
INDEPTH Network Work Plan 2009

Dr. Osman Sankoh

Executive Director

Dr. Ayaga Bawah

Principal Research Associate



Introduction

- INDEPTH sites - Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania.
- INDEPTH currently consists of 37 health and demographic surveillance system (HDSS) sites in 19 developing countries.
- INDEPTH utilises the resources it raises from funders to foster, fund and co-ordinate cross-site studies, multi-site research and other capacity strengthening activities.



Work Plan 2009

- This work plan prioritises scientific, capacity strengthening and administrative activities for 2009.
- Based on the INDEPTH Strategic Plan 2004-2009.
- Some of the activities presented will be ongoing from the previous year.
- The new activities include the following: *Reproductive Health, Cost of Illness, Climate Change and Health, demographic and health transitions, HDSS and GIS, INDEPTH Fellows, Health Systems.*
- This work plan has not included activities related to the Malaria Clinical Trials Alliance (MCTA) and INDEPTH Effectiveness and Safety Studies (INESS). Their work plans will be presented separately.



Summary of Activities

Scientific
Capacity Strengthening
Administrative

Scientific Activities

1. HIV/AIDS (ART rollout)
2. Adult Health and Aging
3. Migration and Urbanisation
4. NCD monitoring in Asia
5. INESS
6. TARGETS
7. Realising Rights
8. AGM 2009
9. HDSS and University collaboration
10. Scientific Advisory Committee
11. Education
12. Cost of Illness
13. Reproductive Health
14. Climate Change and Health
15. Epilepsy Study
16. Monographs
17. Demographic and Health transitions

Capacity Strengthening Activities

1. INDEPTH Scientific Development and Leadership Programme
2. Workshops: Scientific Writing, Data Management, Biostatistics Support and Data Analysis.
3. Support to Cross-site capacity strengthening initiatives involving at least 3 HDSS sites
4. INDEPTH data system – Enhancing data access and sharing
5. Website support
6. Technical exchange

Administrative Activities

1. Fundraising for the Network
2. Running of the Secretariat and networking of sites and partners
3. Board of Trustees

PART A:

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES



1. Working Groups



1.1 Adult Health and Aging

- Aim is to improve our empirical understanding of aging and older persons within and across countries
- Five INDEPTH implemented summarized version of the WHO/SAGE questionnaire and three sites are implementing the full version.
- **In 2008:** substantial progress was made.
 - Datasets from participating sites put together.
 - Team met in Umea university in May 2008 do preliminary analysis.
 - Draft papers in progress for a journal supplement
-
- **2009:** An outline for the process has already been done and the guest editors nominated.
 - Journal has already been identified to publish the supplement.
 - Plan to have supplement complete for launch at AGM in Pune
 - Planning already in progress to extend work further

1.2 HIV/AIDS – ART Rollout

- INDEPTH has developed a grant proposal to evaluate the impact of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) rollout on individuals, populations and the health systems.

- In 2008:
 - LOI presented to Wellcome Trust and indication of possible support after scientific review was received
 - Sites to revise budgets

- In 2009:
 - Focus will be on getting the proposal funded so that the project can commence.
 - Further cuts in the budget currently ongoing to meet the upper limit of US\$5million, which has already further eroded due to global financial crises.

1.3 NCD Monitoring in Asia/Oceania

- INDEPTH funded a multi-site study on NCD risk factor surveillance
- Sites: Kanchanaburi (Thailand); Chililab and Filabavi (Vietnam); Purworejo (Indonesia); HSID, Matlab, and HSID (Bangladesh) and Vadu (India).
- The study was successfully completed and a report submitted to the secretariat. A paper from this study was presented at the AGM and the group has published one paper in *Journal of Human Hypertension*:
- **Submitted a preproposal to AusAid** (*strengthen health systems for addressing chronic disease burden in Asia Pacific region*)
- **2009:**
 - Further data analysis order to continue to interrogate the data collected.
 - Publish papers as a supplement of an international journal

1.4 Migration and Urbanisation

- MUWG currently working on a monograph that aims to contribute to an empirical understanding of the dynamics between migration and health in Africa and Asia using DSS data.
- Preliminary title: “**Migration, Health and Poverty Dynamics, from the Ground Up**”.
- A series of data analysis and writing meetings were held by the editorial group in 2007 at the PAA in New York, Brown University, the AGM in Nairobi and the UAPS conference in Arusha.
- **2008:** The group plans to continue to work on the monograph hoping to have the full monograph ready by the 2008 AGM.

