Breakout Group Summary Report

This document is intended to capture the key outputs of your breakout discussion, and to be representative of the group as a whole. Please denote your group’s topic, presentations and research priorities before the start of the session, and dedicate the latter portion of your session to determining the key discussion points, knowledge gaps and recommended steps. Also, please indicate whether your group’s recommendations align with the specified initial priority target. Your report will be shared on the NTD-SC website, and will inform future advisory panel discussions and donor priorities.

Section I
To be filled out before the session begins.

Breakout Topic:

1B: Guidance for Onchocerciasis: From Control to Elimination

Presentations:

1) New WHO criteria for the verification of the elimination of onchocerciasis (Tom Unnasch – 10 min)
2) Programmatic steps towards the elimination of onchocerciasis (Yao Sodahlon-10 min)
3) Operational research needs identified by countries in 2014; Are they still valid? (Daniel Boakye– 5 min)
4) Update on the status of the Ov16 roll out (Roger Peck-10 min)
5) Brainstorming to identify the needs (All participants-80 min)
6) Ending wrap-up (Daniel Boakye-5 min)

Research priorities to be discussed:

Discussions will focus on the emerging guidance for onchocerciasis as programs shift from control to elimination efforts.
Section II
To be filled out as the session concludes.

What were your group's key discussion points?

We listed operational research needs to provide further guidance to onchocerciasis control programmes in shifting from control to elimination.

What knowledge gaps (if any) did your group identify?

- For delineation of treatment areas: association between nodule prevalence and other infection indicators (OV16, DEC patch, skin snip) in hypo endemic areas. For different places. [Data collection ongoing, analysis to be done.]
- Intervention / planning:
  - what is needed to reach goal, and how does that change if you want to reach this in a certain timeframe? [Will be addressed by NTD modelling consortium]
  - Issues related to delivery of PCT, especially also in view of integration with other NTDs. Classical CDTI may no longer work.
  - How can phase 1A and phase 1B survey data help to decide whether a switch is needed to alternative treatment strategies (based on epidemiological survey data)
- For deciding when to stop interventions:
  - Validation of endpoints for mass treatment
  - When to start with phase 1a and phase 1B epidemiological surveys and when to do the entomological surveys
- Issues related to post-treatment surveillance:
  - When, how often, which test and in which group? Discussions concentrated around OV16 (in children vs. in whole population) and xenomonitoring.

What next steps does your group recommend?

Some of the studies are done by APOC or in close collaboration with APOC. Ensure that studies are completed and data made available.

Do your recommended steps align with the research priorities identified on page 1?  ☑ Yes  ☐ No