

INDEPTH NETWORK

SECRETARIAT

WORK PLAN 2006

**INDEPTH Network Secretariat
Accra, Ghana**

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Part A. Scientific Activities in 2006

1. Working Group

The Secretariat utilises Working Groups on key scientific issues to generate and implement multi-site research. Member sites and their staffs are encouraged to identify issues, conduct research, and perform analyses that attract multi-site participation.

1.1 Causes of death

Headed by Fred Binka, this group has continued to make efforts to analyze cause of death data from INDEPTH sites. The group aims at producing a monograph in 2006. The group's current success is a paper entitled *Cause Specific Mortality Rates in Developing Countries*, based on the cross-site work, which has been accepted for publication in 2006 by the WHO Bulletin. The group has shown that causes of death in the African sites differ strongly from those in Bangladesh, where there is some evidence of a health transition, and little malaria. The effects of the HIV epidemic dominate mortality patterns in the South African DSS sites, which contrast with those in highly malaria endemic sites elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa (even in neighbouring Mozambique). The contributions of measles and diarrhoeal diseases to mortality in sub-Saharan Africa are lower than has been suggested elsewhere, while malaria is of relatively greater importance. This may be a result of recent changes in the availability and effectiveness of health interventions.

Work Plan in 2006

- Continue work on the monograph: copyediting, finalise manuscript and seek a publisher.
- Work on a second paper for an international journal.
- Try to involve many more sites in the work.
- Update cause of death data.

Budget

1.2 Health Equity II

Phase II of the Health Equity Study will continue in 2006. This deals with making interventions to have a pro-poor focus. The Secretariat funded nine projects in 2004 submitted by the following sites: Dikgale (South Africa), Navrongo (Ghana), Ifakara (Tanzania), Rufiji (Tanzania), Kanchanaburi (Thailand), Vadu (India), Purworejo (Indonesia) and Agincourt (South Africa). Several project reports are now available. The Secretariat expects more reports from sites.

Several of the funded projects were to deploy the INDEPTH socioeconomic status tool. A data analysis workshop was held in Accra in late 2005.

Work Plan in 2006

- Encourage more sites to deploy the socioeconomic status tool.
- Data analysis and writing of a paper for an international journal.

Budget

1.3 Adult Health and Aging

The group was able to secure in late 2004 a supplementary grant made by the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health, USA, to the SAGE Initiative (Survey on Adult Health and Global Aging) of the World Health Organisation, to support collaborative work with the INDEPTH Network and its initiative on Adult Health and Aging.

INDEPTH is committed to developing a major R&D initiative in Adult Health & Aging that will advance understanding and inform interventions and policy development in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. A lead group of some 14 INDEPTH sites make up an Adult Health & Aging platform; these are listed below with an asterisk denoting sites where field work will be funded through the NIA-WHO supplement.

- *Agincourt field site (MRC/University Unit in Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research, University of the Witwatersrand)
- *Hlabisa field site (Africa Centre of the University of KwaZulu-Natal)
- Dikgale field site (University of Limpopo)
- *Ifakara field site (allied with the National Medical Research Institute, NIMRI)
- *Nairobi field site (African Population and Health Research Centre)
- Butajira field site (University of Addis Ababa)
- *Navrongo field site (Ministry of Health)
- Nouna field site (Ministry of Health)
- Purworejo field site (Gadja Madha University)
- Filabavi field site (Hanoi Medical University)
- Kanchanaburi field site (Mahidol University)
- *Vadu field site (Poona Hospital Centre)
- Ballabgarh field site (All India Institute of Medical Sciences)
- *Matlab field site (ICDDR, B – International Centre for Health and Population Research)

Work Plan in 2006

- Continue work on the WHO study
- Develop an RO1 proposal to NIA

Budget

Own budget

1.4 Multidimensional Platform for social and intervention research – HIV/AIDS

INDEPTH secured funding in late 2005 to establish a platform that should focus on HIV/AIDS. Project activities in 2006 will include:

- Recruiting a senior HIV/AIDS expert to assist in co-ordination of common HIV/AIDS research across sites.
- Continue to strengthen the integrated health intervention platform.
- Hold a stakeholders meeting to define a broad set of possible research questions that are agitating the minds of both national programme managers and the wider community of policy makers. The meeting would also address key demographic factors on health and development in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Wider consultation with DSS sites to map out and consolidate the potentials to be addressed.
- Develop proposal for the implementation of a common data and indicator platform to enable better research comparisons and comparable intervention trials across member sites.

