Work Plan of the STH Coalition

2018-2020

Report Date: November 29, 2018

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Executive Summary
This document describes the 2018-2020 work plan of the Coalition for the Control of Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH Coalition).

The STH Coalition was established in 2014 to catalyze progress toward the World Health Organization (WHO) goal of eliminating STH as a public health problem and to help reach the WHO 2020 objectives for STH control. As a broad partnership representing the STH community, the STH Coalition is also committed to aspects of STH control that are not explicit in the WHO 2020 objectives, and aims to look beyond 2020.

The Action Group met in May 2018 to review progress and update the STH Coalition work plan for through 2020.

Specific activities approved at the meeting included:

- Form a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) work group to contribute to tools and strategic processes related to advancing M&E activities to measure progress toward stated STH program goals.
- Establish an endorsement process for the STH Coalition.
- Continue to focus on global coverage, particularly among preschool age children (PSAC) and women of reproductive age (WRA).
- Contribute to development of a post-2020 vision for the global STH program.

STH Coalition Priority Focus Areas
The priority focus areas defined at the 2017 Action Group meeting in London continue to form the basis for activities in 2018.

1. **Continue to focus on scale up of coverage among SAC and PSAC.**
   Coverage has increased but the WHO coverage targets have not been universally achieved. The STH Coalition supports improvements to data quality, data transparency, and availability of sub-national data that will provide a more robust view of coverage. Additionally, NGOs that provide treatments to PSAC express concerns around access to a sufficient quantity of quality drugs. To address this issue, a small work group will be established to address access to quality generic drugs.

2. **Prepare to initiate treatment for WRA.**
   In the past year, there has been significant progress in prioritizing treatment for WRA. In order to initiate treatment on a large scale post-2020 and per WHO guidance, STH programs need specific guidance on delivery platforms and safety issues. The June 2017 Bellagio Meeting and report laid out the priority research questions that will inform guidance for treating WRA. STH Coalition partners will continue to identify and undertake operational research to answer these questions. Based on the growing body of evidence, the STH Coalition will contribute to global...
policy-making and technical and operational guidance for treating WRA, including through sharing implementation experiences.

3. **Improve data quality, transparency, and reporting.**

NGO partners in the STH Coalition play an important role in supporting countries to meet coverage goals. Two work groups will be established to focus on improving data quality across STH programs in specific areas:

- **M&E work group:** Contributes to tools and strategic processes related to advancing M&E activities to measure progress toward stated STH program goals. Establish mechanisms to focus specifically on improving data management, quality, and transparency for programs and implementing partners. The draft M&E Framework will be revised and disseminated within 2018.

- **Private sector M&E subcommittee:** Identify gaps and solutions to improve M&E practices specific to NGOs with special focus on strengthening internal data quality, and reporting and coordination with the national NTD authorities at all reporting levels. Propose scalable solutions to address data quality for NGOs.

4. **Advocate for comprehensive and sustainable, quality STH control programs and efforts**

The STH Coalition seeks to identify and support implementation of comprehensive and sustainable quality STH control programs and efforts. The primary way in which it will accomplish this is through endorsing preferred practices. A Coalition-endorsed set of preferred practices will identify solutions to common needs and support the standardization of common practices across many locations. The first activity associated with the effort to establish preferred practices is to codify the criteria for products, services, or activities that are eligible for Coalition endorsement and to define the endorsement process. As part of this priority focus area, the STH Coalition will identify, develop, field test and endorse critical tools. With each endorsed product, a dissemination plan will be included. The following tools were presented at the 2018 Action Group meeting and will be considered for endorsement:

- **STH Policy Assessment tool:** The development of the STH policy assessment was done in collaboration with STH Coalition partners and was designed to have broad applicability across countries. It is eligible for endorsement by the Coalition.

- **WASH and NTDs toolkit:** The STH Coalition will contribute to the WASH and NTDs toolkit by identifying priority countries to pilot the toolkit and by working with countries and members to roll out the toolkit within 2018. STH Coalition members are invited to join the work group, established by the NTD NGO Network (NNN) that is revising the toolkit. Once finalized, the toolkit will be considered for endorsement by the Coalition.

- **M&E Framework:** Once endorsed, the M&E framework will be used as a resource document for tier-representative STH programs to build their own M&E plans with STH Coalition assistance. A special component of the M&E framework is the new approach to community impact assessment, described below:

  - **Integrated Community-based Survey for Program Monitoring (ICSPM) for STH:** ICSPM has been piloted and implemented by STH Coalition members Nutrition International, Helen Keller International, and Children without Worms in...
partnership with the respective Ministries of Health of Bangladesh and Sierra Leone. It is eligible for endorsement by the Coalition.
### 2018 STH Coalition Priority Focus Areas

#### Coverage
- Identify contributing factors to gaps in PC coverage (with a focus on out of school children and preschool-age children).
- Identify products and projects the coalition can support to increase PC coverage.

