

Dear COUNTDOWN colleagues, friends and partners

In these strange times of global pandemic, we at COUNTDOWN would like to send you all our good wishes and hope that you are all safe and well.

We are continuing to work at home during lockdown, analysing and writing up all the excellent research on NTDs and health systems strengthening that has taken place so far. While we have suspended all new data collection, we are continuing to make preparations for new field work so that when lockdown ends, we can resume our activities quickly and without any more delay.

We really appreciate all your kind messages and support during this time and would like to extend special appreciation to those health workers who are supporting the COVID19 responses.

COUNTDOWN's work on supporting NTD programmes to reach vulnerable populations is vital in these insecure and isolating times. Our networks are collecting as much information as possible on the impact of the pandemic on these groups (albeit at a distance) and once activities resume, we will work with stakeholders and communities to reflect on how this crisis has affected people and what the long term impact on NTD activities may be.

DFID, our funders are very supportive of the way that we have temporarily moved from an active research phase to one of analysis and preparation. They have kept in regular contact and we appreciate that.

If there is any way that you feel COUNTDOWN could support you and your work on NTDs or COVID responses at this time, then please let us know.

Likewise, do send any questions or comments to [countdown@lstmed.ac.uk](mailto:countdown@lstmed.ac.uk)

Please stay safe and healthy.

Kind wishes

Rachael

Dr Rachael Thomson  
Programme Director  
COUNTDOWN Research Programme  
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine  
Tel: +44 151 705 3271  
Skype: rachael.thomson7

<https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/research/collaborations/countdown>