- Disseminate research findings and present the proposal developed to the Network at the 6th Annual General and Scientific meeting.
- Leverage the scientific findings from DSS sites and studies to more actively influence health policy and practice and to provide recommendations and changes to existing policies based on INDEPTH's evidence.
- Develop a module that focuses on the MDGs, provide this to the Network and help member sites integrate the module into their DSS.

The expected outcomes include:

- An appropriate modification / adjustment to the conduct of scientific research that will render the Network more effective in cross/multi-site initiatives that will gain greater visibility from major global health stakeholders.
- The development of a major programme of social and intervention / evaluation research focused on HIV/AIDS that is strongly demand-driven and which will address the impacts, consequences and correlates of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) rollout that would be of relevance to major global efforts in this regard.
- A better understanding of ways in which the full platform of 37 DSS field-sites in Africa, Asia, Central America and Oceania, can contribute to the monitoring of MDGs and related efforts, evaluation of new policy and intervention initiatives, and future policy and practice.
- A compelling portfolio of research and trial/intervention-led initiatives that respond to issues related to key regional and global concerns.
- A fundable programme grant proposal on the agreed areas of focus for the network.

Budget

- \$50,000 – Consultancy
- \$XX - Two workshops
- \$XX - Travel

1.5 Asia/Oceania Group

In 2005 the Secretariat funded this group to look into many facets of the NCDs in participating Asian sites. The group was able to collect the data and in late 2005 the Secretariat funded a data analysis workshop by the group in Thailand. The group believes that the study findings could help explore various NCD risk factors and discuss these with the larger academic and research forum internationally.

The Secretariat supports the group's desire to publish scientific papers based on their cross-site work in international journals. The group has set a deadline of August 2006 for producing these papers. They expect that the first draft of the papers would be ready by the third week of January 2006 for discussion amongst the group. Each site has taken responsibility to take lead in writing at least one paper.

Work Plan 2006

The group plans a scientific writing workshop in Vietnam to further develop the papers proposed in the table below.

Tentative Topics for article	Person / Site Responsible	Deadline Draft 1	Final Paper
1. Methodological issue on cross-site analysis of NCD risk factors	Nawi, Purworejo	Jan 06	Aug 06
2. Health seeking behavior in Asian region	Sanjay, Vadu	Jan 06	May 06
3. Smoking: what is the risk involved?	Ali Ashraf, HSID	Jan 06	Aug 06
4. Pattern of alcohol consumption in Asian region: does culture matter?	Quang, Chlilab	Jan 06	Aug 06
5. Diet pattern in Asian region: to eat or to sell?	Uraiwan, Kanchanaburi	Jan 06	May 06
6. Measuring physical activities in Asian region	Hadi, WATCH	Jan 06	Aug 06
7. Reported chronic disease in Asian region	Minh, Filabavi	Jan 06	Aug 06
8. Blood pressure (stroke and heart disease)	Kusol, Kanchanaburi	Jan 06	May 06
9. Clustering of NCD risk factors	Hadi, WATCH	Jan 06	Aug 06
10. Obesity epidemic in Asian region: is it really a problem?	Lutfun, MATLAB	Jan 06	Aug 06
11. Reaching the policy makers?	Ali and Sanjay	Jan 06	Aug 06
12. Popular articles- web, news paper?	Hadi	Jan 06	Aug 06
Any other papers: all sites may suggest anymore papers later			

The Secretariat will encourage the group to develop a grant proposal as a follow-up of the current analysis to seek funding from regional funders in the areas of health equity and NCD. Examples are: Rockefeller Foundation Asia Region, Atlantic Philanthropy and JICA.

Budget

2. Interest Groups

Interest groups must compete for available funds. The Secretariat will review proposals to fund workshops which these groups propose.

Budget for all Interest Groups

3. DSS-University Collaboration in Africa: Hewlett Foundation

The Secretariat secured funding from the Hewlett Foundation to organise a consultative meeting of DSS sites and University population programmes in Ghana, Kenya and South Africa.

