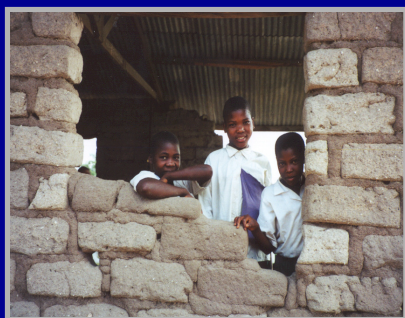# Future INDEPTH Research Priorities

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29th September 2010

Highly Productive Year

- Must not stand still or we will become fossils, and fossils are dead!

- It's fine to expand into diverse areas, but must maintain our backbone or we will become like slime on the floor to be swept away

INDEPTH Scientific Vision 2010 Emphasizes the backbone

- The Network will conduct studies to:
  - ➢ quantify the dynamics of populations in low and middle income countries
  - ➢ understand and address their determinants and their implications for health and wellbeing
  - ➢ evaluate the impact of interventions and health systems on health and survival in different contexts

- Will achieve this through:
  - ➢ the generation and analysis of multi-site, longitudinal, population-based demographic and cause-of-death data

Proposals for the Future

- Increased emphasis on ensuring that, at a minimum, the Network produces timely, high-quality products from the core INDEPTH research and generation/updating of core research tools

- Core INDEPTH Research:
  - ➢ based directly on this scientific vision

Core INDEPTH Research

Studies using the core HDSS data

- ➢ Pregnancies
- ➢ Births
- ➢ Migrations
- ➢ Deaths
  - Causes of death
- ▪ Either as outcomes or as potential determinants

- Longitudinal analyses – trends/differences

- Comparative across multiple DHSSs

Wellcome Trust Strategic Award Application

Informing global attempts to improve the health and wellbeing of low and middle-income populations:

The INDEPTH Network of Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems

Applicants: OsmanSankoh&KobusHerbst

Co-Applicants: Scientific Programme Leader (TBC)
Sharon Fonn (Wits Univ)

Aims

1. Conduct research that generates robust scientific knowledge that can guide evidence-based policies and interventions at local, national, and international levels

2. Develop and apply best practice methods of sharing, curating and analysing demographic and health data in HDSSs

3. Strengthen the capacity of scientists from low- and middle-income countries to analyseHDSS data and to conduct intervention research in member centresof INDEPTH.

5 study areas

- **Study 1**. Describe, monitor and analyse changing patterns of all-cause and cause-specific mortality by age and sex in different low and middle income countries of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Oceania**.**

- **Study 2.** Conduct comparative and longitudinal analyses of the determinants of health and epi-demographic transitions at the level of the individual, household, community, and social and health and social system.

- **Study 3.** Quantify and investigate the relationships between poverty, inequity and health, including the contributions made to health inequalities by material deprivation, lack of education, and inability to access welfare benefits and preventive and curative health services

5 study areas

Study 4. Investigate the implications for health and welfare systems of epidemiological and demographic change, including changes in disease profiles, population structure and growth rates and population ageing.

Study 5. Investigate the long-term consequences of early life events and intergenerational effects on health and wellbeing across the life course

In addition, to the degree possible given these higher priorities, also support other research

For example:

- Studies at a single HDSS, without the potential for multi-centre analyses

- Using the HDSS as a sampling frame or to provide background contextual data