OPTIMUNISE STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE – August 26-27, 2016

OPTIMUNISE: Optimising the impact and cost-effectiveness of existing child health intervention programmes for vaccines and micronutrients in low-income countries

(HEALTH.2010.3.4-6: Impact and cost-effectiveness of existing major health programmes.)

The OPTIMUNISE project – funded by the EU FP7 Programme - tested the real life impact of child interventions, using individual-based data on health intervention uptake and health outcomes. OPTIMUNISE took advantage of the Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) sites in the INDEPTH Network (www.indepeth-net.org). The project was implemented at three INDEPTH sites in Guinea-Bissau (Bandim Health Project), Burkina Faso (Nouna), and Ghana (Navrongo).

Agenda

Friday August 26th, 2016: Presentation of research results

8.30-9.00: Registration, coffee

9.00-10.30: Setting the scene for OPTIMUNISE (Chair: Hilton Whittle)

Opening of meeting by INDEPTH: Introducing the OPTIMUNISE Consortium and its data collection and work plan (Osman Sankoh/Peter Aaby) (25 min)

1. The three INDEPTH sites in Burkina Faso (Nouna), Ghana (Navrongo), and Guinea-Bissau (Bandim): Reaching or nearly reaching the Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG4) of reducing child mortality by 2/3 between 1990 and 2015 (Abraham Oduro/Amabelia Rodrigues/ Ali Sie) [references: 1,6,9,11,16,25,30,39,46,48,49,53,54,55,56,57] (20 min)

2. WHO SAGE recommendations on non-specific effects of vaccines and update on their implementation (Andrea Vicari; WHO) (15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

10.30-10.45: Coffee break

10.45-11.45: Introducing non-specific effects (NSEs) of vaccines – epidemiology and immunology (Chair: Ali Sie)

3. The non-specific effects of live vaccines (BCG, measles vaccine (MV) and oral polio vaccine (OPV)) and non-live vaccines (Peter Aaby) [ref: 1,2,3,7,9,10,12, 17,33,36,44,45,52,60] (15 min)

4. Innate immune responses and NSEs (Bas Blok/Rob Arts; Nijmegen University) [ref: 1,37] (15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

11.45-12.45: Studies of BCG’s effect on overall mortality (Chair: Abraham Hodgson)

5. RCTs of BCG to low-birth-weight children in Guinea-Bissau (Christine Benn)/The age of BCG vaccination and the decline in neonatal mortality: Evidence from Navrongo (Paul Welaga) [ref: 19,20,63] (15 min)

6. Optimising the impact of BCG on neonatal mortality – Age and missed opportunities (Sanne Thysen) [ref: 35,58,59] (15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)
12.45-13.45: Lunch and group photo

13.45-15.00: The role of routine measles vaccine and campaigns with measles vaccine and oral polio vaccine (Chair: Amabelia Rodrigues)

7. The role of measles vaccine (MV) in reaching MDG4: Removing out-of-sequence vaccinations and increasing coverage: Evidence from Navrongo and GAVI multi-country study (Paul Welaga) [ref: 6,21,27,28,31,43,49,62] (15 min)

8. Effect and cost-effectiveness of MV campaigns: Evidence from Bandim Health Project (Ane Fisker/Stine Byberg) [ref: 26,32] (15 min)

9. OPV campaigns – their role in reaching MDG4: Evidence from Bandim and Navrongo (Peter Aaby/Paul Welaga) [ref: 9,14,15,18] (15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

15.00-16.00: The OPTIMUNISE early measles vaccine trial (Chair: Olaf Müller)

10. The early MV multi-country trial: Evidence from Bandim and Nouna (Ane Fisker/Eric Nebie) (30 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

16.00-16.15: Coffee break

16.15-17.30: Sex-differences and other interventions: Vitamin A, a new malaria vaccine (Chair: Fiona van der Klis)

11. Sex-differential effects of vaccines: Evidence from Bandim and Nouna (Ane Fisker/Heiko Becher) [ref: 4,8,11,14,47] (15 min)

12. Vitamin A Supplementation: Neonatal and campaigns: Contradicting single effect interventions (Christine Benn) (15 min)

13. The RTS,S vaccine trials: further evidence for NSEs or other explanations? (Olaf Müller) [ref: 5,38] (15 min)

Discussion of the presentations (30 min)

17.30-18.30: General discussion

19.30: Dinner
Saturday August 27th, 2016: Morning: Discussion – the way forward

We will first recapture the main results of the OPTIMUNISE project. Based on these findings we will discuss the importance of taking into account non-specific effects of vaccines. This will guide a further discussion of which priorities we see in terms of evaluating the real-life impact of health interventions, and how the INDEPTH sites can contribute. The day will be a hopefully fruitful mixture of presentations, working groups and general discussions.

Chair: Christine Benn

1. The lessons learnt from West Africa: Summing up Friday’s results (Abraham Hodgson)
2. How to evaluate and improve cost-effectiveness of vaccination programmes?
   Non-specific effects of vaccines – do they exist – and if so, should they be ignored or explored?
3. What further studies evaluating the effect of health interventions need to made – prioritizing studies and forming potential consortia to pursue the issues, for example:
   a. Further studies of BCG – early life implementation, monitoring of quality
   b. Monitoring the effects of MV and OPV campaigns and other campaigns
   c. Potential sex-differential effects of interventions
   d. What indicators should be used in the health intervention programme?
4. The role of INDEPTH centres in monitoring the real life effects of health interventions

We will start at 9 am. There will be coffee break at 10.30-10.45. Lunch will be served at 13. Depending on the discussions we may decide to continue all afternoon (with a coffee break at 15.30-16). Dinner will be served 19.30.