OPTIMUNIZE 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) and the project was implemented at three INDEPTH sites in Guinea-Bissau (Bandim Health Project), Burkina Faso (Nouna), and Ghana (Navrongo).

Draft Agenda

Friday August 26th, 2016: Presentation of research results

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

1. The three INDEPTH sites in Guinea-Bissau (Bandim), Burkina Faso (Nouna), and Ghana (Navrongo): Reaching or nearly reaching the Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG4) of reducing child mortality by 2/3 between 1990 and 2015 (Amabelia Rodrigues, Ali Sie, Abraham Oduro)
2. A brief introduction: specific and non-specific effects (NSEs) of vaccination: The NSEs may be more important for childhood survival than the disease-specific protection (Peter Aaby)
3. Innate immune responses and non-specific effects of vaccines (Nijmegen group)
4. 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)
5. Optimising the impact of BCG on neonatal mortality – Age and missed opportunities (Ane Fisker)
6. 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)?
7. Effect and cost-effectiveness of MV campaigns: Evidence from Bandim Health Project (Ane Fisker)
8. Sex-differential effects of vaccines: Evidence from Nouna and Bandim (Heiko Becher; Ane Fisker)
9. The RTS,S vaccine trials: further evidence for NSEs or other explanations? (Olaf Müller)
10. Oral polio vaccine (OPV) and OPV campaigns: Evidence from Bandim and Navrongo (Peter Aaby; Paul Welaga)
11. The early MV multi-country RCTs: Evidence from Bandim (Amabelia Rodrigues)
12. The early MV multi-country RCT: Evidence from Nouna (Eric Nebie)
13. The early MV multi-country RCT: Antibody responses after early measles vaccination
14. The Strategic Advisory Group of Expert on Immunization (SAGE) review of the non-specific effects of vaccine: The way forward (Christine Benn)

15 minutes presentations and 15 minutes questions and discussion

Saturday August 27th, 2016: Morning: General discussion – the way forward

1. The lessons learnt from West Africa: Summing up Friday’s results
2. How to improve cost-effectiveness of vaccination programmes
3. What studies need to made – prioritizing studies and forming potential consortia to pursue the issues
4. The role of INDEPTH centres in monitoring the real life effects of health interventions