy Research, Quality Assurance, Knowledge Translation)

Study Findings

Stakeholder input and engagement

- Planning Division, MOH
- HPSR experts
- Relevant Health Programmes
- Health system activists
- NGOs
- Community leaders

Gaps & Challenges

Domain 1:
Availability of multiple sources in identifying research gaps in HPSR

- Health Research Priority Setting document
- Analysis of current health system and policy agendas
- Stakeholders' perspective
- Input gathered through multisectoral collaboration

Domain 2:
Challenges in conducting HPSR

- Limited access to data
- Lack of resources and funding
- Lack of skills and experience in doing HPSR
- Lack of partnership and networking
- Difficulty in engaging with stakeholders and community

Domain 3:
Challenges in translating evidence to policy

- Barrier and gap between researchers and policymakers
- Demands continuous engagement with policymakers
- Communication gap

Study Findings

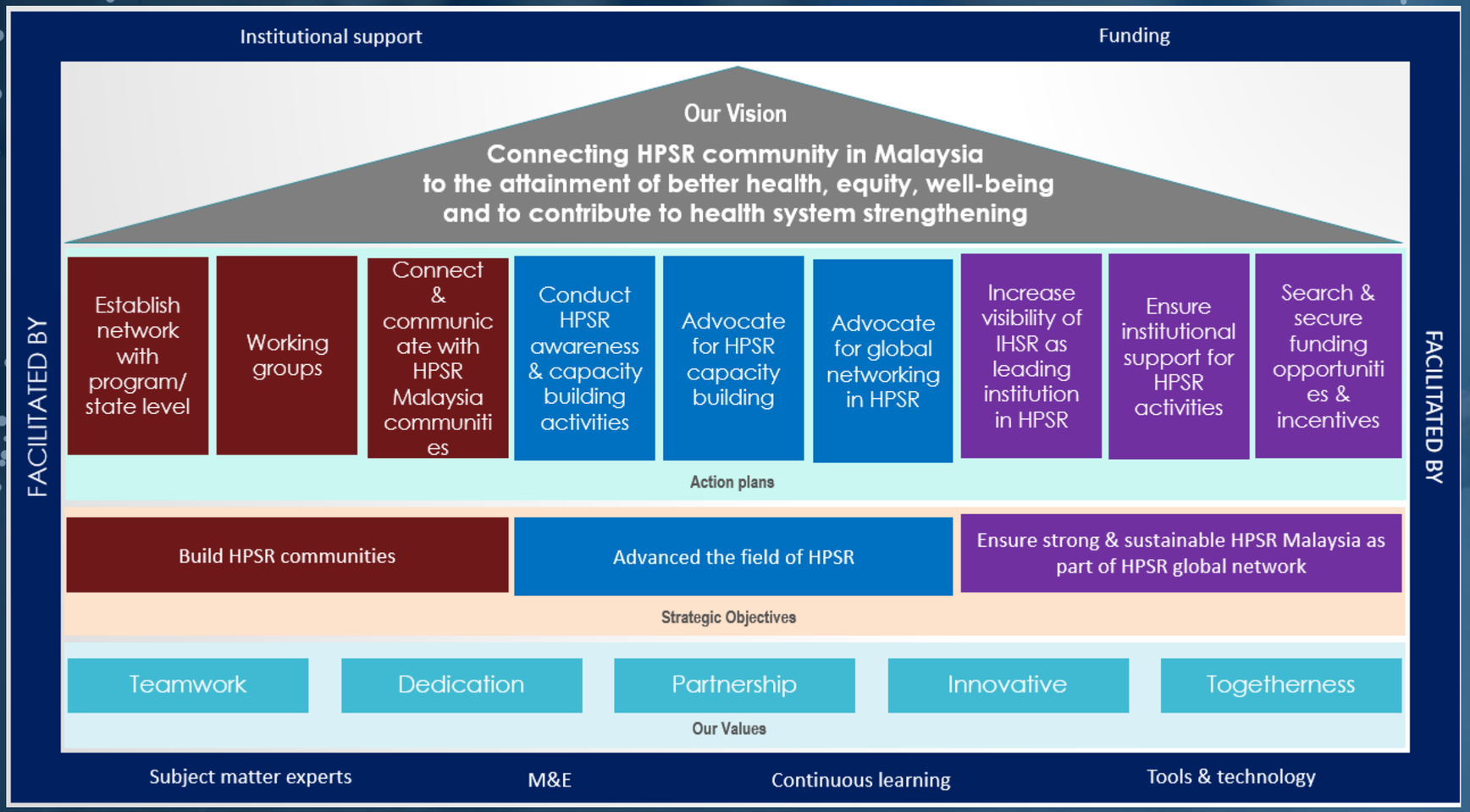
Stakeholder input and engagement

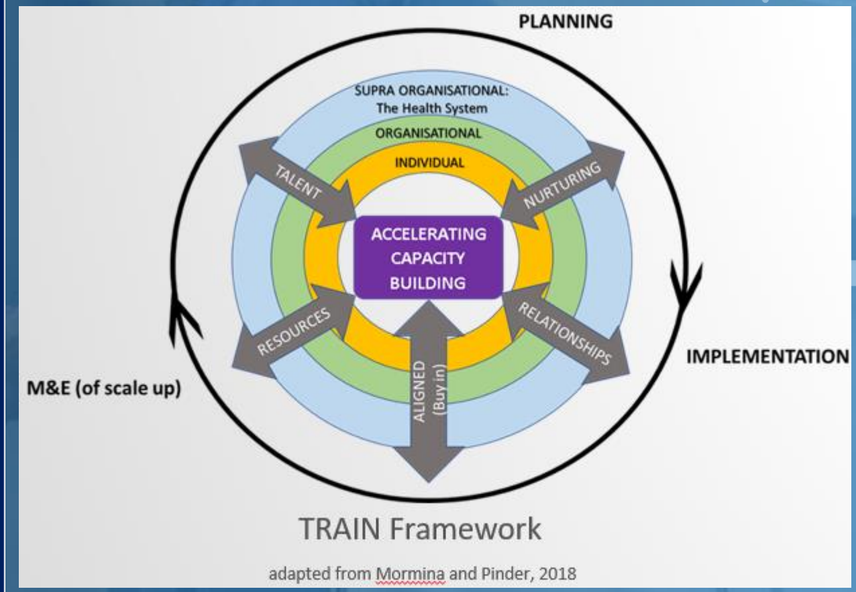
- Planning Division, MOH
- HPSR experts
- Relevant Health Programmes
- Health system activists
- NGOs
- Community leaders

Strategies

Establish network with program/ state level	Working groups	Connect & communicate with HPSR Malaysia communities
