

Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis Advisory Committee

Summary Meeting Report and Recommendations

30-31 October 2014
Sheraton New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Executive Summary

The Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) Advisory Committee and partners engaged in the epidemiology, control and elimination of STH convened at the Sheraton New Orleans on Thursday 30 and Friday 31 October 2014. The meeting included presentations on the emerging role of the STH Advisory Committee; updates on the progress and challenges in global STH control; monitoring and evaluation; and operational research.

This report contains: 1) the meeting objectives and recommendations; 2) the meeting agenda (Annex A); and 3) the full list of participants (Annex B).

Role of the STH Advisory Committee

Objective

Clarify and define the membership and emerging role of the STH Advisory Committee and solidify its linkages with other organizations and constituencies, and particularly with the STH Coalition.

Agenda Item

2. Emerging role of STH Advisory Committee
 - a. STH Coalition
 - b. STH Advisory Committee – structure, membership, and role
 - c. Remarks: Johnson & Johnson (J&J) and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
 - d. Remarks: World Health Organization (WHO)
 - e. Remarks: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
 - f. Discussion

Recommendations

- 2.1 The STH Advisory Committee recognizes that, as an independent scientific and technical advisory body, its role is emerging and should include:
 - 2.1.1 Provide advice to J&J and GSK on the safe, effective, and appropriate use of anthelmintic drugs in preventive chemotherapy
 - 2.1.2 Facilitate and host the workstreams of the STH Coalition on
 - Monitoring & evaluation (M&E)
 - Operational research

- 2.1.3 Respond to requests from WHO to examine technical issues and make recommendations to the WHO neglected tropical diseases (NTD) Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)
 - 2.1.4 As requested, provide advice to the “Filling the Gaps” NTD operational research program at the NTD Support Center on STH
 - 2.1.5 As requested, provide technical advice and make recommendations to donors regarding priorities for operational research
 - 2.1.6 Provide a forum for tracking and gaining an overview of current STH operational research and for discussing STH research priorities and issues (note: this will be informed in part by the NTD operational research inventory, supported by the BMGF)
 - 2.1.7 Develop and track STH milestones for the London Declaration (LD) “Scorecard” developed by the LD Stakeholders working group
 - 2.1.8 Review proposals and allocate funds for M&E (if available)
 - 2.1.9 Provide guidance and direction to Children Without Worms (CWW) on its role as secretariat for the STH Advisory Committee.
- 2.2 The STH Advisory Committee will establish sub-committees on M&E and operational research, as well as ad-hoc committees to address specific issues. The sub-committees on M&E and operational research will serve as the core of the corresponding STH Coalition workstreams, with additional membership from the STH Coalition welcomed and encouraged.
- 2.3 The STH Advisory Committee requests CWW, as secretariat, to facilitate the finalization of a revised charter for the Committee, in close collaboration with the Chair, WHO, J&J, GSK, and other parties, and to bring it to the STH Advisory Committee for approval within 6 months.
- 2.4 The STH Advisory Committee requests CWW, as secretariat, in close collaboration with the Chair, to further explore with WHO the most appropriate and effective ways in which the STH Advisory Committee can provide technical support to the WHO STH control program.

Updates: Progress and Challenges in Global STH Control

Objective

Review challenges and progress toward milestones on the WHO roadmap for STH control

Agenda Item

3. Updates: progress and challenges in global STH control

- a. Progress and challenges in STH control
- b. Adverse event reporting and received reports, 2014
- c. New drugs and drug combinations
- d. Discussion

Recommendations

- 3.1 The STH Advisory Committee appreciates ongoing efforts to scale-up deworming, and notes with concern that the current rate of scale-up (based on 2012 data) appears inadequate to achieve WHO global treatment targets for 2020. The STH Advisory Committee
 - 3.1.1 Appeals for a concerted effort to accelerate scale-up of preventive chemotherapy for STH
 - 3.1.2 Encourages enhanced monitoring and reporting of STH drug treatment
 - 3.1.3 Urges that operational research be conducted to inform how best to accelerate drug coverage and improve reporting.
- 3.2 The STH Advisory Committee notes with appreciation the recent publication of WHO guidelines on assessing STH drug efficacy and recommends that the utility of these guidelines be validated in the field. The STH Advisory Committee encourages the development and deployment of molecular markers to assess the potential emergence of drug resistance.
- 3.3 Although the current number of reported incidents is low, the STH Advisory Committee notes with concern the potential for choking in preschool-age children who receive deworming drugs, particularly as the number of treatments in this age group increases. The STH Advisory Committee
 - 3.3.1 Urges WHO to update and disseminate guidelines on deworming in young children
 - 3.3.2 Assigns this issue to the new subcommittee on M&E
 - 3.3.3 Requests CWW to work with WHO and other partners to identify and promote best practices.
- 3.4 The STH Advisory Committee appreciates the importance of recent and ongoing research to identify and deploy new anthelmintic drug regimens, formulations, and drug combinations for STH control and urges further operational research on this area. It encourages the results of these studies to be incorporated into ongoing epidemiologic modeling, and charges a subcommittee on operational research with tracking these developments and reporting back to the STH Advisory Committee at annual meetings.

