
WORK PLAN 2010

Presented to Board

February 9, 2010

Accra



Introduction

- INDEPTH currently consists of 37 HDSS sites in 19 countries
- The Secretariat utilizes the resources it raises from funders to, fund and co-ordinate cross-site research and capacity strengthening activities
- This work plan prioritizes scientific, capacity strengthening and administrative activities for the Network for the year 2010
- It provides details of the processes involved in each of the strategic thrusts, informs on the current status of events, and charts a path to follow in 2010
- Some of the activities presented will be ongoing from the previous year



A. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COORDINATION

- The overarching scientific objective of the INDEPTH Network is to contribute to an empirical understanding of changes in the demographic and health conditions of peoples of the current developing world and to apply this knowledge to alleviate the suffering of their populations.



Strategies

- Working groups
- Technical assistance
- Fellows
- Monograph series
- Journal supplements
- Young Scientists
- Technical assistance



Working Groups

- INDEPTH utilises working groups dedicated to key issues of interest to the Network
- HDSS site members are encouraged to identify issues, conduct research, perform analyses, and help shape the future of the Network
- In 2010, the Secretariat will continue to urge scientists in HDSS sites to take leadership of cross-site activities



Adult Health and Aging (AHA)

- The AHA WG which started in 2004 is now at the final stages of its current work
- The aim is to improve our empirical understanding of ageing and older persons within and across countries, to assess follow-up strategies and test new survey methods
- Data and analysis of data at all eight sites now complete
- Research is being written up



AHA

- 2010
- Work plan is planned in April at Harvard to conclude write up of research
- New proposal being considered for further work in self-reported health
- Workshop will be jointly funded by INDEPTH, WHO and NIH
- Expected output: journal supplement



HIV/AIDS – ART Rollout

- Following the withdrawal of former PI, Marie-Louise of Africa Centre has taken over as PI
- Re-casting the proposal following discussions with WT
- In 2010, we expect proposal to be submitted to Wellcome Trust
- Secretariat will provide modest resources to support one workshop to finalise proposal at Africa Centre



NCD monitoring in Asia/Oceania

- The Asia NCD which started in 2005, concluded the initial phase of the project through a major publication on NCD risk factors
- 9 articles were published in a special issue of the *Global Health Action* journal, a peer-reviewed open access journal on global health
- Supplement was launched at AGM in Pune



For 2010

- The Asia NCD WG submitted a proposal to European Commission to seek funding for new research
- New area of focus is to provide capacity to sites for continuous monitoring of NCDs in Asia
- Secretariat submitted the proposal on behalf of the WG



Migration and Urbanisation

- The MUWG has concluded its current work with the publication of its first monograph in December 2009
- The title of the monograph is “The Dynamic of Migration, Health and Livelihoods: INDEPTH Network Perspectives.”
- Monograph was launched in Pune ahead of actual publication



For 2010

- MUWG proposed to do further indepth analysis of residence and migration using event history and other longitudinal techniques.
- Lead investigators with a scientific advisory panel will support sites through data preparation, event history analysis and write up
- A workshop is planned to take place in 2010 to concretize plans
- Secretariat will provide some modest resource to support this effort



Vaccinations and Child Survival

- PI in 2009 worked closely with sites involved in the project.
- A proposal was completed and submitted to Danida.
- Danida pledged two-thirds of the funding and requested counterpart funding as condition for award of grant.
- Matching funds are being sought for project.
- A proposal has been submitted to the EU for the remainder of the funds.
- Project title is **“Monitoring and assessing the impact of vaccinations and other childhood interventions for both boys and girls.”**



For 2010

- Efforts will be made to required additional funds to execute project
- Applications will be made to Danish Medical Research Council – March 1 – if EDCTP is not successful.
- Lundbeck Foundation is another possibility
- PI will continue to work with site Pis with projects already initiated
- Secretariat will provide modest resources where necessary



Interest Groups

- The Secretariat has encouraged the establishment of various groups proposing cross-site activities
- While Secretariat will continue to support interest groups it will be strategic in that support
- Only groups that demonstrate promise will be supported



