WASH Working Group
Optimization of WASH and Cholera Research

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BACKGROUND

- Wellcome Trust and DFID hosted research meeting in July 2018
- Identification of six priority areas in September 2018
- 80 day consultancy with Epilinks (June – November 2019)
- Funded by the CDC

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Commonly-implemented, severely under-researched (CISUR)
Priority 2: Community Outreach Response Teams (CORTS) (formerly RRTs and CATI)
Priority 3: Minimum WASH Package for response
Priority 4: OCV and WASH synergy
Priority 5: Behaviour practices motivators and barriers
Priority 6: Programmatic learning for integrated response for control and elimination
OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE: Elaborate a harmonized research plan to guide and prioritize WASH and cholera research and support advocacy and resource mobilization efforts

ACTIVITIES:
• Mapping of existing, on-going and/or planned research
• Identification and prioritization of knowledge gaps for research
• Develop funding and advocacy plan
• Develop monitoring and accountability framework

PRIORITY SETTING/KEY PRINCIPLES: Consultative, Iterative, Transparent and Inclusive
# MAPPING AND IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS

## Methodology
- Literature review: 62 publications were included (51 from PubMed; 3 OFDA; 5 Prospero; and 3 Clinical Trials)
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): 19 interviews and 5 written feedback (out of 35)

## Mapping exercise
- 72 existing, on-going and/or planned research (P1: 21; P2: 12; P3: 10; P4: 5; P5: 15 and P6: 9)

## Research gaps
- 101 research gaps (42 from literature review and 59 from KIIs)
- 39 knowledge gaps emerged for all seven priority areas
CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

- Finalize research questions
- Integration with the broader GTFCC research agenda
- Prioritization of research questions or topics
Cholera Roadmap Research Agenda (CRA) using the Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI) Methodology

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Outline

01 Overview

02 CHNRI Method

03 Results
Overview of Cholera Research Agenda (CRA)
Despite evidence that zinc is beneficial in managing and preventing acute diarrhea

Kenyan CHWs were not allowed to dispense zinc to children with diarrhea

Implementation research trained and supplied CHWs with zinc ultimately demonstrating impact in a large population (Homa Bay, Kenya)

Resulted in a change of national policy that permits CHWs to dispense zinc

What role can research play?
### Overview – Cholera Research Agenda (CRA)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Why?</th>
<th>What?</th>
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| • Most **impactful research should be prioritised** to help countries meet the Roadmap 2030 goals  
  • Competing priorities  
  • Optimize donor funding | • Act as a **strategic guide** to researchers, donors and decision-makers  
  • Outline a “**to-do**” list of research priorities as well as dependencies between research priorities  
  • Communicate how addressing research priorities will **address the needs of people working in the field** |
Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI) Methodology
Since then, over 50 exercises have been conducted, resulting in funding of highest priorities.
Advantages of CHNRI methodology

Consultative
- Involvement of all stakeholders throughout the process
- Democratic process using crowd sourcing

Transparent
- Clearly defined context and prioritisation criteria
- Strengthens and weaknesses of each idea can be clearly communicated
- Outcome is simple, intuitive, and quantitative

Replicable
- Progress can be monitored
- Exercise can be repeated

Comprehensive
- All types of research are included and evaluated within the same framework
Overview of CHNRI process

Identify & involve stakeholders

Currently finalizing these steps - June

Define context

Interviews & surveys completed in Apr

Identify criteria and weighting

Develop a comprehensive list of questions

Prioritise Jul-Aug

Analyze Sep-Oct

Launch in early 2021
Results of consultation
What were the main outcomes?

300 Research gaps identified across Roadmap pillars

95 Collated into unique research questions

Criteria ranked by importance*

1. Relevancy
2. Impact
3. Implementability
4. Answerability
5. Sustainability
6. Affordability
7. Equity
8. Fundability

*Weighting to be determined
THANK YOU!
Approach to develop the Cholera Roadmap Research Agenda using CHNRI methodology

01 COLLECT

- Conduct interviews, surveys, and in-person discussions to collect input and feedback on the barriers to Roadmap implementation and potential research prioritization criteria
- Compile all identified research questions (RQ), remove duplicates and standardize and categorize RQs

02 DEVELOP

- Using data from Step 1, conduct stakeholder meeting to develop a prioritization methodology, including agreement on defined criteria, weighting, and considering different Roadmap perspectives

03 PRIORITIZE

- Get RQs scored using pre-agreed criteria from a large group of stakeholders to prioritize RQs
- Analyze responses and identify prioritized RQs for Cholera Roadmap

Research Steering Committee guides and governs the process

1: Rudan I. Setting health research priorities using the CHNRI method: IV. Key conceptual advances. J Glob Health. 2016;6(1). doi:10.7189/jogh.06.010501
Guiding Principle of CHNRI

“To expose the potential of many competing health research ideas to reduce disease burden and inequities that exist in the population in a feasible and cost-effective way.”
Who participated in the consultation?

32 Countries represented

138 Experts consulted

- 10% Donor
- 25% Policy / decision or implementer
- 30% Implementing partner
- 35% Researchers