Regional Platform to reinforce capacity for clinical trials in Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT Platform): Five years contributing to improve research.

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Presentation Outline

• Background

• Platform objectives

• Achievements

• Lessons learned
Background: Human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) or sleeping sickness

• Treatment options largely inadequate
  – Toxic, old
  – Difficult to administer

• Point-of-care diagnostics needed

• Research infrastructure in HAT-endemic regions has either:
  – Not been sustained
  – Never existed
Who is the HAT Platform?

- National HAT control programs of most affected endemic countries
- DNDi, Swiss TPH
- ITMA, INRB, CDC, KARI-TRC, Epicentre
- NGOs like MSF
- FIND
- WHO
- regional networks
  - eg. EANETT, PABIN, AMANET
Objectives

• To strengthen clinical trial capacity for sleeping sickness
• To overcome health system challenges for clinical research
• To share information on HAT research progress
• To improve HAT clinical trial methodologies
Achievements

• **Trainings**
  – Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
  – Ethics committees training
  – Clinical trial monitors
  – MD training on standardization of patient examination
  – Clinical trial methodology workshops (efficacy assessment, protocol elements)

• **Meetings and sharing information**
  – 9 newsletters
  – 10 steering committee meetings
  – 5 scientific annual meetings
Linking to ongoing clinical trials to support building a sustainable and critical mass of investigators, monitors, trial sites.
Lessons learned

• Provide a forum by which to bridge:
  – HAT Research and disease control activities
  – Regional barriers (differences in laws, guidelines, methods, languages, concepts etc.)

• A needs-driven approach, adapted per region:
  – Training of trial staff (needs, level, methods)
  – Ethics concepts (GCP, informed consent etc)
  – Standard operating procedures (SOPs)

• Opportunities
  – Facilitate multi-country, multi-centre studies
  – Regional pool of clinical trial expertise
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