Cost of Illness

- 15 INDEPTH sites across Africa and Asia have developed comparative cross-country protocol to undertake a longitudinal investigation of household costs of illness and livelihood impact.
- Proposal was completed in 2009
- Now seeking funding
- Secretariat will in 2010 continue to facilitate the process of getting funding for the group



Antibiotic Resistance

- Antibiotic resistance (AR) has become a major concern in many developing countries
- A concept note AR was circulated prior to the AGM for sites interested to have a buy-in
- INDEPTH-ReAct joint meeting organized at the AGM
- Joint statement circulated after the AGM
- In **2010**, a PI will be recruited
- Proposal will be developed to seek funding



Clustering of mortality at INDEPTH sites

- Deaths often tend to cluster in specific areas due to risk factors associated with such areas
- These pockets of high and low levels of mortality can be modelled statistically and spatially
- In 2009, a workshop on clustering was organized to introduce scientists to spatial methods of modelling mortality at INDEPTH sites



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- A total of 20 scientists participated in the workshop
 - Outcome of that workshop were a series of paper initiated
 - In 2010, papers will be consolidated for publication as a special journal issue.
 - Prof. Heiko of Heidelberg University to provide mentorship



Tuberculosis

- Goal of the TB interest group is to conduct TB cross-site work which will maximize the use of the HDSS's to conduct TB research in developing countries
- Initial work will focus on:
 - Linking TB patient registers to the HDSS data
 - After linking, conduct initial analyses to find leads on how to proceed
- For 2010, a workshop is planned in the first half of year to put together ideas
- Secretariat plans to put in resources to assist initial meeting



Health Equity

- No major work on equity since launch of first equity monograph
- A proposed cross-site research entitled “Monitoring poverty and social determinants of health in INDEPTH sites is now being planned
- A workshop is planned for beginning of second quarter 2010 to put together ideas for a proposal to be developed
- There will also be initial analysis of existing data to inform proposal
- Secretariat will put in modest resources to support project



Ethics

- Ethical issues becoming a major issue
- INDEPTH in 2010 will help to revamp the Ethics working group
- Resources will be put in place to put together a group of experts to help develop guideline protocols for ethics work
- Secretariat will link up with organisations such as the African Malaria Network (AMANET) which currently tries to strengthen ethics committees



Funded Projects



Demographic and Health Transitions in developing countries

- Explore demographic and health transitions at selected INDEPTH sites
- Document changes in health and demographic transitions using data from the participating sites
- Compare transitions between the African and Asian sites and between different sub-regions in Africa.
- Compare the experience in the developing country-settings to what happened in the developed countries.
- Examine the implications of the transitions on the health care systems (to consider the possible cost implications: infrastructure – human and physical; health financing; education awareness and promotion implications)

For 2010

- Analyze trends in fertility, mortality and diseases patterns in the initial sites. The aim shall be to describe changes in fertility, mortality and disease pattern in these sites
- Analyse fertility and mortality trends over time as birth interval analysis to determine the pace and speed of fertility decline
- For mortality, we shall examine trends in both childhood and adult mortality as well as the age-patterns of mortality.



Sexual Reproductive Health

- INDEPTH in late 2009 received a grant of US \$ 100,000 from the Hewlett Foundation to develop an SRH agenda for INDEPTH
- In 2009 INDEPTH developed a research concept to rollout a major project on SRH
- Additional US\$ 900,000 was approved for INDEPTH conductive evaluation research in Africa
- In 2009 two separate meetings were held to develop projects aimed at evaluating existing SRH intervention programmes



SRH continued

- Three areas of focus identified are:
 - Adolescent Reproductive Behavior and Fertility
 - Fertility, Family Planning and Child Survival
 - Fertility and Household Economic Well-being
- For 2010, proposals will be selected.
- Process already underway – 8 proposals have so far been received following a call for proposals
- A selection committee to be constituted by the SAC to review proposals
- Projects to start before end of first quarter of 2010



Realising Rights

- Three stakeholder dissemination workshops carried out in 2009
- Paper on maternal mortality under production
- A documentary in collaboration with the Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights in Ghana has been launched on maternal mortality.
- The documentary was launched in July 2009 by the Vice President of Ghana.
- Project ends this year with a dissemination planned for May 2010.



