

RESEARCH UPTAKE IS A PROCESS NOT AN END!

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INTRODUCTION

Research uptake is defined by the Department for International Development as ‘...all the activities that facilitate and contribute to the use of research evidence by policy-makers, practitioners and other development actors.’ In the COUNTDOWN programme, the Research Uptake team has been involved in key activities to support the supply and usage of research through stakeholder engagement, capacity building, communications, monitoring and evaluation and assessing progress of previous efforts. The expected outcome for all our activities as outlined in the DFID Theory of Change is ‘increased effectiveness of NTD programmes with a focus on reaching poor and vulnerable groups, resulting in more people accessing appropriate interventions and receiving necessary treatment’.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



The people within the communities in which our research work has been carried out are a ‘**key research end user**’ group seldom emphasised enough. COUNTDOWN has undertaken over 41 social mobilisation activities to create impact by engaging stakeholders at the community level who are central to engineering the behavioural change needed to break the vicious cycle of NTDs infection. Policy change though important remains inconsequential if the intervention is not well designed and implemented to change behaviours where the diseases remain endemic. Sometimes change can be bottom-up and therefore prioritising social mobilisation as a stakeholder engagement activity is important. Research Uptake (RU) at its core “*is a process, not an end*” and does not only happen when there is translation of research evidence into policy.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES & MEETINGS



At the national level, COUNTDOWN has engaged with NTD policy stakeholders, practitioners, experts and educators in over 27 meetings. To push visibility of the NTD programme efforts, some of our country partners from Cameroon, Liberia and Ghana have been instrumental in getting NTD Ambassadors appointed within countries to advocate for NTDs. Partners have organised advocacy meetings, conferences with international stakeholders and participated in NTD steering committee meetings where our research work has been discussed with the extensive NTD communities. Feedback from these interactions has stimulated discussions and we hope can translate into revised policy.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & MEETINGS



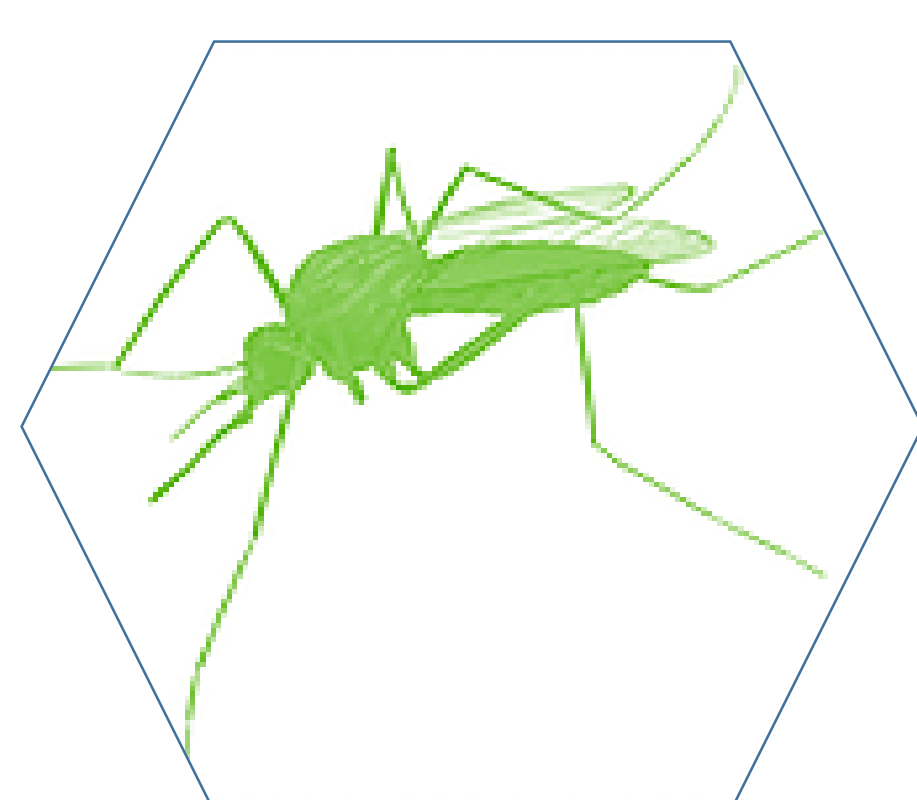
Internationally, partners from Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria have participated in over 60 conferences and high profile strategic & technical advisory group meetings at the WHO and with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Some of our research through discussions at these meetings have informed changes in guidelines as seen in the recently released WHO guidelines on Soil-transmitted helminthiasis, and Gender & Equity Tools kit pilot as carried out by our Sightsavers Partners in Nigeria. These exchanges have enabled partnerships to be established with organisations across the world and embark on new collaborative work towards eliminating NTDs.

IMPACT ENDGAME

As highlighted above, COUNTDOWN continues to generate research evidence which has been disseminated at various events, meetings, conferences, including strategic & technical advisory groups (STAGs). The research shared with stakeholders has increased understanding of multidisciplinary approach to combat NTDs. That is what Research uptake serves to do: act as a conduit of synthesised information and stimulate discussions on policy direction and programmatic changes. As our research moves from a translational phase to an institutionalisation phase, engaging with stakeholders at this point has never been more important. You can meet us at these upcoming events as we share our research journey and research uptake approaches in calling for multi-sectorial action!



ISNTD Science Creative Industries in Global Health
London 27th MAR. 2018



ISNTD Bites Vector Control & Disease Surveillance
JUL. 2018



ICOPA 2018, Parasitology Congress EXCO, Daegu, Korea
19th – 24th AUG. 2018



Health Systems Research Symposium, Liverpool
18th – 22nd OCT. 2018



COR-NTD New Orleans, Louisiana – OCT. 2018



Int'l Health Economics Congress Basel, Switzerland
13th – 17th July 2019



COUNTDOWN
Calling time on Neglected Tropical Diseases

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Many thanks to our colleagues within the COUNTDOWN Consortium