



COR-NTD 2015

Philadelphia, PA, October 22-23

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:

3F: Reaching Leprosy Elimination Targets: Coupling Leprosy and other NTD Programs

Presentations:

SPEAKER PANEL led by Anna Wickenden (effect:Hope)
-Characteristics of successful elimination programs - Mark Rosenberg (Task Force for Global Health)
-What are the models telling us about the future of leprosy? - Graham Medley (London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene)
-Overview of Current Gaps that exist in Knowledge about Leprosy Transmission - Tom Gillis (R2STOP)

SOCIAL AND PROGRAMMATIC CONSEQUENCES OF GAPS IN TRANSMISSION KNOWLEDGE
-Program perspective - Udo Sunday
-Personal perspective - Caroline Johnny
-How understanding transmission informs program delivery - Nana Biritwum (Ghana Health Service)

Research priorities to be discussed:

- I) Understand lessons that can be learned from other successful elimination coalition efforts
- II) Identify the social and programmatic implications of the gaps that exist in knowledge and implementation within the global Leprosy response
- III) Identify the critical elements of an "improvement package" for leprosy elimination in order to achieve the goals of the London Declaration

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Section II

To be filled out as the session concludes.

What were your group's key discussion points?

- Good stakeholders are needed to form the coalition and these are questions to be addressed in that respect: who do we need? Who has interest, and is present in the field, MOHs, NGOs, donors?
- Mapping or/and baseline data are needed to start or re-start the elimination intervention. Overall, good longitudinal and routine data, as with other NTDs, are needed, e.g. case detection rates, case delay, etc.
- Liberia and Ghana country perspectives were presented by the country NTD program managers. As of today, Liberia has reached the elimination target country wide as per WHO guidelines, but in some counties the rate still higher than 1/10,000. The country needs to understand how to address this challenge. There is now a need to set a new target at the district level instead of the country. Finally, stigmatization of infected persons is still high and the need for integration with other NTDs where it's possible is important.

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

Questions in order of priority:

1. How do we maintain commitment after country declares elimination?
2. What indicators can be used to focus active surveillance efforts/surveys? (rapid skin assessment, seroprevalence, questionnaires, demographics)
3. Do high incidence areas have specific characteristics?
4. Which way to go: 1) keep leprosy program with TB or 2) move leprosy program into NTDs?
5. How can we address controversy surrounding "Elimination of Leprosy"?
6. Can we identify the many people with residual disabilities due to leprosy and address their needs?
7. Active case finding: Should we offer a financial incentive for diagnosis to patients?
8. What should be done to encourage communities to take the program on as their own?
9. What new leprosy data do we need?
10. How can we think about active case finding in high and low endemic areas?
11. Why is leprosy overlooked by some governments? How can a coalition help to prioritize leprosy among other NTDs? Why is so little research conducted on leprosy?
12. More research into which contacts get leprosy, including genetic studies?
13. Can m-health based data collection help improve data collection in leprosy?
14. How should we define a new leprosy end goal?
15. How can we break transmission?
16. Who do we need in our coalition?
17. What are the lessons learned from previous coalitions?
18. What is the operational benefit of adding a rapid diagnostic test for leprosy to routine case detection activities?
19. How can WHO support individual level leprosy data collection?

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What next steps does your group recommend?

Activities prioritized:

1. Build an inclusive leprosy coalition
2. Concerted effort to collate individual level national data
3. Establish how we develop diagnostic test
4. Advocate for diagnostic test
5. Reviewing available data
6. Regarding sustainability of programs, determine: What needs to be done for communities to take ownership? Why have other countries not met elimination goals yet? How can stigma be eliminated from leprosy patients?
7. Periodic, targeted population-based surveys that do not depend on case-finding are needed in leprosy/HD control.

Do your recommended steps align with the research priorities identified on page 1?

Yes No