Technical Issues: Monitoring and Evaluation-1

Objective

Review key issues, progress, and challenges in STH M&E and identify and recommend actions to address specific challenges regarding STH assessment with the transmission assessment survey (TAS) for lymphatic filariasis (LF).

Agenda Item

4. Technical issues: monitoring and evaluation-1

- a. STH assessment with the TAS for LF
- b. Discussion

Recommendations

- 4.1 The STH Advisory Committee appreciates the important opportunity provided by the LF transmission assessment surveys (TAS) for assessing STH and guiding STH treatment decisions.
 - 4.1.1 The STH Advisory Committee appreciates TAS-STH as an opportunity to improve efficiencies and reduce program costs through integrated NTD monitoring
 - 4.1.2. The STH Advisory Committee encourages WHO and its partners to complete field testing of TAS-STH and finalize guidelines on assessing STH with the TAS
 - 4.1.3 The STH Advisory Committee encourages the consideration and adoption of these guidelines by the WHO NTD STAG and urges donor agencies and partners to support STH assessment with TAS
 - 4.1.4 The STH Advisory Committee encourages WHO, donors, and technical partners to make available necessary training and capacity building for countries to implement TAS-STH guidelines.

Technical Issues: Monitoring and Evaluation-2

Objectives

1. Review key issues, progress, and challenges in STH M&E and identify and recommend actions to address specific challenges
 - a. The magnitude and importance of so-called “unprogrammed” deworming (deworming done outside the mainstream national program)
 - b. Deworm the World’s experience of STH program monitoring
2. Discuss and recommend indicators for STH for the LD “Scorecard”

Agenda Item

5. Technical issues: monitoring and evaluation-2

- a. Assessing the magnitude and importance of unprogrammed deworming
- b. M&E of STH programs – Deworm the World’s experience
- c. Indicators for reporting to Uniting to Combat NTDs - the LD “Scorecard”

Recommendations

- 5.1 Recognizing the potential importance of unprogrammed deworming, the STH Advisory Committee:
 - 5.1.1 Encourages further operational research on the magnitude, patterns, and importance of unprogrammed deworming
 - 5.1.2 Requests its subcommittee on M&E to work with partners to determine the most appropriate way to assess unprogrammed deworming in the programmatic context
 - 5.1.3 Encourages all parties to add these questions to STH drug coverage surveys
 - 5.1.4 Encourages stronger linkages between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national STH control programs to track deworming activities and ensure that data on treatments are captured in the WHO PCT databank.
- 5.2 The STH Advisory Committee appreciates the work of Deworm the World to develop practical measures and implement M&E of STH programs at scale, and encourages Deworm the World to further share their experience and approach.
- 5.3 Recognizing the importance and utility of the Uniting to Combat NTDs LD “Scorecard” for monitoring progress toward WHO NTD targets, the STH Advisory Committee will convene an ad-hoc working group, including WHO and other partners, to establish indicators and annual milestones to be used in the scorecard.

STH Research: Updates and Broad Overview

Objective

Gain an overview of current and planned operational research on STH control and develop a plan to conceptualize, track, and update this diverse body of work.

Agenda Items

- 6. STH research: updates and broad overview

- a. Overall landscape
- b. STH research in Schistosomiasis Consortium for Operational Research and Evaluation (SCORE)
- c. STH research in Death to Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis (DOLF), and STH research at London Centre for NTD Research
- d. STH research - Filling the Gaps
- e. STH-operational research
- f. NTD Modelling Consortium
- g. Next steps in collating and tracking research on STH
- h. Discussion

Recommendations

- 6.1 The STH Advisory Committee recognizes the utility of the NTD operational research inventory, supported by BMGF, to track ongoing STH-related research and encourages researchers working on STH to provide information to this database.
- 6.2 The STH Advisory Committee appreciates the diversity and range of STH research that is currently underway and urges CWW to maintain and update an STH operational research matrix to assist the STH Advisory Committee in providing an overview of this research. The matrix should be informed by the NTD operational research inventory and other sources as needed.