Conduct HPSR awareness & capacity building activities	Advocate for HPSR capacity building	Advocate for global networking in HPSR
Increase visibility of IHSR as leading institution in HPSR	Ensure institutional support for HPSR activities	Search & secure funding opportunities & incentives

Study Findings





TRAIN Framework

adapted from Mormina and Pinder, 2018

Study Findings

Workshops and networking events

- Training for Trainers
- Health programmes & researchers
- States health officers & researchers
- Networking events

From Action Plan to Practice: Year 1

March	April	May	July	Sept	Dec
• HPSR Awareness workshop for Pharmacy Programme	• HPSR Awareness workshop for Oral Health Programme	• Stakeholder engagement session	• HPSR: Evidence to inform policy making workshop	• NIH Scientific Conference: HPSR for Health Systems Strengthening	• HPSR Updates and Networking Session

Study Findings

Workshops and networking events

- Training for Trainers
- Health programmes & researchers
- States health officers & researchers
- Networking events

From Action Plan to Practice: Year 2

March

- HPSR Capacity Building workshop for Pharmacy & Oral Health Programme

April

- Intro to HPSR for UPM Dept of Community Health Postgraduate students

June

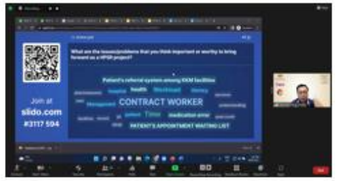
- Policy Development & Evaluation Workshop

