



**COR-NTD 2015**

**Philadelphia, PA, October 22-23**

### **Breakout Group Summary Report**

This document is intended to capture the key outputs of your breakout discussion, and to be representative of the group as a whole. Please denote your group's topic, presentations and research priorities before the start of the session, and dedicate the latter portion of your session to determining the key discussion points, knowledge gaps and recommended steps. Also, please indicate whether your group's recommendations align with the specified initial priority target. Your report will be shared on the NTD-SC website, and will inform future advisory panel discussions and donor priorities.

#### **Section I**

*To be filled out before the session begins.*

#### **Breakout Topic:**

3D: Identifying Operational Research Issues Facing Communities Ending MDA

#### **Presentations:**

Margaret Gyapong & Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo, moderators  
Alison Krentel (LSHTM)  
Joseph Koroma (FHI360)  
Square Mkwanda (Malawi MOH)  
Roland Bougma (Burkina Faso MOH)  
Upendo Mwingira (Tanzania MOH)

#### **Research priorities to be discussed:**

- Discuss the importance of national NTD programs keeping their fingers on the pulse rather than getting shocked at 5-6 years of MDA.
- How to manage expectations of the community. Communities get confused when they do 5 rounds of MDA and you tell them they did not pass TAS.
- Despite strong national NTD programs the risk of resurgence remains when surrounded by endemic countries. Countries need to work with one another cross-borders.
- Why is conducting MDA so difficult? Motivation of CDDs/CHWs is lower than other health programs. We should try to harmonize with other health programs.

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**Section II**

*To be filled out as the session concludes.*

**What were your group's key discussion points?**

Issues related to Health Systems:

- Financing for further MDA rounds if needed – who pays?
- Competition at the peripheral level – other health programs have priority
- Human resources
- Coordination
- Dealing with failure of TAS
- Sustainable way of managing the supply
- Persistent mf in some areas despite treatment efforts
- Better understanding needed of vector contribution to renewed transmission
- Migration and imported cases
- Passive surveillance may no longer be viable for some countries (surrounded by endemic countries/regions)

Issues related to Communities:

- How to effectively communicate with communities: Why is drug distribution being stopped?
- Communication failure of TAS or changes in treatment schedule, etc.
- Managing expectations at the community level
- Monitoring of recrudescence of disease
- Promote LLIN use in communities

Programmatic Issues:

- Surveillance and morbidity management will be difficult in the presences of limited resources
- Countries are at different levels of implementation of the diseases – what are we doing for STH and Schisto – WHO
- Donor support beyond 2020 – will they move on to other issues having 'met the goal'?
- What is the cost effectiveness of integrated approach to NTD programming
- Sustainable way of managing the supply chain of NTD medicine
- Better ways of linking WASH and NTDs at the implementation point
- Morbidity management and resourcing for it
- Strategic linkages between WASH and NTDs interventions
- Ensure that the processes are monitored and documented – regular surveys
- Adapting strategies to prevailing context (if MDA for LF stops, what strategies is adopted for STH or SCH?)

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**What knowledge gaps (if any) did your group identify?**

Issues for Consideration:

- Entomologic studies of Anopheles (infectivity rates and their potential contribution to renewed transmission)
- Role of Og4C3 in post-MDA or post-TAS surveillance
- Role of Wb123 seroprevalence in populations still receiving treatment with ivermectin
- Development of tools and diagnostics specifically for the “end game” of LF and other PC-NTDs
- Guidelines put together – will WHO find funds for this since donors put money directly to countries.
- Roles of health workers/CDDs following stopping MDA (who supports their work?)
- Provide feedback to communities
- Recognition of the key actors in the countries

**What next steps does your group recommend?**

Group Work: (See Photos: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B92gRVe2V6cuTGdRc2NTNGRiaXc>)

Identify 2 priority issues (with the endgame in sight)

- Operational research issues
- Next steps (in relation to the priority OR issue identified)

**Do your recommended steps align with the research priorities identified on page 1?**

Yes  No