Operational Research: For Further Attention

Objectives

1. Increase awareness of recent developments in two areas of STH operational research:
 - a. Diagnostic testing, particularly polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
 - b. Environmental monitoring
2. Clarify the concept of “breaking transmission” in STH research and share insights as to how this can be operationalized for research and programs
3. Provide guidance to BMGF on common indicators for STH research

Agenda Item

7. Operational research: For further attention
 - a. Research overview synthesis
 - b. Diagnostic testing – PCR
 - c. Environmental monitoring
 - d. “Breaking transmission” – what does this mean and how will it be operationalized for research and programs?
 - e. Core indicators for STH research protocols
 - f. Discussion

Recommendations

- 7.1 The STH Advisory Committee appreciates recent comparative studies on PCR diagnostic assays for STH, recognizing the role that improved diagnostic tools will play in assessing the impact of national STH control programs and monitoring progress towards local elimination. The STH Advisory Committee encourages further research to refine and field-test these assays as well as evaluation of programmatic costs associated with them.

- 7.2 The STH Advisory Committee recognizes the potential importance of environmental monitoring for STH control and for understanding transmission dynamics; urges the Emory University Center for Global Safe Water to complete its comprehensive “state of the art” review; and looks forward to a report on this topic next year. The correlation between the number of viable, fertilized eggs in the environment and human population infection should be assessed to determine if environmental monitoring can be a useful proxy, either in research or program settings, to better understand STH transmission.
- 7.3 The STH Advisory Committee appreciates the innovative work being done by investigators at the London Centre for NTD Research on epidemiologic modeling of STH transmission breakpoints and encourages continuation of this work, as well as further elucidation of R_0 for STH species and its correlation with indicators that are measurable in field settings.
- 7.4 The STH Advisory Committee expressed concern that the transition from community-based LF program to school-based STH programs could result in rebound of STH prevalence and intensity in persons not targeted by school-based programs. The STH Advisory Committee recommends monitoring and operational research to assess this potential in various epidemiologic and programmatic settings.
- 7.5 The STH Advisory Committee appreciates the work being done by the BMGF to foster collection of standardized data in STH operational research to facilitate comparisons and meta-analyses. The STH Advisory Committee requests that all members and participants in the meeting provide comments, suggestions, and feedback to BMGF on its draft proposal for standardized indicators.

Annex A: Agenda

Day 1 – October 30, 2014				
	Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Materials
Role of STH Advisory Committee	8:15 – 9:00	Breakfast, Bayside B		
	9:00 – 9:30	1. Opening Session a. Welcome (10) b. Introductions (15) c. Announcements (5)	Utzinger Addiss	
	9:30 – 10:30	2. Emerging Role of STH Advisory Committee a. STH Coalition (15) b. STH Advisory Committee – structure, membership, role (15) c. Remarks: J&J and GSK (5) d. Remarks: WHO (5) e. Remarks: BMGF (5) f. Discussion (15)	Addiss Utzinger Lin and Bradley Montresor Jacobson	STH Coalition Framework for Action Emerging role of STH AC
	10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break		
Program Updates	11:00 – 12:00	3. Updates: Progress and Challenges in Global STH Control e. Progress and challenges in STH control (15) f. Adverse event reporting and received reports, 2014 (10) g. New drugs and drug combinations (15) h. Discussion (20)	Montresor Montresor Utzinger	PCC Newsletter Action Against Worms
Monitoring & Evaluation	12:00 - 12:30	4. Technical Issues: Monitoring and Evaluation - 1 c. STH assessment with the transmission assessment survey (TAS) for LF (15) d. Discussion (15)	Chu, Montresor	Smith 2014 Chu 2014 Gunawardena 2014
	12:30 – 1:30	Lunch Break		
	1:30 – 3:00	5. Technical Issues: Monitoring and Evaluation - 2 d. Assessing the magnitude and importance of unprogrammed deworming (20) e. M&E of STH programs – DtW experience (20) f. Indicators for reporting to Uniting to Combat NTDs - the London Declaration “Scorecard” (50)	Fox Harrison Addiss / Jacobson / Mosher	JMP 2014 Snapshot Initial Indicators Uniting to Combat NTDs

	Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Materials
	3:00 – 3:20	Coffee Break		
Research	3:20 – 5:30	6. STH Research: Updates and Broad Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Overall landscape (10) j. STH research in SCORE (15) k. STH research in DOLF (20) l. STH research at London Centre for NTD Research (15) m. STH research - Filling the Gaps (10) n. STH-OR (15) o. NTD Modelling Consortium (10) p. Next steps in collating and tracking research on STH (10) q. Discussion (15) 	Addiss Colley Weil Anderson/Brooker Ottesen Jacobson Hollingsworth Jacobson	Operational Research Matrix
Day 2 – October 31, 2014				
	8:00 – 8:30	Breakfast, Bayside B		
Research	8:30 – 10:30	7. Operational Research: For Further Attention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Research overview synthesis (10) b. Diagnostic testing – PCR (15) c. Environmental monitoring (15) d. “Breaking transmission” – what does this mean and how will it be operationalized for research and programs? (45) e. Core indicators for STH research protocols (20) f. Discussion (15) 	Utzinger Williams Freeman Jacobson, Anderson, Brooker, Addiss Jacobson	STH Research Protocol
	10:30 – 11:00	Break		
Advisory Committee	11:00 – 11:30	8. STH Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Role of STH Advisory Committee – linkages to programs, STH Coalition, research groups and funders 	Utzinger	
	11:30 – 12:00	9. Synthesis, Summary, and Wrap-Up	Utzinger	