Objective of meeting

This consultative meeting between DSS sites and population programmes at selected universities in Ghana, Kenya and South Africa will deliberate on opportunities of a partnership between the two types of institutions and sketch out a grant proposal for a such a partnership.

Objectives of the proposed partnership include:

1. To create relationships between the universities and DSS sites to access analytical capacity from scholars in population programmes at the universities;
2. To expose scholars in the population programmes at the participating universities to DSS research work and offer them the opportunity to work with INDEPTH researchers; and

3. To provide an opportunity for researchers and trainees in population programmes to work with longitudinal data generated at DSS sites, and to explore possibilities for collaborations.

Expected Outcomes

- Discussion about whether a potential collaboration among some DSS sites and some university-based population science training programs would be desirable and useful for any of the invited participants, including identifying the specific benefits for all involved parties and for the field of population science and reproductive health.
- If such collaborations would be useful, an agreement between those DSS sites and university training partners desiring cooperative arrangements to collaborate so that DSS sites access analytical capacities at the universities and the university scholars and trainees are exposed to demographic surveillance work; and
- A draft proposal that details the mechanism for any advantageous partnership.

Current Status

The following have confirmed participation. Two representatives from each institution will attend.

Representatives from Universities

- University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- University of Ghana, Ghana
- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Representatives from Demographic Surveillance Sites

- Kilifi, Kenya
- Nairobi, Kenya
- Kisumu, Kenya
- Navrongo, Ghana
- Kintampo, Ghana
- Dodowa, Ghana
- Agincourt, South Africa
- Africa Centre, South Africa
- Dikgale, South Africa

We also expect the following to participate:

Hewlett Foundation: Sara Seims and Tamara Fox

Other invited guests

Cheikh Mbacke, Rockefeller Foundation and Advisor to the Hewlett Foundation

Jane Menken, University of Colorado

Pat Naidoo, Rockefeller Foundation

Peter Matlon, Rockefeller Foundation

Other funders - USAID, MacArthur Foundation, World Bank, Wellcome Trust, Sida/SAREC, Volkswagon Foundation, Gates Foundation, WHO, Dutch government representative

Work Plan 2006

- Continue planning and hold consultative meeting in Accra 7-8 February

Budget

4. The Malaria Clinical Trials Alliance

The Secretariat submitted in December 2005 to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation a project grant proposal to establish an autonomous Malaria Clinical Trials Alliance (MCTA) that will be tightly linked to two Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grantees with robust clinical trials queues – the Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI) and the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) – and potentially others in the future.

If this project is successful, funds for MCTA will pass through INDEPTH thereby generating overheads for the Network.

The MCTA will help develop robust sites that leverage near term support for the site capacity to conduct clinical trials of drugs and vaccines toward the ability to manage and plan for a portfolio of trials successfully into the future. This will create a long-term partnership between African and Northern institutions through a product-driven agenda. The Alliance will work with sites collaborating initially with MMV and MVI to train personnel and improve facilities and infrastructure to ensure successful execution of clinical trials anticipated by MVI and MMV, as needed by each partner in the near term. However, the focus of the MCTA will be on the trial sites, rather than on individual protocols. Ensuring that the sites have appropriate management and oversight tools to identify and hire staff, a plan for staff training in clinical trials, systems to manage a clinical trial portfolio, robust database and communication systems, a plan for physical expansions, as well as transparent fiduciary systems will strengthen the ability of each site to conduct individual trials with MVI and MMV. The project will also establish the MCTA at INDEPTH as an African resource for coordination of malaria clinical trials. In order to support the long-term sustainability of sites, the Alliance will foster leadership training and mentorship and help sites establish long-term development plans that promote self-sufficiency. Trial sites eligible for participation in the Alliance are those that are either already conducting clinical trials with MVI and/or MMV or are preparing to do so, and INDEPTH's demographic surveillance system (DSS) sites which demonstrate interest, strong leadership and long-term potential.

Work Plan 2006

- If project is successful, the Board is expected to meet to deliberate and decide on the organisational implications.