2. PROJECTS

2.1 Targets

- A consortium led by the London School
- Objectives: 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
- In 2008
 - Preliminary results were presented to the national malaria control programme in Ghana.
 - Sites: Dodowa, Kintampo and Navrongo (Ghana).
 - Proposal to undertake qualitative study on institutional feeding, one of the areas of interest of the Ministry of Health of Ghana.
 - Published a paper on impact of malaria mortality
- 2009:
 - INDEPTH did analysis on child and maternal mortality in an effort to monitor the MDGs in Ghana.
 - A paper examining the relationship between socioeconomic status and childhood immunization in northern Ghana is currently being prepared.

2.2 Realizing Rights

- **A consortium led by IDS, Sussex**
- **Objectives:** Improving the evidence base on SRH morbidities in vulnerable populations and strengthening surveillance capacity.

- **Achievements**
 - Organized an analysis workshop in March 2007 on contraceptive use dynamics in Africa.
 - INDEPTH concluded a report on reproductive health rights in Ghana and presented findings to select parliamentary sub-committees.
 - INDEPTH started an analysis of contraceptive use dynamics in Africa and presented preliminary at the 2007 UAPS conference.

- **In 2009**
 - We will continue with the analysis and refine the report on reproductive health rights in Ghana.

 - We plan to do further analysis with the sites that participated in the workshop

2.3. HDSS–University Collaboration

- 2-year project funded by Hewlett Foundation
- Matching analytic and training skills and opportunity among HDSS sites and university population training centres in Ghana, Kenya and South Africa.
- Secretariat developed an online database of the expertise available both at the participating universities and the HDSS sites.
- Late start; Invited Unis to Nairobi AGM
- Five projects were funded in 2007.

2008

- Joint projects undertaken lead by Kintampo, Navrongo, PSRI (Nairobi), UCT
- Introduced and funded four fellows to work at APHRC, Dodowa, Dikgale and Kintampo

2009

- Will evaluate programme and submit final report to RF



2.4. INDEPTH Data Systems Initiative

- Wellcome Trust provided funding in late 2006 to prepare a proposal to develop a data system that will facilitate data capture and retrieval for analysis.
- A team of data managers and IT experts came up with an initial concept that was further refined in a proposal development workshop held in February 2007 in May 2007 was presented to site leaders.
- Proposal developed now finalized...Wellcome Trust and other funders interested
- Objective is to greatly enhance INDEPTH sites' capacity to address major health problems affecting developing countries and facilitate cross-site data analysis and sharing.
- **2009:**
 - Seek funding
 - Engaging vendors to help develop the system.
 - Start implementation process



2.5. INESS

- **2008:**
- Proposal completed and submitted to Gates Foundation
- Funding decision received last quarter of 2008
- Preparatory meeting started in 2008

- **2009**
- Protocols will be completed
- Project implementation to commence

- Full workplan will be presented separately by Project Manager

2. 9th AGM Annual General and Scientific Meeting

- The AGM generates the scientific agenda through its working groups and reviews progress of joint work undertaken.
- The AGM is utilised as a scientific forum for the presentations of scientific papers and posters by members and young scientists sponsored by the Network.
- The 8th AGM was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from September 21-26, 2008. The hosts were the HDSS sites in Tanzania.
- **2009:** The 9th AGM will be held in Pune, India, from September 26-29 and will be hosted by the HDSS sites in India.
- **Theme:** *Poverty, Health and Demographic Dynamics - Evidence from South-South Collaborations*