Annex B: Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email
David	Addiss	Children Without Worms	daddiss@taskforce.org
Oladele	Akogun	Common Heritage Foundation	akoguno@yahoo.com
Roy	Anderson	London Centre for Neglected Tropical Disease Research (LCNTDR)	Roy.anderson@imperial.ac.uk
Azadeh	Baghaki	World Vision	Azadeh.Baghaki@worldvision.com.au
Vicente (Jun)	Belizario	University of the Philippines, Manila	vybelizario@upm.edu.ph vbelizar@yahoo.com
Moses	Bockarie	Center for Neglected Tropical Diseases, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	Moses.Bockarie@liverpool.ac.uk
Mark	Bradley	GlaxoSmithKline	mark.h.bradley@gsk.com
Simon	Brooker	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Simon.Brooker@lshtm.ac.uk
Don	Bundy	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	donald.bundy@gatesfoundation.org
Brian	Chu	NTD Support Center	bchu@taskforce.org
Peter	Colenso	Children's Investment Fund Foundation	pcolenso@ciff.org
Dan	Colley	University of Georgia	dcolley@uga.edu
LeAnne	Fox	CDC	lff4@cdc.gov
Matt	Freeman	Center for Global Safe Water, Emory University	mcfreem@emory.edu
Julie	Harris *	CDC	ggt5@cdc.gov
Jessica	Harrison	Evidence Action/Deworm the World Initiative	jessica.harrison@evidenceaction.org
Deirdre	Hollingsworth	Warwick University	deirdre.hollingsworth@warwick.ac.uk
Cassandra	Holloway	Children Without Worms	cholloway@taskforce.org
Julie	Jacobson	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Julie.Jacobson@gatesfoundation.org
Alex	Jones	Children Without Worms	ajones@taskforce.org
Serene	Joseph	McGill University	serene.joseph@mail.mcgill.ca
Kim	Koporc	Children Without Worms	kkoporc@taskforce.org
Alejandro	Krolewiecki *	Institute of Tropical Disease Research, National University of Salta, Argentina	alekrol@hotmail.com
Lauren	Labovitz	Children Without Worms	llabovitz@taskforce.org

Sandra	Laney	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Sandra.Laney@gatesfoundation.org
Seung	Lee	Save the Children	slee@savechildren.org
Bill	Lin	Johnson & Johnson	wlin@its.jnj.com
Arianna	Means *	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	arianna.means@gmail.com
Antonio	Montresor	World Health Organization	montresora@who.int
Aryc	Mosher	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Aryc.Mosher@gatesfoundation.org
Joe	Mrus	Johnson & Johnson	JMrus@its.jnj.com
Charles	Mwandawiro	Kenya Medical research Institute	cmwandawiro@kemri.org
Eric	Ottesen	NTD Support Center	eottesen@taskforce.org
Maria	Rebollo	NTD Support Center	mrebollo@taskforce.org
Frank	Richards *	The Carter Center	frank.richards@emory.edu
Faith	Rose	Children's Investment Fund Foundation	FRose@ciff.org
Mark	Rosenberg *	Task Force for Global Health	mrosenberg@taskforce.org
Steven	Silber	Johnson & Johnson	SSilber@its.jnj.com
Eric	Strunz	Children Without Worms	estrunz@taskforce.org
James	Truscott *	London Centre for Neglected Tropical Disease Research (LCNTDR)	j.truscott@imperial.ac.uk
Hugo	Turner *	London Centre for Neglected Tropical Disease Research (LCNTDR)	hugo.turner06@imperial.ac.uk
Jürg	Utzinger	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute Chair, STH Advisory Committee	juerg.utzinger@unibas.ch
Emily	Wainwright	USAID	ewainwright@usaid.gov
Gary	Weil	Washington University in St. Louis	GWEIL@dom.wustl.edu
Steven	Williams	NTD Support Center	swilliams@taskforce.org
Susan	Zimicki	FHI 360	szimicki@fhi360.org

Bold indicates STH Advisory Committee member

* Attended October 31 sessions only