AMP mission to Rwanda
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Alysa Krain MD, MSc
Betty Lafourcade, PhD
Agence de Médecine Préventive (AMP)

- **Background**
  - Non-profit organization created in 1972 (Foundation Mérieux and Pasteur Institute)

- **Missions**
  - Promote preventive medicine and public health by implementation of field research on infectious/communicable diseases
  - Develop human resources for health system strengthening (training)
  - Provide expertise in public health by partnering with countries & international organizations
  - Organize technical seminars or meetings of stakeholders in international health.

- **Areas of interest/expertise**
  - Field based epidemiological research (surveillance systems)
  - Epidemiological training programs (Epivac)
  - Transfer of laboratory technology to developing countries
  - Capacity development (SIVAC*)

- **WHO TB Task Force member since January 2009**
  - Asked to provide technical assistance to Rwandan team

*Supporting Independent Immunization and Vaccine Advisory Committees*
Background on Rwanda

- Population 2008: 9,822,186 (NISR* 2009)
- Population ≥ 15yr: 58.0% (NISR 2009)
- 2007 WHO est prevalence SS+ in adults: 252/100K
- Notification rate (new SS+/100 000 pop/yr): 48 (2008)
- Case detection rate SS+: 19%
- TB Patients tested for HIV: 96% (2008)
  - TB - HIV co-infection: 34%

*National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
Rwanda
Goals of AMP mission in Rwanda

- To assess national capacity and preparedness for the survey
- Identify potential bottlenecks in preparation and implementation of the survey
- To develop action plan to strengthen and build laboratory capacity for the prevalence survey
- To come up with a list of recommendations related to study logistics, regulatory requirements, human resources and training
- To assist the NTP in the development of a high quality protocol and data collection tools
AMP mission activities (1)

- Met key players from NTP, Rwandan School of Public Health (RSPH), WHO and other partners who worked in preparation of the protocol

- Learned about standard activities of the NTP (surveillance, diagnostics, training)

- Visited the national reference laboratories in Kigali to assess capacity (equipment & personnel)

- Met with a senior researcher at the National Institute of Statistics to discuss their involvement in the survey and study regulations.
AMP mission activities (2)

- Discussed radiological issues of the survey with radiology staff at the Kigali medical center

- Discussed laboratory issues of the survey with laboratory partners implicated in the survey (NRL, ICAP, Damien Foundation)

- Worked on sample size calculations/sampling frame with a researcher from the RSPH
Bottlenecks identified (1)

- **General**
  - NTP activities focused on acquiring funding in order to proceed with all survey planning and activities
  - Survey organization not yet formalized (steering committee, survey coordinator)
  - Terms of references yet to be clearly defined
  - Survey design and methods still under discussion (SOPs pending)
  - Survey protocol needs revising to reflect the reality of the field activities
Bottlenecks identified (2)

- **Epidemiological**
  - Survey design, sample size, sampling frame and methods still under discussion
  - Enumeration zones (EZ) may need updating (numeration of households)
  - Study regulations (approval of Ethics Committee of MOH and NISR)

- **Laboratory**
  - Procedures still under discussion - dependant upon clusters/EZs chosen (clinic based vs mobile teams)
  - Procurement procedures very slow and complicated
  - One reference lab currently operational for TB (2 pending for «2010»)
  - Laboratory personnel skills (culture) need evaluation and equilibration (training)
Bottlenecks identified (3)

- **Radiology**
  - Shortage of radiologists (6 in-country/3 public sector)
  - District doctors trained by NTP/WHO on radiology need to be assessed by radiologists (further training?)
  - Radiological study procedures still under development
  - Study sites will likely need improved infrastructure and equipment/materials for radiological procedures

- **Data management/analysis**
  - Relationship between the Rwandan School of Public Health and NTP not yet formalized
  - Data related activities yet to be started (analysis plan, data base etc)

- **Training**
  - Survey specific training planning yet to be started
Initial recommendations (1)

- Formalize steering committee (SC) and relationships between SC members and the NTP

- Recruitment of full time survey coordinator, financial manager and logistics manager

- Recruit/designate unit heads (create terms of references)
Initial recommendations (2)

- Revision of protocol and data collection tools with formalized survey personnel/SC

- Once clusters/EZ identified, perform systematic site assessments of healthcare centers where radiological (and possibly laboratory) studies will be performed

- Perform assessment of laboratory/radiological personnel implicated in the survey
AMP Next Steps

- Preparation of mission report with formal recommendations for WHO and the Rwandan team

- Seek funding for long term technical assistance to the Rwandan team
Thank you for your attention!

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