5. Annual General and Scientific Meeting – AGM 2006

The Annual General and Scientific Meeting (AGM) is the General Assembly of the Network that takes final decisions on issues tabled by the Board and/or the Executive Director. The AGM generates the scientific agenda through its working groups and reviews progress of joint work undertaken. In addition, the AGM is utilised as a Scientific Forum for members to share their experiences in Demographic Surveillance in the form of presentations of scientific papers. Posters are also presented at the AGM especially by young scientists who are sponsored by the Network. The 5th AGM was held in Durban, South Africa in May 2005.

The 6th AGM will be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from September 18-23. AGM 2006 will be hosted by the following three sites: Nouna, Ouagadougou and Oubritenga.

Work Plan 2006

- Continuous dialogue with organisers on various issues (See AGM Manual)

Budget

6. Collaborations

INDEPTH attaches importance to building/strengthening collaborations with other institutions.

6.1 DSS-University Collaboration in Africa

See Section 3 for further details.

6.2 WHO

The primary purpose of the INDEPTH-WHO collaboration is to draw on the complementary strengths and methodologies of INDEPTH – a community and household level health and demographic surveillance system platform covering prospectively some 22 African and 13 Asian field sites – and SAGE, an envisaged multi-round study of adults 50 years and older in eight countries. Specific objectives include:

- implementing the full SAGE survey in 3 INDEPTH sites in countries where SAGE is also being implemented (South Africa, Ghana and India)
- piloting the implementation of a shortened ‘summary’ version of SAGE, with primary emphasis on physical and cognitive function, in several INDEPTH sites as part of routine health and demographic surveillance operations
- undertaking a series of analyses that both compare findings using these different approaches, and extend the analytic possibilities given the SAGE survey’s national scope and character and INDEPTH sites’ longitudinal and geographically defined focus.

(See Adult Health Section 1.3 for further details)

6.3 London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - Team for applied research to generate effective tools and strategies for communicable disease control (TARGETS)

Collaborators: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK; lead), STI (Basel), KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation (Amsterdam), ZAMBART (Zambia), Ifakara Centre (Tanzania), Makerere University (Uganda), Centre for Health Research and Development (India), and INDEPTH Network. Funder: DFID

The Objectives of this grant proposal are to: improve health of the poor and vulnerable through generating and facilitating the uptake of evidence based policies, and approaches to effective control and prevention of communicable diseases; develop concepts, methods and tools to achieve the millennium development goals through effective interventions in vulnerable groups; build capacity in southern partner and collaborating institutions for conducting research to generate policy-relevant new knowledge; and facilitate effective and timely dissemination of new knowledge to policy makers and planners.

Work Plan 2006

Budget

6.4 University of Sussex - Realising Rights: improving sexual and reproductive health for poor and vulnerable populations

Collaborators: The Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK (lead), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Engender Health, African Population and Health Research Centre, BRAC Bangladesh, and INDEPTH Network. Funder: DFID

The programme has three main research themes.

- Improving the evidence base on SRH morbidities in vulnerable populations and strengthening surveillance capacity.
- Understanding the constraints to and opportunities for realisation of rights to SRH services and to low cost SRH technologies for the poorest and most disadvantaged populations. It will look at both demand and supply side and examine ways of linking SRHR to health systems planning and implementation.
- Understanding how the language and frameworks of SRHR, derived mainly from international law and conventions, are translated into cultural and political realities and how rights-based approaches can be implemented where governance and implementation are weak or social/power structures are adverse to rights.

Work Plan 2006

- Examine from Ghana DHS data and possibly, information from Navrongo, common sexual health morbidities and mortalities
- Submit a report on this before the end of the inception phase in February.

Budget

6.5 University of Ghana – Health Informatics

The INDEPTH Network is taking advantage of a new Masters programme in Health Informatics at the University of Ghana to develop capacity of member sites by supporting 2-3 students from INDEPTH sites to participate in this programme. The purpose is to train scientists in the development of the HRS software which is widely used in INDEPTH sites. INDEPTH has been contributing to the development of the programme's curriculum.

The new programme is a multi-disciplinary arrangement between the School of Public Health and the Computer Science Department, which will award an MPH in Health Informatics. The programme will encourage application from nurses, physicians, researchers, medical librarians, and other health research professionals.