#### Women of Reproductive Age
- Share information about deworming women of reproductive age (WRA).

#### Data Quality
- Implement activities that contribute to improved data quality and transparency.

#### Advocacy
- Identify and support implementation of comprehensive and sustainable STH control programs and efforts.

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<td>Establish a small work group to address access to quality generic drugs.</td>
<td>Address operational questions around treating WRA</td>
<td>Establish an M&amp;E work group and private sector M&amp;E subcommittee to contribute to tools and strategic processes related to measuring progress toward stated STH program goals</td>
<td>Develop and model the use needed tools.</td>
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<td>• WHO waiver for prequalification of generic NTD drugs</td>
<td>• Communications materials describing the problem of STH among WRA</td>
<td>• Finalized M&amp;E framework and embedded tools and strategic processes</td>
<td>• STH Coalition endorsement process</td>
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<td>• Publication and publicity for research studies that answer operational questions around treating WRA</td>
<td>• Scalable solutions to address data quality for NGOs. Standardized preferred practices for NGO M&amp;E</td>
<td>• Identification, development, field testing, and endorsement of critical tools</td>
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<td>Increased PC coverage of at-risk children</td>
<td>National STH programs and implementing partners include WRA</td>
<td>increased generation and use of a quality evidence-base for program practices</td>
<td>Improved outcomes supported by implementation of standardized best practices</td>
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Long-term outcome
Achievement of global STH goal of elimination of STH as a public health problem

Work Plan of the STH Coalition, 2017

STATUS UPDATE
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<th>Priority focus area</th>
<th>Objective(s)</th>
<th>Activities for 2017</th>
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<td>Coverage</td>
<td>Identify contributing factors to gaps in coverage (with a focus on out of school children and preschool-age children). Identify products/projects the coalition can support and address.</td>
<td>Support efforts to increase coverage rates by 20% by December 2020 1. Assess contributing factors for gaps in coverage. 2. Promote tools and approaches to assess coverage. 3. Provide learning opportunities to promote improved capacity and capability of national NTD programs to utilize coverage survey data to inform practice.</td>
<td>While global PSAC coverage in 2016 was just over 50% and thus not on track to meet the WHO coverage target of 75%, most countries who treated PSAC reached or exceeded the 75% coverage target. PSAC were included in 2017 WHO guidelines for treating all at-risk groups. Johnson &amp; Johnson plans to donate chewable Vermox for the PSAC.</td>
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<td>Women of Reproductive Age</td>
<td>Identify potential partners and platforms to address women of reproductive age as a target population for STH control post-2020.</td>
<td>Assess interest of and engage key partners to participate in providing deworming treatment to women of reproductive age. 1. Identify potential platforms for delivery of treatment to women of reproductive age. 2. Identify needed products or activities to engage and support interested NGO partners to integrate deworming for women of reproductive age into existing service offerings.</td>
<td>In June 2017 in Bellagio, Italy, technical experts reviewed evidence and identified strategies to control STH in WRA. WRA were included in 2017 WHO guidelines for treating all at-risk groups. STH Advisory Committee meeting recommendation urged WHO to provide further guidance on deworming WRA. November 2017 session at COR-NTD, focused on platforms and access to deworm WRA. February 2018 operational research call discussed appropriate platforms, treatment strategy, and targeting of pregnant women for treatment.</td>
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<td>Data Quality</td>
<td>Implement activities that contribute to improved data quality and transparency</td>
<td>Explore factors that may contribute to reported PSAC coverage rates that apparently lag behind that of SAC for 2015. 1. Propose remedies, including how to facilitate NGO reporting at the country level. 2. Propose methods for improved data management, quality, and transparency for programs and partners.</td>
<td>In July of 2017, the STH Coalition endorsed the NGO Deworming Inventory. At the 2017 NNN meeting CWW hosted a workshop on improved data reporting for the PSAC population, data quality and coverage, and using community-level sub-national prevalence data for program decisions. STH Coalition and STH Advisory Committee members began work on an M&amp;E framework.</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Identify and support implementation of comprehensive programs.</td>
<td>Objective 1: Identify key components of comprehensive programs. Objective 2: Identify common needs and develop products/services or projects to address them.</td>
<td>In April 2017, CWW planned, coordinated, and facilitated STH-related sessions for the NTD Summit in Geneva, Switzerland.</td>
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and sustainable STH control programs and efforts.

Objective 3. Identify on-going support opportunities for joint information sharing and learning to highlight successful application of best practices

- CWW worked with WHO NTD/STH team to galvanize support for developing a cohesive, unified vision for STH control to, and beyond 2020. This resulted in WHO initiating a related paper co-authored with invited coalition members and CWW.
- The STH Coalition facilitated collaboration on new diagnostic test for resistance in human worms across four key research groups plus coalition members.
- CWW published web articles related to the priority focus areas, including a blog by Grace Hollister of Evidence Action on a comprehensive approach to STH control.
- The STH Coalition hosted four operational research calls in 2017.