

STH Advocacy Workstream meeting notes

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Location: Salon 824, Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA

Participants:

- Neeraj Mistry, Global Network
- Marcia de Souza Lima, Global Network
- Dano Gunderson, Global Network
- David Addiss, Children Without Worms
- Jodi Keyserling, Children Without Worms
- Geoffrey Knox, Children Without Worms
- Lauren Labovitz, Children Without Worms
- Karen Palacio, END Fund
- James Porter, END Fund
- Jessica Harris, Evidence Action/Deworm the World
- Lisa Schechtman, WaterAid
- Yael Vellerman, WaterAid
- Alan Fenwick, Schistosomiasis Control Initiative

Summary of action points:

1. Workstream members to add STH advocacy materials to Dropbox folder (shared with group).
2. Karen to share PAHO's work on integrating deworming with other programs.
3. Jodi to review Dropbox materials and make recommendations for organizing the advocacy toolkit.
4. Global Network to share its data points document (**complete- in Dropbox folder**).
5. Children Without Worms to draft concept note on STH Advocacy Officer position and share with the group for review.
6. Children Without Worms to update the broader Coalition on the discussion and get feedback.
7. The next STH Advocacy Workstream teleconference will be scheduled in late January.

Meeting notes:

- A. Advocacy workstream overview
 - a. This workstream of the STH Coalition was established to help fill the gaps in STH treatment coverage through advocacy efforts.
 - b. The other workstreams of the STH Coalition are: operational research, M&E, women of child-bearing age, and school-based deworming.
- B. Integrating deworming and WASH
 - a. While WASH partners understand the need to integrate deworming and WASH, the challenge is building sufficient capacity to create effectively integrated programs. There is an opportunity for donors to play a role by convening these conversations with WASH partners.
 - b. WaterAid agreed that advocating for programs that address NTDs and WASH together would support its efforts to integrating health/nutrition with WASH in schools.
 - c. Yael stressed that integration is not as easy as it sounds, considering most school-based WASH programmes are curriculum-based programs delivered by teachers. One option is to carry out deworming on significant WASH days, such as global hand-washing day.

- d. Considering each WaterAid country office has a different structure for its WASH programs and WaterAid is not education-focused, Lisa explained that GPE could be more helpful in moving the school-based deworming agenda forward.
- C. STH Officer position
- a. The group discussed the possibility of creating a position for an in-country STH officer in each priority country. This person would be independent of the government and be responsible for conducting conversations with government ministries and implementers to find the best opportunities for integrating deworming in that country's context. The STH Officer would act as an in-country expert to strengthen the STH knowledge base and provide technical assistance.
 - b. Discussion on how the position would be supported; worth finding out if any of the STH Coalition partners already have someone in-country that could take on the role.
 - c. James pointed out that an in-country STH Officer would be useful for identifying gaps that potential donors could fill, as donors are often interested in supporting a particular country but do not know what to fund.
 - d. Neeraj recommended that the workstream propose this idea to the Coalition for their feedback and Children Without Worms offered to draft a concept note for the workstream members to review.
- D. Advocacy countries target
- a. The workstream members discussed potentially focusing on five high burden countries: Ethiopia, DRC, Nigeria, Indonesia and India.
 - b. There was a suggestion that, by focusing on these five countries, the workstream can develop a proof-of-concept for effective tools and models that can be applied to other countries. Neeraj agreed that the workstream's objective should be scaling up deworming in these five countries; however, because models vary depending on country-context, Neeraj recommends advocating for non-specific integrating of deworming into existing in-country development infrastructure.
- E. STH advocacy toolkit
- a. The group agreed it would be beneficial to develop a STH advocacy toolkit. This toolkit will be helpful for STH Coalition members in conducting advocacy and for organizations that are interested in joining or supporting our efforts.
 - b. The advocacy toolkit will contain talking points, fact sheets, case studies, policy briefs, and guidelines. Much of the information has already been developed, so it is only a matter of sharing and compiling our resources, and then developing an approved package.
 - c. All partners should add their STH advocacy resources to the shared Dropbox folder, and the Global Network will share the data points document it put together for the ARM working group.
 - d. Karen pointed out that PAHO has already defined which programs deworming can be implemented with, which she will share as we begin to develop the toolkit.
 - e. Group should strive to have a draft of the toolkit prepared for the Addis meetings in December, in order to give the other partners an idea of what the STH Advocacy workstream is working on.

F. Governance and next steps

- a. Workstream will consider and modify a standard TOR produced for the STH Coalition.
- b. CWW will update the broader Coalition on this discussion and get feedback.
- c. The next STH Advocacy Workstream teleconference will be scheduled in late January, after WHO releases the new NTD report, to discuss movement on the toolkit, the concept note, and updated numbers from WHO.