Work Plan 2006

Budget

6.6. University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

INDEPTH and the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) in Johannesburg, South Africa have successfully established the new Masters programme in population-based field epidemiology. For further details please see Part B Section 8 – Scientific Development and Leadership Programme. WITS is securing funding for a virtual classroom.

6.7 VOXIVA – African Clinical Trials Portal

Voxiva is a US company that provides practical technology solutions that let distributed organizations exchange information and communicate more effectively. By leveraging the web, phone, fax, PDAs, email and SMS, their information systems enable real-time data collection from the field, data analysis and decision support, structured communication and information sharing. Voxiva has developed the African Clinical Trials Portal, an online networking medium, which has the following five components:

- A clinical trials database that documents malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB vaccine, drug and microbicide trials in Africa;
- A site database that provides basic information on research sites in Africa and the trials being conducted at each site;
- A continent-wide map that visually displays all the clinical trials and sites in Africa;
- A clinical trials toolkit that provides researchers with a variety of useful links, documents and other resources;
- Password-protected worksites that allow collaboration across sites and on topics of mutual interest.

INDEPTH and Voxiva are working on a project that will transfer responsibility and management of the website completely to the Secretariat by 2008.

Budget: This will be covered under the MCTA grant proposal

6.8. Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation

INDEPTH and the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation based in Barcelona, Spain, will collaborate in the implementation of a project called *European Action on Global Life Sciences – Health Programme (EAGLES-HEALTH)* within the framework of the specific research and technological development programme “Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area” of the Commission of the European Communities.

The Secretariat is committed to organising in 2007 a health symposium on a theme to be decided on.

6.9 African Population and Health Research Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

The African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) which runs the Nairobi DSS, is leading a consortium on the topic *Vulnerability to HIV and AIDS among marginalized subgroups: context-specific evidence for policy and practice* for the period 2006-2011. An EOI to DFID led by APHRC was successful. A full proposal is now being developed with INDEPTH as a consortium partner. Other partners are as follows: Centre for Social Research (CSR), University of Malawi; Department of Demography, University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo; Guttmacher Institute (GI), New York, USA; King Edward Memorial Hospital Research Department, Vadu Rural Health Program (Pune, India); and Medical Research Council Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow, UK

7. INDEPTH Resource Kit for DSS

The Secretariat secured funding from the Rockefeller Foundation to produce a resource kit for established DSS sites. After a brainstorming session in Basel, Switzerland a workshop was held in Ho, Ghana from 6-9 December 2005 in which a full draft of the kit was developed.

Work Plan 2006

The version produced at the Ho workshop has been substantially cleaned and upgraded. A number of sections were added.

We now aim to get Version 1.0 ready to post to the web early in 2006. To do that, we need to solicit some of the missing bits. The following is a list the incomplete items (and who we could

ask): We need to farm this out, asking the respondent to write a few paragraphs and attach any useful document.

Section 1. Introduction and Navigation. This is re-done and complete.

Section 2. Site Startup. (Needs some text and examples)

Section 3. Core Baseline Round. This is complete.

Section 4. Core Update Rounds. (Needs some text and examples)

Section 5 Optional Modules. (Needs some text and examples)

We will identify 2 or 3 peer reviewers to read the whole thing and make suggestions.

Budget

Part B. Capacity Building Activities

8. Scientific Development and Leadership Programme

In February 2005, INDEPTH launched a Masters Programme in Population-based Field Epidemiology at the University of Witwatersrand (WITS) in Johannesburg, South Africa. The eighteen-month course combines face-to-face teaching with a long period of fieldwork at INDEPTH sites in Navrongo (Ghana), Africa Centre (South Africa) and Ifakara (Tanzania).

Success of this programme involves securing funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and recently Sida/SAREC. WITS is also making efforts to secure funding for the distance learning component.

Work Plan 2006

- Award of scholarships to students for 2006 (Gates, RF, Sida/SAREC)
- Support to learning sites (computers, presentation equipment, coordinators, etc.) – Sida/SAREC grant
- Continue coordination with WITS and learning sites.
- Support WITS as it tries to secure funding for a virtual classroom.
- Evaluation of programme and first batch of students.

