The Heart of the Virtual Health Library

**6TH Regional Coordination Meeting of the Virtual Health Library
20-21 October 2012
Washington D.C.**

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BIREME

- BIREME's mandate

- VHL – concept, methodology & tool

- Successes & challenges

- Large information networks

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WHO

- Knowledge Sharing Platforms

- Part of our vision, strategy & goals

- Core elements for equitable access to health information

- International / global dimension

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Environmental Scanning

- Fast moving health information arena

- Changes in user mindset

- Competitive "new entrants" (not just Google)

- Responsiveness & proactive approach is necessary

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Strengths

- Methodology as well as a system/tool

- Years of expertise & recognition (trusted)

- Understanding of country realities

- Developing & adapting solutions for LMICs

Weaknesses

- Ageing system

- Partnerships beyond the network

- Complex governance

- Content vs. methodology

- Tensions between public good & enterprise approaches

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Opportunities

- Focus on solutions for LMICs – differentiation

- Initiating change (not responding to it)

- Interoperability & integration of other systems

- Increase international position

Threats

- Other solutions/system (competitive field)

- Immediacy & mobility

- Speed / momentum of change

- Lack of resources & standstill

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Focus

- "Learning organization" as integral to corporate strategy

- International expansion – globalization of VHL

- Tighten focus on innovation & solutions for LMICs

- Outreach

- Highlight expertise in methodology
  (as much as the system)

- Further innovate (i.e. mobility & pervasiveness)

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Questions & Contact

Thank you!

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