

A Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Approach to Scaling up Healthcare for Chagas Disease

Session Date: Saturday, November 4

Session Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Session Location: Severn I

Session Description: The overall aim of the session is to share a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) approach to scaling health care, which has been used for Chagas disease programs. The key features of this session include: 1) A presentation covering the MCDA model, the data collection methodology and the strategic planning tool we have developed that can be used by program managers to develop and evaluate intervention strategies. 2) Presentations covering the application of the tool in multiple countries, and 3) An interactive exercise wherein session participants can create strategies that can be evaluated by the strategic planning tool. Participants will be able to access this versatile tool and use it for their projects or data sets in the future

Session Chairs: Gurram Gopal, Illinois Institute of Technology and Silvia Moriana, Chagas Disease Global Coalition

Session Rapporteur: Silvia Moriana

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

This session evaluated the relevance of a tool to support scaling up of health interventions for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), with discussion about appropriateness of the model and the best potential use for effected countries. The main finding was ***the validation that this is a useful step in enhancing the decision making regarding NTD management.***

KNOWLEDGE GAPS IDENTIFIED

- Enhancing the cost side of the model, connecting it to the cost of the selected strategies and actions
- Extending the model to scientific evidence/data from studies
- Reviewing some elements of the core model based on the inputs of the audience
 - Some interventions to control Chagas Disease are not purely additive (i.e., the outcomes of two interventions may not be simply added); this might require a modification of the core model
 - Assumption that actions in the health system only have to happen once
 - Difference between what interventions and actions are required by law versus what is actually implemented in the field.
- Studying the possibility to allow threshold level between outcomes and complexity (efficiency line) to be set by the user (rather than the median)

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

- Test the model and tool for other NTDs

- Leverage integrated approaches and explore possibilities for including several NTDs in the same exercise
- Include in the model and tool the cost-site analysis.
- Conduct research on cost-benefit of key Chagas interventions in affected countries
- Seek evidence on the effectiveness and impact of key interventions related to diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease
- Perform implementation research on the impact of the use of the model and tools by policy makers in a series of municipalities
- Collaborate with other groups doing NTD modeling, especially on analysis related to how much a specific intervention impacts morbidity/mortality