Budget

9. Scientific Writing Workshop

The Secretariat will seek separate funding to organise a workshop on scientific writing. The objective of this second workshop will be to expand possibilities for INDEPTH young scientists to get good results published.

Specific Objectives:

- To help scientists in INDEPTH sites develop the ability to communicate their thoughts effectively through writing;
- To build skills for writing in peer-reviewed journals;
- To understand how the peer-review process works and to gain some experience of peer-review on own writing; and
- To facilitate peer-review and feedback on a set of DSS focused papers among developing country researchers and practitioners.

10. Data Access and Dissemination

The INDEPTH member sites generate large volumes of population-based data. Previous multi-site scientific collaborations requiring a pool of all-cause and cause-specific mortality data from most of these sites have noticeably revealed a host of challenges with respect to the quality of the data and the sites' ability to share their data. Hence, efficient access to analytical data sets at these sites has been problematic. These problems have resulted in delays in the publication of multi-site INDEPTH initiatives and have reduced external access to the data and research productivity from the sites. These challenges have become critical for INDEPTH to address.

As part of its key activities in 2006, the Secretariat is developing a grant proposal to: 1) Assist INDEPTH sites to maintain high quality data systems with efficient mechanisms for extracting that data; 2) Harmonise core data being collected at member sites by developing and agreeing on a minimum data set; and 3) Facilitate data sharing and pooling and manage public access to research data.

Work Plan 2006

- Develop a grant proposal.
- Engage sites in a dialogue on the issue of data access and dissemination
- Workshop

Budget

11. Cross-site capacity building subgrants – a new programme

The Secretariat has secured funding from Sida/SAREC for this programme. Some Board members were asked to review the call for proposals which has now been posted on the website.

Objectives

The overall goal of this new INDEPTH programme is to foster research collaboration and research training between INDEPTH sites in the developing world by providing seed grants of US\$25,000 per grant to at least three member sites participating in a cross-site activity. This programme has been initially funded by Sida/SAREC. The Secretariat hopes to attract other funding agencies in the near future.

The seed grants are intended to facilitate stronger collaborations among INDEPTH sites. Specifically the objectives which are intentionally broad are to:

- Promote and fund research training;
- Promote equal opportunities, encouraging a gender and geographically balanced generation of scientists;
- Foster international, North-South and South-South collaborations;
- Encourage public health research methodology development and cost-effectiveness in research;
- Strengthen data collection systems at INDEPTH sites and their ability to share with other partners;
- Promote joint data analysis and develop analytical skills and techniques for data extraction;

- Provide the opportunity for young scientists at the sites to strengthen their skills in scientific writing and grant proposal development and possibly senior degrees; and
- Enable joint attendance at research training courses and workshops.

Type of Grants

The INDEPTH Secretariat will award two one-year seed grants, totalling \$50,000 per year (\$25,000 per grant), on a competitive basis for multi-site proposals over a three-year period beginning 2006 (i.e, 2006, 2007 and 2008).

Eligible proposals should:

- involve at least three DSS sites;
- have a research agenda showing how to take advantage of the cross-site design; and
- an immediate and longer-term plan for building scientific capacity.

The programme will also support international exchange and co-operation and facilitate comparative studies and methodological development.

The programme will mainly serve to initiate and only partially support project activities. A core funding and cost-sharing plan (drawing on other resources) therefore has to be specified by the applicants.

For research training activities, the programme will facilitate cross-site activities, training courses and supervision as well as support joint proposal writing activities.

The grant will be awarded to one site for cross-site activities involving at least three sites.

Although collaborations across countries are highly encouraged, sites within the same country may also apply.

Illustrative Activities

In line with the objectives of this programme, awardees would be expected to undertake capacity building activities such as but not limited to the following:

A. DSS Data

Data managers

DSS sites require much work to share their data effectively, efficiently and accurately. The successful sites would be required to organise workshops for their data managers to provide a forum that will facilitate sharing of experiences, solutions, and other related issues to ensure that the data is readily provided for network-level activities. Key objectives would be:

- Capacity building for Data Managers at INDEPTH sites;
- Strengthen and share good practices within the Network;
- Improve communication between and among Data Managers;
- Improve communication between the Secretariat and Data Managers in order to enhance Network activities; and
- Promotion of site visibility and information dissemination through websites.

