25th LEAP Meeting
3rd - 4th OCT 2018, Kampala

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VL Cases in Kenya, Jan-Sept 2018

- West Pokot County (Sept 2018) = 236
- Baringo County (Sept 2018) = 94
- Turkana County (Aug 2018) = 190
- Isiolo County (June 2018) = 60
- Marsabit County (April 2018) = 60
VL studies status

• On track at Kacheliba site – 49 as of 2nd Oct 2018
• Study not commenced at Kimalel site -Infrastructure repair works still ongoing, hence study cannot start in October.
• Diagnostic study- Fine tuning the protocol
• No patient recruited for intensive cohort

Challenges

• Intensive cohort- This phase of study not easy to achieve, may require a different strategy eg all sites to participate
Other VL research activities

• **CBRD, KEMRI:** Entomology studies - Gilgil, Marsabit, E. Pokot
  Sand fly vectors screening, parasite genotyping (CL & VL).

• **UON/Izumi/Probitas Foundation/Northeastern University/ICIPE/KEMRI/DNDi/WHO/Kaperur CBO**
  Epidemiological studies - East Pokot, including: active VL screening (rK39), training of CHW’s, Distribution of bed nets, Renovation of Kala-azar ward & Refurbishing and equipping of Lab at Chemolingot Sub county Hospital – Work ongoing.
Other VL research activities cont’

- **Institute of Primate Research**: Depart of Tropical & Infectious Diseases. Primate/rodent models- important in vaccine dev.

- **ICIPE**: Sand fly vectors diversity, density, distribution. Mapping of vector hot spots- East Pokot

- **FIND**: Evaluation of rK39 and rK28 RDT in Kenya (Pilot study) & improving access to VL diagnosis in Turkana & Wajir Counties
Status of VL Drug Registration/Challenges

• Both SSG + PM Registered
• SSG/PM combination- First line treatment for VL

Challenges
• Low funding of research for NTD’s
• Devolution of Health Ministry
• Insecurity in some VL areas – Cattle rustling
• Poor infrastructure eg roads
• Human resource- high turnover for technical staff
Opportunities

Foundation Probitas:

• NGO principal objective of supporting and encouraging health & development projects in vulnerable communities.

• Foundation has grant proposal calls on operational research - to improve quality of health care for communities with limited resources.

• Currently renovating kala-azar ward and refurbishing and equipping the lab for Chemolingot Sub County Hospital- Baringo County

CL studies

Cases in Gilgil Nakuru County. No treatment protocol? Explore role of MF in Rx of CL (has been used on compassionate grounds for 3 cases)
Thank you (Asante)

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