June

- Systems Thinking & Horizon Scanning for Health & Development

June

- HPSR Awareness Workshop for Terengganu State Health Dept



July

- Knowledge Translation: Developing Effective Policy Communication

July

- Intro to HPSR for UM Master of Community Oral Health Postgraduate students

Sept

- HPSR Methodology Workshop for Terengganu State Health Dept Part 1

Oct

- HPSR Methodology Workshop for Terengganu State Health Dept Part 2

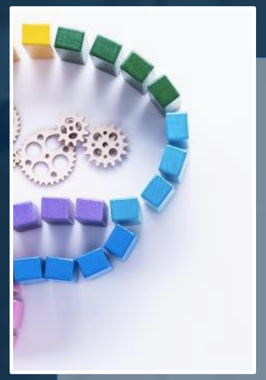
The Products

HPSR Strategic Plan

HPSR Training Module

HPSR Trainers Manual

Key Takeaways

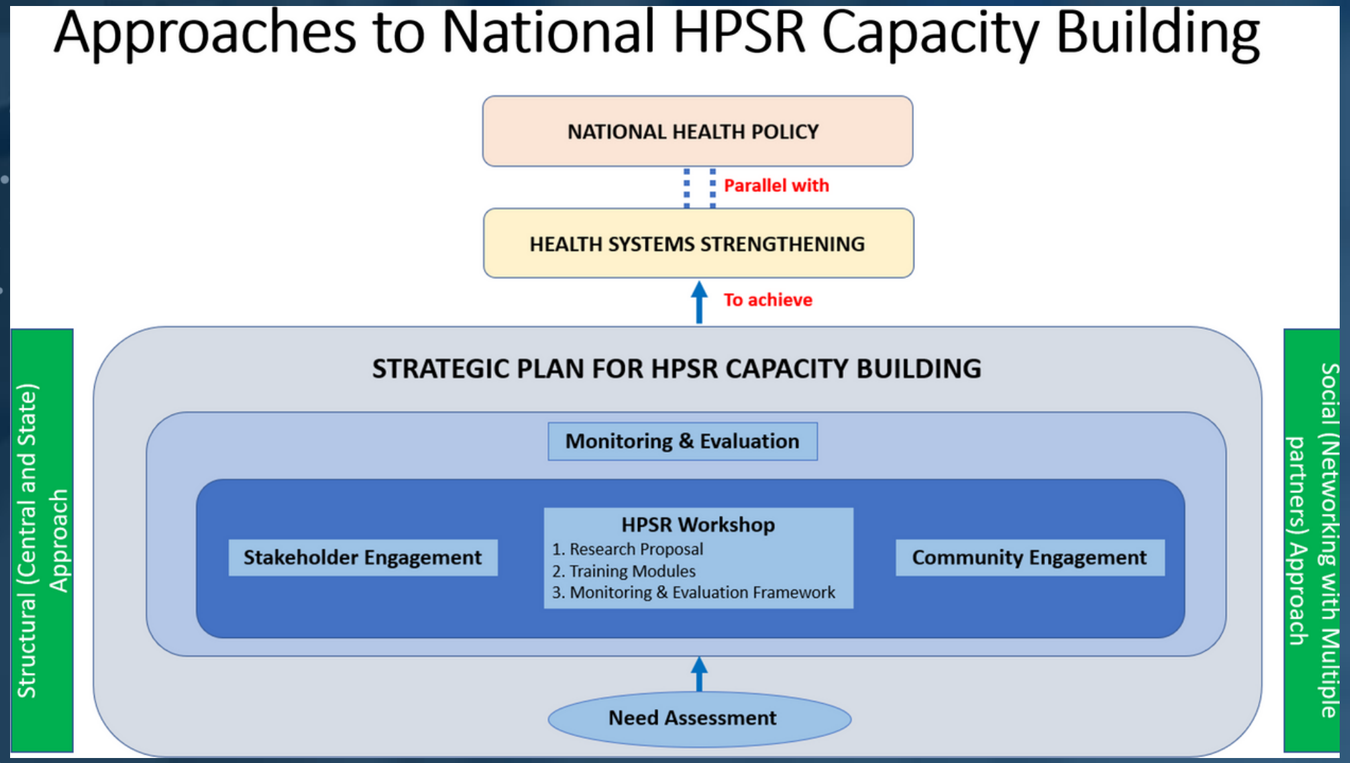


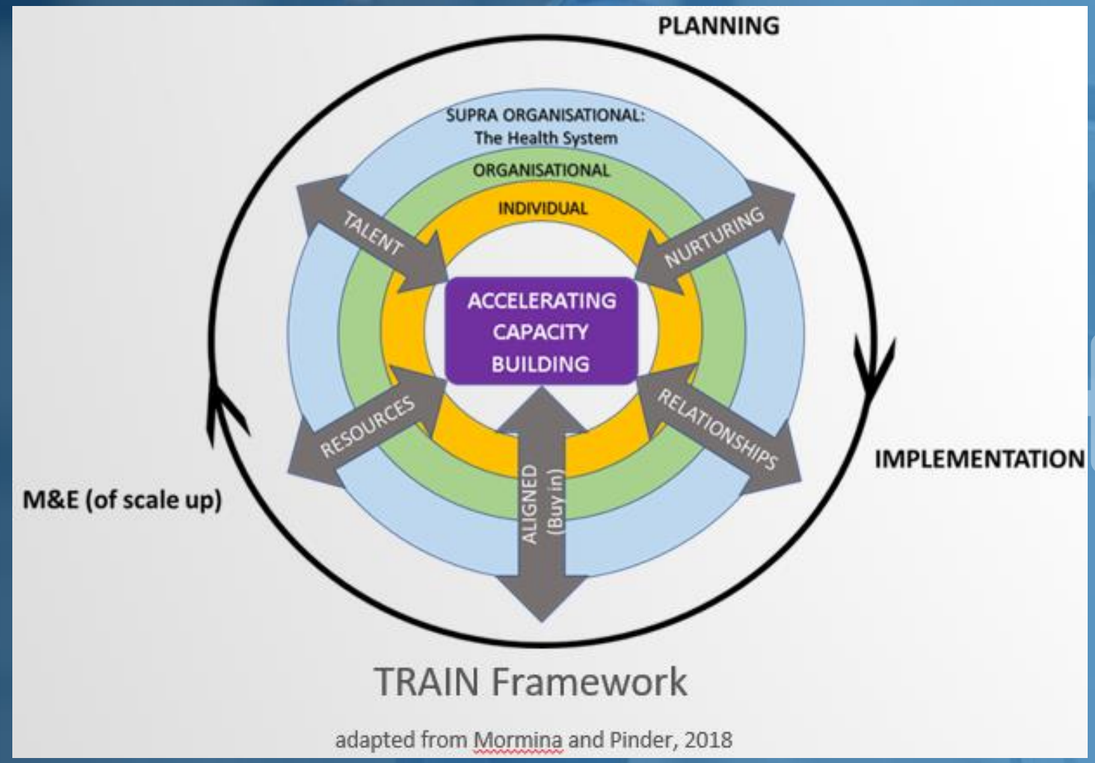
Governance & framework ensure controlled process and progress

Networking & collaboration are crucial for HPSR capacity development