Generating and Sharing DSS Data

The successful sites would be required to develop/strengthen capacities in various issues related to data systems. Efficient handling of the complex data generated DSS is an important factor for sites to produce good quality data. The sites would also be required to engage in the discussion on dissemination of the generated DSS data.

Improving Data Quality

The successful sites would be required to engage in training activities that would enable them maintain high quality data systems with efficient mechanisms for extracting that data.

B. Scientific Writing

DSS sites generate relevant population-based data that must be analysed and published. The successful sites would be required to help their young scientists publish their work in international peer-reviewed journals. Specifically, the objectives could be to:

- help scientists in INDEPTH sites develop the ability to communicate their thoughts effectively through writing;
- build skills for writing in peer-reviewed journals;
- understand how the peer-review process works and to gain some experience of peer-review on own writing;
- facilitate peer-review and feedback on a set of DSS focused papers among developing country researchers and practitioners; and
- contribute to collaborative research for higher degrees.

C. Proposal Development

The successful sites would get their scientists to develop grant proposals that are capable of attracting funding from the donor community.

D. Methods Standardisation/Harmonisation

The successful sites would be required to participate in activities to continually improve and standardise/harmonise the methods and technologies used by INDEPTH sites to ensure all participating groups have access to the most valid and appropriate methodologies available.

Application Procedure

Sites must try to build the collaboration by themselves. A consortium of at least three sites wishing to apply for the grants should then contact the INDEPTH Secretariat with an expression of interest including a short description (up to 1 page).

The Secretariat will receive applications throughout the year. However, only those applications received by 31 March 2006 will be considered for the 2006 award. A credible and independent selection process will be put in place by the Secretariat. Awards for 2006 will be announced in May 2006. Two grants only will be awarded in a single year.

Budget: \$180,000

Part C. The Secretariat in 2006

The principal overall responsibilities of the Secretariat are to:

- Identify key health and social issues and questions that need to be investigated
- Maintain donor relations and generate funding for network-level studies and evaluations
- Efficiently coordinate and support the conduct of network studies and evaluations

- Publish and disseminate results to impact health and social policy and practice
- Promote DSS and its capabilities
- Position INDEPTH among regional and international institutions

In addition to the above responsibilities, the Secretariat provides diverse support services to INDEPTH sites. The Secretariat has also been leading some of the scientific activities of the Network.

12. Fundraising for the Network

The Secretariat will continue to take fundraising as a priority activity in 2006.

Current funding status of the Network

A. Ongoing Grants				
<u>Funder</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Current Status / Remarks</u>
1. Rockefeller Foundation	To provide 5 scholarships per year for 3 years at value of \$150,000/year	\$450,000	January 2006 to December 2009	
2. Rockefeller Foundation	To develop an INDEPTH Resource Kit	\$62,100	May 2005 to April 2006	
3. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	To support the INDEPTH Scientific Development and Leadership Programme, including award of 5 scholarships per year for 3 years	\$551,821	November 2004 to November 2007	\$116,515 spent. \$435,306 earmarked for scholarships
4. Sida/SAREC	Core Support	SEK 6,000,000	January 2004 to December 2007	
5. WHO	Subgrant to the INDEPTH Adult Health Working Group	\$118,500	January 2005 to December 2005	Secretariat only manages these funds for the group
B. New Grants				
1. Rockefeller Foundation	To develop an intervention platform with a focus on HIV/AIDS	\$500,000	October 2005 to September 2007	
2. Hewlett Foundation	To support a consultation workshop between DSS sites and population programmes at universities in Ghana, Kenya and South Africa	\$100,000	October 2005 to September 2006	
3. Sida/SAREC	Addition to Core Support for specific	SEK 3,000,000	1 - 31 December 2005	

	projects a) Scientific Development and Leadership Programme and b) Cross site research grants			
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Strategies for raising Core Funding

a) Funders' Forum

The Wellcome Trust has indicated willingness to organise in 2006 a Funders' Forum on behalf of INDEPTH. The Secretariat will work with the Trust to ensure the success of this forum. The proposed forum should be an agenda item for the February Board meeting.

b) More effective contribution by the SAC and the Board

The Secretariat expects both Board and SAC members to contribute towards its fundraising efforts. Members may contact funding agencies on behalf of INDEPTH. The Secretariat will be ready to provide any necessary documents on the Network.

