



Overarching aim

Cochrane Africa aims to increase the use of Cochrane evidence to inform healthcare decision-making on the African continent.

The **goals** of Cochrane Africa align with the goals outlined in the new Cochrane Strategy for Change as follows:

Goal 1	Producing trusted evidence
Objective 1.1	Delivering timely, high-quality responses to priority questions relevant to global health and sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), which the users of our evidence help define
Objective 1.2	Building and sustaining capacity of authors in SSA to conduct Cochrane Reviews
Goal 2	Advocating for evidence
Objective 2.1	Advocating for evidence-informed decision-making and integrity in research through pursuing high-impact partnerships and activities
Objective 2.2	Advocating for evidence-informed decision-making through building capacity for using evidence to inform decision-making
Goal 3	Informing health and care decisions
Objective 3.1	Improving Cochrane evidence users' experience by increasing the accessibility and usability of Cochrane and Cochrane Africa products
Goal 4	Building a sustainable Cochrane Network
Objective 4.1	Maintaining and expanding the Cochrane Africa network
Objective 4.2	Identifying and supporting Cochrane mentors
Objective 4.3	Cochrane Africa hubs identify multiplier funding

Guiding principles

1. Each country is unique
2. Prioritise to ensure relevance
3. Collaboration
4. Avoid unnecessary duplication
5. One step at a time
6. Build sustainability
7. Equity-focused in everything we do
8. Encourage diversity

Operationalizing the Cochrane Africa Strategy

Each affiliated Cochrane geographic group in sub-Saharan Africa considers the activities outlined in the strategy and agrees to fulfil the activities that align with their own strategic intentions and available resources. This is captured in a workplan that we can monitor and discuss at each steering group meeting and report on annually. *The Steering Group may advise on activities that are highly recommended across all Hubs and those that would be optional.*

Cochrane Africa: Objectives and activities

GOAL 1: Producing trusted evidence

Objectives	Planned activities
1.1 Delivering timely, high-quality responses to priority questions relevant to global health and sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), which the users of our evidence help define	1.1.1 Priority setting: Conduct or contribute to priority setting to identify relevant priority topics for Cochrane Reviews
	1.1.2 Convene author teams: Hub leader/coordinator identify author teams
	1.1.3 Capacity development for author teams: Provide tailored mentorship and support (including for different types of Cochrane Reviews, e.g. QES, DTA reviews, and others)
1.2 Build and sustain capacity of authors in SSA to conduct Cochrane Reviews	1.2.1 Identify author teams needing support
	1.2.2 Offer tailored capacity-development opportunities (e.g. writing retreats, fellowships, access to training opportunities, mentoring, etc.)
	1.2.3 Track progress of Cochrane Reviews being supported
Key considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devise clear pathways for novice authors to be involved in reviews and review activities • Encourage diverse author teams • Consider equity in the Cochrane Reviews we support and conduct • Work collaboratively with other hubs in capacity development activities • To ensure timely delivery of reviews we will link with Cochrane Review groups from the point of priority setting. Given changes in how reviews are produced in Cochrane, i.e. through Evidence Synthesis units rather than Review Groups, we will continue to monitor any necessary changes in our engagement.

GOAL 2: Advocating for evidence

Objectives	Planned activities
2.1 Advocating for evidence-informed decision-making and integrity in research, including by pursuing high-impact partnerships and activities	2.1.1 Stakeholder mapping and engagement: Identify strategic stakeholders to engage/partner with for specific activities or projects, including developing stakeholder-specific engagement strategy and materials
	2.1.2 Establish at least one new partnership (Cochrane Africa as a whole or in-country)
2.2 Advocate for evidence-informed decision-making through building capacity for using evidence to inform decision-making	2.2.1 Host biannual leadership event (Cochrane Africa Indaba) (Coordinating hub responsibility)
	2.2.2 Build capacity and skills of strategic stakeholders in evidence informed decision-making (awareness raising, PRIMER, bursaries to attend training); or through sharing opportunities for training
	2.2.3 Engage the community of Cochrane members by disseminating news, training opportunities and relevant information about Cochrane (using various media including newsletters and social media)
Key considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure historically disadvantaged institutions, media groups and newer members are targeted • Combat misinformation through working collaboratively with existing relevant organisations or National and sub-national agencies • Each hub should consider identifying a key topic for advocacy during the three-year strategy

