Shrinking the Map for Schistosomiasis: Identify the Operational Research Needs for Precision Mapping

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Key Discussion Points

5 presentations

1) **Prof Louis-Albert Tchuem-Tchuente** highlighted the need for precision mapping as evidenced from a recent PLoS NTDs paper that documented the changing nature of schistosomiasis mapping from 1985, 2010 and 2018, perspectives.

2) **Dr Pauline Mwinzi** gave an update from WHO-AFRO mapping initiatives, data that are now available via the ESPEN portal.

3) **Dr Hugh Sturrock** reported on the development of mapping software that could help identify those areas where further exploratory mapping and targeted geographical sampling is needed.

4) **Prof Penelope Vounatsou** discussed predictive mapping and attempts to quantify changes in endemicity adjusting with environmental, WASH and chemotherapy variables.

5) **Dr Rachael Pullen** investigated various sampling frames and performance against correctly allocated preventive chemotherapy.

There was consensus that current mapping protocols are insufficient in elimination settings and also need improvement in gaining and sustaining control settings.

Key Discussion Points

Questions from the floor include:

1) How is cost-effectiveness defined in short and long-term perspectives?

2) Should snail surveillance also be included in sampling frames (not just distance to water)?

3) What is the ratio of (non)sampled schools rather than district/sub-district/parish divisions?

4) How is do different treatment algorithms (biennial or longer) perform against drop-out?

Thank You