Integration of the national strategies with the TRAIN framework helps to accelerate HPSR capacity development

Recommendations





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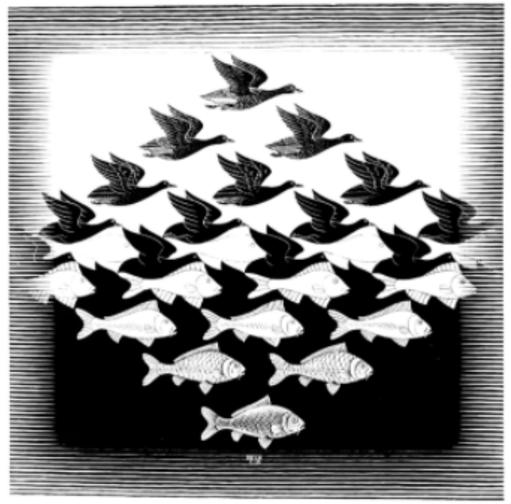
Mormina, M., & Pinder, S. (2018). A conceptual framework for training of trainers (ToT) interventions in global health. Globalization and health, 14(1), 100. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12992-018-0420-3

Thank you



WHO 2012

'At its best, HPSR should function as the GPS of health decision-making, providing navigational support to the decision-maker, locating the starting point for the journey (the health problem), the desired destination (the health outcome) and options for getting there (health solutions)'.

CHEPSAA