2.7. Scientific Advisory Committee

- The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) provides guidance, scientific review and leadership to the Secretariat and the Board
- Provides advice and recommendations on the research and development portfolio of the Network
- In 2008 the SAC had one face-to-face and one telephone conference.
- **2009:**
 - The SAC is expected to have at least one face-to-face conference and two teleconferences
 - SAC members to serve as mentors to sites
 - The SAC was very instrumental in AGM in Dar and have been instrumental in helping to decide on the theme

3. Interest Groups

- The Secretariat has encouraged the establishment of various groups proposing cross-site activities.
- Secretariat plans to fund one or two of these groups with high potential to raise funds, to convene proposal development workshops.
- In 2008, a number of interests groups were supported and some of these have achieved a lot so far e.g, Reproductive Health group received funding and would now develop a comprehensive agenda.
- **2009:** The Secretariat will encourage and where necessary, provide support to some of these groups, particularly those that demonstrate great promise to deliver a concrete product.

3.1 Education Group

- Group started in 2007
- data collected on education and their interest to participate
- Longitudinal data from DSS can give us the opportunity to assess issues such school attendance rates, progression rates, repetition rates, etc.
- Follow up of health indicators and education outcomes at the same time provide opportunity to examine health-education relationships and allow evaluation of education MDG
- **2008:** The Secretariat will continue to encourage this group to develop a good research agenda in this area

3.2 Environment and Health

- The Executive Director and Dr Yazoume Yé, Associate Research Scientist at the APHRC/Nairobi HDSS visited Bergen, Norway, to dialogue on possible collaboration
- Presented the Network's research plans in climate change and health.
- University of Bergen presented the Centre for International Health's climate health research at the University of Bergen and ongoing CIH research collaboration at some INDEPTH sites.
- **2009:** The Secretariat will revive the INDEPTH Environment and Health interest group so that the Bergen initiative can be moved forward.

3.3 Reproductive Health

- Since 2002, the reproductive health interest group has been on the drawing board.
- 2007 AGM saw rebirth of this interest group

- *Achievements in 2008*
 - INDEPTH recruited a Consultant Research Associate, Dr. Aree Jampaklay, from Kanchanaburi HDSS, Thailand, to review all previous efforts initiated by the reproductive health working groups.
 - Aree spent one week in Accra to review the literature and did a scoping exercise that resulted in a concept note.
 - Concept submitted to Hewlett Foundation and received 100k plan grant and a pledge of 900k

- *Plans for 2009*
 - Focus is to develop a full proposal and programme of work on reproductive health.
 - Submit to Hewlett for funding



3.5 Vaccination and Immunization

- *Achievements in 2008*
- WHO funded a meeting in London facilitated by Prof. Peter Smith to look the data and develop analytical techniques to examine the data.
- Group took advantage of this meeting to have an additional one day meeting in London
- Submitted an LOI to the Danish Development Agency.

- *Plans for 2009*
 - Efforts will be devoted to developing that proposal for submission.
 - Group will continue with the analysis of existing data answer questions related to the unanticipated effects of immunizations.



3.6. GIS for HDSS

- INDEPTH Secretariat to encourage HDSS sites taking keen interest in geographic information systems
- Integrating GIS into their DSS operations
- Secretariat plans to support a major effort to incorporate GIS into routine HDSS data collection.
- Secretariat to support a group that will look at the use of GIS techniques to visualise HDSS data.

4. Production of Cross-site Products



4.1. Second Edition of INDEPTH Mortality Monograph

- Mortality monograph being worked on
- 26 sites submitted datasets for this work

- ***Achievements in 2008***
 - Editors met a number of times to review datasets, audit of problems arising from the datasets submitted by sites.
 - Got sites to correct data queries
 - Conducted preliminary analyses
 - Structure of monograph outlined

- ***Plans for 2009***
 - Strenuous efforts will be made in 2009 to ensure that the monograph is completed.
 - First meeting of editors already took place early January 2009 to undertake further data cleaning and analysis
 - Draft paper based the cleaned data accepted for presentation at PAA in Detroit, USA.



