

# Funding Operations Research: expanded opportunities

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# Introduction

- Programmatic linkages expand possibilities for funding
- Requires additional networks and creativity
- Borrow from Mozambique experience to identify opportunities
- Two general groupings
  - Research-directed funding mechanisms
  - Program-directed funding mechanisms

# Examples of research-directed funding mechanisms

- US Government
  - NIH?
  - PEPFAR Targeted evaluations
    - Becoming "Tasc III"
  - CDC (ASPH/UW malaria control program)
- Foundations
  - Doris Duke Foundation (Operations Research for AIDS Care and Treatment in Africa – ORACTA)
    - 20 2-year grants awarded, \$100,000/year
  - Gates Foundation (syphilis screening in pregnancy)

# Research-directed funding mechanisms

## ■ Advantages

- Peer or outside review
- Clear process for ethical review
- Ties with other researchers
- Visibility

# Research-directed funding mechanisms

## ■ Disadvantages

- Lengthy process
- Time intensive
- Less flexibility
- Top-down priority setting
- Restrictions on certain commodities

# Examples of program-directed funding mechanisms

- Bilateral agencies
  - USAID/CDC
    - HSDS/CS/PVOII
- Multilaterals
  - WHO
  - World Bank (TAP)
  - Unicef
- MOH-directed funding
  - Common funds
  - State budgets

# Program-directed funding mechanisms

## ■ Advantages

- Presupposes linkages with ongoing programs
- Responds to concerns of local policymakers
- Flexible
- Rapid funding process
- Rapid results

# Program-directed funding mechanisms

## ■ Disadvantages

- Less formal checks – peer & ethical review up to the investigators
- Less visibility, linkages with other research
- Restrictions on commodities



# Summary

- Funding sources for OR exist and are expanding
- Accessing these resources requires strong local programmatic partnerships, creativity
- More emphasis needed on flexible funding for rapid results!