GOAL 3: Informing health and care decisions

Objectives	Planned activities
3.1 Improving Cochrane evidence user experience by increasing the accessibility and usability of Cochrane and Cochrane Africa products	3.1.1 Develop and disseminate user-friendly products that summarise evidence from priority Cochrane Africa reviews (e.g. plain language summaries (PLS), policy/evidence briefs, infographics, translated summaries, podcasts, etc.) to priority target audiences
	3.1.2 Develop and disseminate user-friendly products that summarise evidence from Cochrane Reviews conducted in or relevant for the region (e.g. PLS, policy/evidence briefs, infographics, translated summaries, etc.) to relevant target audiences
	3.1.3 Disseminate Cochrane evidence and KT products (newsletter, social media, website) received from Cochrane Central
3.2 Evaluate the dissemination activities	3.1.4 Develop and implement an evaluation of the impact of dissemination activities and products, including feedback from target audiences
Key considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Cochrane dissemination checklist when developing knowledge translation (KT) products - https://training.cochrane.org/online-learning/knowledge-translation/how-share-cochrane-evidence/dissemination-essentials-checklist • Consider KT evaluation resources: https://training.cochrane.org/online-learning/knowledge-translation/finding-out-whether-cochrane-making-difference

GOAL 4: Building a sustainable network

Objectives	Planned activities
<p>4.1 Maintaining and expanding the Cochrane Africa network</p>	<p>4.1.1 Hubs and affiliates supported to deliver the strategy (i.e. monthly Coordinator meetings and regular Steering Group meetings)</p>
	<p>4.1.2 Identify and support new affiliates to join Cochrane and Cochrane Africa (e.g. respond to requests for information, have calls with interested groups) [<i>this is on hold at present but may open up in the coming year</i>]</p>
	<p>4.1.3 Maintain an updated network strategy in line with Cochrane’s broader strategy</p>
	<p>4.1.4 Maintain institutional buy-in through annual letter to institution or meeting (depending on organisational requirements)</p>
	<p>4.1.5 Host a biannual face-to-face or virtual meeting (Cochrane Africa Indaba)</p>
	<p>4.1.6 Develop and update annual work plans for each hub, with annual reports summarising key activities (include a reflection on what went well and what did not, which will be collated and discussed at SG meetings)</p>
<p>4.2 Identifying and supporting Cochrane Africa mentors*</p>	<p>4.2.1 Identify and invite Cochrane Africa mentors to support the work of the network in terms of conducting reviews, providing training and mentorship on reviews methods and knowledge translation</p>
	<p>4.2.2 Support methods advancement of mentors/members of the network through providing capacity-building opportunities regarding methods for review conduct, knowledge translation, attending the Learning Initiative for Experienced Authors (LIXA), encouraging senior authors to be part of methods groups, facilitating attendance at Cochrane Africa Indabas or Cochrane colloquia, and new Cochrane editorial approaches (i.e. Editorial Manager system)</p>
	<p>4.2.3 Identify/share Cochrane training opportunities with Cochrane Africa authors/mentors</p>
	<p>4.2.4 Support facilitation skills of mentors, including on delivering training in virtual settings. Hub members can be part of the Cochrane trainers’ network</p>

Objectives	Planned activities
4.3 Cochrane Africa hubs identifying multiplier funding	4.3.1 Each hub identifies partners and funders in countries, region or internationally for whom Cochrane Africa members can provide capacity building or other services, with remuneration
	4.3.2 Develop/share pre-prepared funding proposal content
	4.3.3 Hubs or network to develop funding proposals for multiplier funding, in partnership with other organisations/institutions if applicable
Key considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentors could go beyond the geographic remit of Cochrane Africa • Share/standardise approaches for costing training, infrastructure support • Aim to collaborate on funding applications, avoid competing • Consider capacity building on knowledge translation; policy briefs; issue briefs; multimedia; social media