4.2. INDEPTH Fertility Monograph

- Late last year after the AGM, the Secretariat constituted an editorial group to lead the production of a monograph on fertility.
- Initially 28 sites signed on to contribute chapters
- ***Achievements in 2008***
 - ❑ Series of meetings were held by the editorial team to review drafts
 - ❑ Outline structure of the monograph and provide a roadmap to ensure the monograph is completed in record time.
 - ❑ 14 sites now have chapters at various levels of completion
- ***Plans for 2009***
 - ❑ Book proposal now under review
 - ❑ Writing of papers in progress
 - ❑ Objective is to have publication launched at AGM in Pune, India.
 - ❑ Editorial team and the sites are working frantically to ensure this happens



4.4. Project Officers

- Working group activities have been largely carried out on a pro-bono basis.
- However, this 'free-service' method has not worked.
- Secretariat in seeking core support budgeted for the use of Project Officers who will largely be scientific staff based at HDSS sites
- Percentage of their time contributed to network level activities will be catered for.
- This should help site scientists to take up lead roles in working group and proposal development activities.
- **2008:** The Secretariat plans to support working groups that have demonstrated commitment at producing research work that will contribute to advance science and policy development in the developing world.

5. Collaborations

- Maintaining and establishing partnerships with funders, donors and parallel groups is essential to INDEPTH's vision and mission
- The Network and its members work closely with funders, product development groups, parallel groups, local governments, policy makers, service delivery NGOs and local community-based groups.
- Current list of collaborators includes WHO, TDR, University of Witwatersrand, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Swiss Tropical Institute, the Health Metrics Network, University of Ghana, and the EAGLES Project
- **2008:** INDEPTH will continue to maintain current collaborations and pursue new strategic collaborations. The following are highlighted: University of Hiedelberg, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington, Measure Evaluation, Macro International (DHS+) and NACOST, African Union.

6. INDEPTH Prize

- The INDEPTH Prize for Extraordinary Research in Population and Health at INDEPTH Sites was established by the Board of Trustees in March 2002.
- The Prize fund of \$10000 was donated Dr. Peter Aaby, leader of the Bandim DSS site in Guinea-Bissau.
- \$3000 awarded annually to researchers who have recently published innovative INDEPTH-relevant research in a refereed journal or a comparable publication.
- Filabavi HDSS won the prize in 2005 and Kintampo HDSS in 2006. The prize was not awarded in 2007.
- **2008:** INDEPTH will award the Peter Aaby prize for extraordinary research from INDEPTH sites at the AGM.



PART B: CAPACITY BUILDING/STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES

▪



Part B Capacity Building/Strengthening Activities

INDEPTH organises capacity building/strengthening initiatives across the lifecycle of both institutional DSS site development and individual professional training. These initiatives help the global public health sector get better information and scientific work from the efforts of the sites, and increase the scientific and operational strength of the member sites.



1. Scientific Development and Leadership Programme

- **Objectives :**

- To develop a genre of African scientists from INDEPTH sites and elsewhere through practical on-the-job training in a unique Masters programme that combines epidemiology, biostatistics, demography and other social sciences with a focus on demographic and health surveillance in developing countries.
- To develop the capacity of scientists in the INDEPTH Network to have negotiating power to engage external collaborators.

- In 2007, INDEPTH funded four students for the Msc. in population-based field epidemiology at WITS.

- **2008:**

- Twelve students funded for 2008/9. INDEPTH will continue support students based on available funding.
- In seeking support for core funding from the Wellcome Trust, INDEPTH built into this proposal a component to continue to fund the leadership programme

- **2009**

- Provide scholarships to deserving students at the sites



2. Cross-site Capacity Building Small Grants

- With funding from Sida/SAREC, the Secretariat launched a small grants programme whose overall goal 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.