Strategies for raising Research Funding

The Secretariat is particularly concerned about the apparent lack of research funding for the Network. Ideally, research grant proposals should be written by INDEPTH working groups which are expected to serve as the research engine of the Network. This has however not been successful. The Secretariat expects the situation to improve in 2006.

The Secretariat will continue to motivate the working groups to develop grant proposals and submit them for funding. It is hoped that the Secretariat will be able to raise some funds through research-based grants for its co-ordinating role.

Strategies for raising Capacity Building Funding

The Secretariat will continue to contact various foundations to provide full or part funding for its capacity building activities. These funds will augment the strides by the Secretariat to raise core funds.

Other strategies

There will be need for the Secretariat to strengthen existing and build new collaborations.

Budget

13. Secretariat Staff

INDEPTH is led by the Secretariat, headed by a full-time Executive Director. Additional network support capabilities are to be provided through a Communications and External Relations Manager, an IT Manager, an Administrative Officer, an Accountant and an Administrative Secretary.

The Secretariat has been leading a few scientific activities. It is therefore imperative that some mechanism is put in place to get experts to be helping the Secretariat as and when necessary. This could be in the form of short term consultancies. However, it is usually difficult to get good people for short periods. There is hence the need to recruit a demographer with experience in DSS work on a full time basis.

Budget

14. Board of Trustees

The Board's primary role is to provide oversight and accountability for the activities of the Secretariat and the Network as a whole.

In 2006 we expect the Board to hold at least two face-to-face and two telephone conferences.

The Board will hold elections at the Ouaga AGM in September.

Budget

15. Scientific Advisory Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee provides guidance, scientific review and leadership to the Secretariat and the Board, in maintaining focus on critical health, population and social issues and areas of greatest potential impact. The SAC provides advice and recommendations on the research and development portfolio of the Network.

We expect the SAC to hold at least one face-to-face conference and two teleconferences in 2006.

Budget

16. Web sites – improving Internet access for member sites and the Secretariat

A number of INDEPTH sites either do not have their own websites or where they do, are buried in a "small corner" of the parent organisation's website. This situation does not give DSS sites the prominence and visibility that they need. The INDEPTH Secretariat therefore undertook the initiative to help interested sites develop their own websites. So far INDEPTH has registered domains and created websites for 6 DSS sites. The Secretariat also has a website. The experience so far has been that after the sites have been created, the content is not updated regularly. The Secretariat instituted the INDEPTH Prize for the best website i.e. the site has most content and is updated frequently.

Objectives

- i. Provide more visibility for INDEPTH member-sites
- ii. Facilitate information dissemination

- iii. Encourage INDEPTH sites (with own websites) to update their websites regularly with content
- iv. Encourage DSS sites that do not have websites to develop websites
- v. Renew domain registrations and maintain existing sites

Expected Outcomes

- Websites Created
- More visibility created for DSS sites
- Declare winner of website that is most regularly updated with content
- Renewed domain names
- Websites maintained / Updated

Process

The Secretariat made an offer to INDEPTH sites who wanted websites developed for them. The responses were very slow, but a few sites took advantage of the offer. The Secretariat registered domains and developed the websites using material provided by the sites.

Work Plan 2006

The next steps in 2006 are as follows:

1. Secretariat's offer is still open. Encourage interested sites to take advantage
2. Maintenance of current websites
3. Workshop to bring together site information managers
4. Awarding prize for best website.

Budget

17. Other Activities

Running of the Secretariat

This activity concerns all other institutional costs that are not covered in activities described above. For instance, travel by Secretariat Staff, procurement of capital equipment and rent of office space, printing of promotional materials and annual reports, stationery, and vehicle use.

Budget

Travel

- *Visits to Sites*
The Secretariat makes visits to member sites. A few visits are expected in 2006 which will be linked to specific objectives.

Budget

- *Support to Sites for Technical Exchange Visits*
The Secretariat will in 2006 continue supporting technical site exchange visits and funding technical support to sites.

Budget

- *Attendance at relevant international conferences*

Budget

18. Financial Report 2005 and Budget 2006

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