TARGETS

- In 2009 Secretariat worked with partners on a number of projects
- Paper published on association between immunization and SES on child mortality
- Like Realising Rights, project ends in March



Epilepsy

- Project is led by Kilifi site
- Other sites involved are Agincourt, Iganga/Mayuge, Rufiji and Kintampo
- Among other things, the project aims to determine the burden of epilepsy at the sites
- Project took off last year and will be continued 2010
- Project entirely managed by PI at Kilifi



2010 AGM

- To be held in Accra, Oct 27-30, 2010
- A separate presentation to be made on AGM



Scientific Advisory Committee

- The Scientific Advisory Committee provides guidance, scientific review and leadership to the Secretariat and the Board
- SAC in 2009 had one face-to-face meeting in addition to two others that were held through a phone conference
- A new SAC chair appointed in 2009
- A number of SAC members rotated off in 2009 and will be replaced in 2010



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- SAC played a critical role in reviewing proposals from Secretariat and working groups in 2009
 - Secretariat will continue to tap into the rich experience of the SAC.
 - SAC will hold one face-to-face meeting in Accra. Phone conferences will be held as necessary



B. INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- To create more efficiency in the use of ICT resources
- To Identify and facilitate relevant support to INDEPTH sites
- To provide reliable connectivity to ensure the secretariat function with minimal connectivity disruptions.
- To advise management on technological developments, trends and guide appropriate hardware and software investments.
- To provide data security and backups for the Secretariat
- To provide in-house support on equipment, databases / databanks, software and other tools, and user training to enhance overall efficiency of the secretariat



■ Activities in 2010

- ❑ Renew subscription /contracts with all vendors (Bandwidth, Servers, Internet domains and hosting plans)
- ❑ Identify, procure and install redundant / backup connectivity link
- ❑ Procure new RAID5 Server for the Annex to be used for VPN
- ❑ Identify, procure and install relevant group communication software
- ❑ Quarterly Hardware maintenance
- ❑ Software required for effective functioning of the Secretariat
- ❑ Website support to member sites



C. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

- **Capacity strengthening workshops planned for 2010**
 - Scientific Writing workshop
 - Longitudinal Data Analysis workshop (LDA)
 - Data Managers Workshop
 - INDEPTH Data quality matrix -Workshop
 - Finance Managers Meeting



Technical support to new and existing sites

- In order to be more relevant to sites, the Secretariat in 2010 will embark on aggressive technical support to the sites
- Support will include:
 - Demographic and statistical analysis support
 - visit new sites to provide support in start-up activities
 - facilitate technical exchange visits
 - Mentorship using experts from SAC and other constituencies
 - Support for Data Documentation Initiative with in INDEPTH sites



INDEPTH Leadership programme

- Support for MSc Pop-based field epidemiology students
- Msc for Data Managers
- Short Courses
- Re-entry Grants
- PhD support for site scientists



SUPPORT to OpenHRS Development

- Most commonly used data management software in INDEPTH sites is the Household registration System (HRS)
- Systems now has problems
- However, being re-engineered to address the problems and to make it open source
- Group of developers are championing the effort to develop a new HDSS Data management System Called OpenHRS
- Secretariat will try to put in modest resources so our sites can take advantage of it



- Objective is:

- To provide support to the software development effort
- To provide support for a workshop that brings sites together to appreciate new features and functions on OpenHRS and how to migrate from HRS2
- To support initially fives sites to migrate from HRS2 to OpenHRS



The Secretariat

- Will in 2010 continue to provide coordination support to
 - Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to identify key health and social issues and questions that need to be investigated by INDEPTH;
 - Work with Board to implement INDEPTH mandate
 - Maintains funder relations and generates funding for network-level studies and evaluations;
 - Efficiently co-ordinates and supports the conduct of INDEPTH studies in a transparent manner;
 - Help to publish and disseminate results to impact health and social policy and practice;
 - Promote the work and capabilities of health and demographic surveillance system (HDSS) sites; and
 - Promote INDEPTH among regional and international institutions



Board of Trustees

- Board will continue to exercise oversight responsibilities on INDEPTH
- Help Secretariat to implement its work plan
- Board will hold two face-to-face meetings in 2010 (current one and another one at AGM)
- Funds will be set aside for the work of the Board.



Thank You!



INDEPTH Network