- In 2007
 - INDEPTH funded six cross-site projects that are now complete.
 - In late 2007, INDEPTH received further funding from Sida/SAREC following the success achieved from the first round to continue the cross-site capacity development programme.

- **2008:**
 - INDEPTH continued with the programme by expanding it further.

- 2009
 - Funding will be provided to sites that come up with innovative capacity strengthening activities.
 - The Secretariat hopes to attract other funding agencies in the near future.

3. Scientific Writing Workshop

- Objectives:
 - 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; and
 - facilitate peer-review and feedback on a set of DSS focused papers among developing country researchers and practitioners.

- **2009:**
 - The Secretariat plans to organize another scientific writing workshop that will bring between 10-15 young scientists together for one week.
 - The Journal *Tropical Medicine and International Health* has agreed to review the papers and facilitate the workshop

4. Data Analysis Workshop

- One of the biggest challenges facing many INDEPTH sites is lack of adequate capacity to analyze the large volumes of data
- Expertise in longitudinal data analysis is required to analyze rich, longitudinal and multi-level data at HDSS
- **2009:**
 - Secretariat intends to organize one data analysis workshop in 2009 for scientists from its member sites. The workshop will combine theory and on-hands practical analysis of data to allow participants understand both the concepts and the actual data analysis process and procedures.

5. Short Training in Biostatistics

- One of the crucial skills that most INDEPTH sites lack is a biostatistics.
- While sites collect and archive a huge amount of data they are often unable to analyse because of lack of biostatisticians
- **2009:**
 - As part of efforts to equip site scientists with biostatistics skills, the Secretariat plans in 2009 to organize a one week short course in biostatistics in one of the sites.
 - The Secretariat intends to collaborate with one of the universities that have offered biostatistics as a course and have extensive experience in organizing short courses in this area.

7. Site Exchange and Technical Support

- Support to sites for Technical Exchange Visits
- **2009:**
 - The Secretariat will continue supporting technical site exchange visits and funding technical support to sites.

PART C: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES



1. The Secretariat

- Principle responsibilities:
 - Identify key health and social issues needing investigation
 - Maintain donor relations and generate funding for network studies and evaluations
 - Coordinate and support the conduct of network studies and evaluations
 - Publish and disseminate results to impact policy and practice
 - Promote DSS and its capabilities
 - Position INDEPTH among regional and international institutions
 - All other institutional costs not covered in activities
- Travel
 - Site visits
 - Presentations at fora such as the UAPS and APHA meetings.
- **2009:** To engage with international experts in population and health and to learn best practices from the field, INDEPTH will intensify efforts at making a huge presence at international scientific meetings.



2. Fundraising for the Network

- Strategies for raising Core Funding
 - Approach current funders
 - Expand the funder-base
- Strategies for Raising Research Funding
 - Get working groups / sites more active in raising research grants.
 - Motivate working groups to develop grant proposals for funding.
- Strategies for Raising Capacity Strengthening Funding
 - Contact various foundations to provide full or part funding
- Other strategies
 - Strengthen existing collaborations
 - Pursue new collaborations.

- **2009: The Secretariat will put efforts in attracting funds from public foundation**

3. 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.
- The Board had two face-to-face conferences and one telephone conference in 2008.
- **2009:** We expect the Board to hold at least two face-to-face and two telephone conferences.



4. Websites

- The Secretariat has been helping several member sites develop and register websites. The Secretariat is also maintaining its own website. In 2008 great efforts were made to improve the Secretariat's website to give the network more visibility.
- An INDEPTH prize for the best website was launched to encourage sites to update the contents of their websites regularly. These efforts are geared toward creating more visibility for the HDSS sites and the Network.
- **2009:** We will continue to improve on this while we provide support to member sites without websites to develop their own.



5. Secretariat Staff

- INDEPTH is led by a permanent executive body (“the Secretariat”), which is headed by a full-time Executive Director.

- **2009: No new recruitments planned**