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Young Investigator Workshop:

Defining the Research Priorities for the prevention of anaemia in malaria- endemic areas

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Outline

- Aims of the Workshop
- Format of the Workshop
- Issues raised in Discussions
- Suggestions for Future Research Strategies

Aims of the workshop

- Provide a **friendly** forum for Young Researchers
- Contribution of **ideas** towards future research
- Promote and facilitate **dialogue**
- Involve people from different fields of research and programmes
- Encourage new **collaborations**
- **Develop Cross-cutting** approaches to the problem
- To foster and develop the future talent in **nutrition-related research**.
- Opportunity to develop **discussion and negotiation skills** required for setting of research agendas.

Format of the workshop

- Countries represented included:
 - Benin, Guinea Bissau, India, Indonesia, Holland, Kenya, Pakistan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Ivory Coast, Uganda, UK, USA & Zimbabwe.
- Backgrounds of participants:
 - Policy and programme planning, advocacy, iron supplementation, iron fortification, animal models of micronutrient metabolism, malaria control, nutrition and cognitive development and micronutrients and infection including - HIV, malaria & TB.
 - PhD students to individuals with several years of independent research/practical experience.

Issues raised in discussions

- Another Pemba sub-study?
 - **Ethical** implications versus requirements for **evidence base** to implement change.
- Need for and role of detailed observational **mechanistic** research – Are empirical efficacy trials the answer to everything?
- Should we just go straight to testing **MMN** interventions?
- Other safe modes for delivery of iron (does the choice of **fortificant & vehicle** affects safety)?
- How effective have iron interventions been in **reversing** not just Hb but the adverse effects of anaemia?
- What is the mechanism for iron increasing mortality – is it really **malaria**? Is it really iron?
- Inherent **competitiveness** of research and lack of agreed protocols.

Specific research questions/approaches posed -

1

- **Anaemia consortium**

- Shared expertise and shared protocols for large-scale multi-country studies – **powered** to detect:
 - interactions of effects by sex, age, malaria endemicity/immunity, HIV, genetic effects – HbS etc
 - Within RCTS include markers of mechanisms in order to be able to better interpret study results
- Assess effects of interventions within the context of malaria control programmes such as IPTi
- Trials of home fortification interventions such as sprinkles – dose, timings, age, malaria
- Development of animal models for mechanistic research

Specific research questions/approaches posed -

2

- How can we improve infant stores in order to prevent development of anaemia – increase compliance/efficiency of supplementation in pregnancy?
- Drop routine folate supplementation in children, make lower dose folate supplements more available for use in pregnancy
- Careful evaluation of fortification programmes