

**STH Coalition Quarterly Call  
September 2, 2015**

**Participants**

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Kerry Gallo	PATH
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Grace Hollister	Evidence Action
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Lisa Schechtman	WaterAid
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Katrin Verlcas	Evidence Action
Johannes Waltz	GSA
Katherine Williams	Evidence Action
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**1. Workstream updates**

School-Age Children (SAC)

The SAC workstream has been working toward the development of snapshots for high-burden countries, particularly for SAC age group. Working with a consultant, they have conducted a number of interviews for the priority countries in order to get a complete picture of what is happening with regards to treatment and mapping of treatment of SAC. They will also look at the key challenges and barriers to scaling up treatment and work to anticipate opportunities to overcome those barriers. The country snapshots will be circulated first within the working group for feedback and then to the larger coalition and to stakeholders.

Preschool-Age Children (PSAC)

The PSAC workstream has developed a TOR document and work plan, which was based on early discussions of how the workstream would work and what its priorities would be. The three goals are to 1) improve the supply chain; 2) clarify mechanisms around reporting; and 3) identify partners. With regard to mechanisms for reporting, CWW is working on an NGO Deworming Inventory, which will serve as the repository of data on NGO deworming; CWW will then pass the data on to WHO for inclusion in the PCT Databank.

It was reported at the June WHO forecasting meeting in Geneva that treatments have been supplied for 150 million PSAC (well above the goal of 128 million treatments by 2015), putting PSAC stakeholders well on the way to treating 200 million children annually by 2020. A significant impediment to that target is the lack of a drug donation and the lack of a prequalified manufacturer of albendazole, from whom the drug might be purchased. A small working group within the PSAC workstream is trying to bring together partners to move forward with procurement of high-quality product for the global market place.

### Advocacy

This workstream needs to take its cues from other workstreams and the broader STH Coalition. One important area is the country prioritization of the SAC workstream. Each country's STH program is very specific; the type of advocacy is going to vary at the country level. It is also important to be clear on a common set of messages and data points around which we build our advocacy.

### WASH

A few new members of the STH Coalition may want to join the workstream. We want to make sure we have the right people on the workstream. The workstream is going to spend more time thinking through how we can develop an agenda that isn't a duplication of effort.

- There will be a WASH workstream teleconference on October 6 at 11:30 ET, during which the group will hone in on proposals for concrete tasks to take forward. A calendar invite and agenda will be going out soon. **Please email [STHCoalition@taskforce.org](mailto:STHCoalition@taskforce.org) if you'd like to join the call.**

WHO released the new WASH global strategy document, which is available on the WHO website.

- The strategy will be sent out to the people participating in the meeting of the WASH working group at the NNN in Abu Dhabi. The group will brainstorm how to support WHO to deliver the strategy and accompanying action plan and will walk away with specific tasks the groups can take on. We should think actively about what the STH coalition can take forward.

### Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

This workstream is looking at the 9 indicators WHO identified for assessing progress toward the 2020 goals to determine which we need to focus on and strengthen. One of the key indicators is the outcome indicator of less than 1 percent moderate to heavy intensity infection by 2020. There are very few countries measuring or reporting that; the mechanisms for measuring and reporting are not clear. The M&E subcommittee of the STH Advisory Committee (also the M&E Workstream of the Coalition) will look carefully at these issues and present an analysis to the STH Advisory Committee during its annual meeting on the October 24. We will discuss how to strengthen this important outcome indicator so country program managers are clear on what they need to be measuring and how to report those results.

### Operational Research

Charles Mwandawiro, chair of the operational research workstream, has called a meeting next Wednesday. This will be following the recommendations of the STH AC for operational research, taking note of advances and tracking progress.

## **2. Coalition's response to the Cochrane review**

The STH Coalition recently came together to jointly address the issues arising from the recent Cochrane review. The donor coordination group and then the STH coalition met and agreed on a joint statement. Evidence Action mobilized two PR firms to follow up on the statement and push this through channels. Evidence Action played a strong leadership role in partnership with CWW and the membership of the STH coalition to come up with a solid response to the confusing articles that had made it into the mainstream media as a result of the Cochrane review. The two PR firms mobilized by Evidence Action – GMMB and Williamsworks did an excellent job. CWW circulated a summary of the communications that came out from the response to the Cochrane review.

Antonio Montresor of WHO has coordinated the submission to PLOS NTDs a series of articles, which are being reviewed and prepared for publication.

There are gaps in the research around deworming. We need to think critically about what that means for us and what we need to do about it. There's a role for the STH Coalition in coordinating that discussion and having that discussion.

- The operational research workstream will be looking at this during its teleconference next Wednesday and will be raising this issue on the research side in Philadelphia at the STH Advisory Committee meeting. One breakout session of COR-NTD will be on this issue.
- This is a communications issue, and we need to have a coordinated response and advocacy strategy.

### **3. STH Coalition bylaws and workstream TORs and work plans**

CWW circulated the near-final bylaws of the STH coalition. The TORs for most workstreams have been developed; they are appendices of the bylaws. The work plans are almost fully developed and make up the basis for a one year or 18 month action plan, which the steering committee will review and endorse in a face-to-face meeting.

### **4. Outcomes of the SAC Deworming Summit Session**

The STH Coalition held a meeting of SAC stakeholders in London in June. CWW circulated the report with key themes and key outcomes:

- Need for more data at the country level
- Importance of coordination between MOE and MOH
- Issue of addressing countries where LF is scaling down
- Providing technical assistance for deworming
- Funding and political will for deworming and ensuring it's part of school health or NTD national plans