**Zika information sharing meeting minutes**

Tuesday February 9th 2016

 Gotomeeting

7am – 7:45am (GMT)

Present

Amin Soebandrino (AS)

Mariano Ramos (MR)

Petra Dickmann (PD)

Nigel Lightfoot (NL)

Silvia Bino (SB)

Ledia Agolli (LA)

Koren Wolman –Tardy(KW-T)

Pasakorn Sewi (PS)

Franklin Apfel (FA)

Mark Rweyemamu (MR)

Leonard Mboera (LM)

Emma Orefuwa (notes)

NL opened the meeting, and thanked everyone for attending.

**Zika resource platform**

Franklin Apfel, CORDS External communications consultant, provided an overview of the Zika networks resource platform which is housed on the CORDS website. The resource platform will be populated with information, tools and reflections from network members as a resource for others. The Zika resource page can be found via the following link: http://www.cordsnetwork.org/projects/cords-networks-zika-resource-platform/

**Zika information concept note**

PD gave a background on the development of the Zika concept note – the current Zika epidemic provides an opportunity for networks to work together, sharing comprehensive information on Zika in the following areas:

* Genomics
* Environment
* Animal health
* Clinical data
* Public Health information

**Action – CORDS HQ to send Mariano Ramos the Zika note.**

All were invited to update on their current Zika related activities:

**SACIDS**

LM said that current activities in SACIDS are focused on identifying whether there is transmission of Zika occurring locally. SACIDS is currently in discussion with Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and Kenyan Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) to explore collaboration. Investigations into Zika will be used as a catalyst to expand study of other arboviral infections.

**OIE**

MR has conducted a literature review of Zika from the animal health perspective. He was unable to find many papers that mentioned animal health, apart from study on monkeys.

**SECID**

SB supported the idea of sharing data among networks and agreed with MR that there is a lack of data on animal reservoirs. Current evidence is focused on people and vectors. An important gap in knowledge is that we do not currently know the capacity of European vectors to transmit Zika. SB pointed out that information on the following are of interest

* Guillane Barre syndrome
* Chikungunya
* Surveillance of vectors
* Russian fever?

**APEIR**

AS

Microcephaly has been found but there is no certainty as to whether this is related to Zika or another flavivirus. Systematic action is needed to find the source of the current situation in Indonesia. Zika virus has been isolated from monkeys, indicating potential for transmission. Sera from primates can be analysed for investigations as an activity. One Zika case has been found in Indonesia.

**MBDS**

PA reported that a small number of sporadic Zika cases had been found between 2012-14, but that no recent cases had been detected in Thailand. There have also been small clusters in across the MBDS network. Little is known about animal reservoirs. Plans include the expansion of lab capacity and aligning public health interventions alongside DHF control.

Work is being carried in collaboration with obstetricians and gynaecologists to estimate surveillance of microcephaly. Surveillance systems are being adapted to take Zika into account. Meetings are being held ob-gyn, public health, clinicians about flaviruses. There are many confounding factors that need to be taken into account within Zika surveillance efforts. Neighbouring countries with the MBDS network are exploring how to work with one another.

**Next steps**

NL encouraged all to make use of the members area for sharing of information pertaining to Zika. KW-T of Fondation Merieux currently sits on a research funding consortium led by the EC. The consortium is currently mapping Zika research and centralising calls for funding. KW-T will communicate any updates on funding opportunities to the group once more information is known.

SB highlighted the fact that there should be a focus on exchange of experiences, and operational research that will be of practical use to networks. This may include vector control/mapping initiatives. CORDS networks can collaborate with existing research networks.

FA raised the fact that there is an opportunity to track the way information about Zika is being introduced into communities and the market place – how scientists are interacting with the media, and whether reporting is evidence based or not.

**Action – Emma will distribute logins and passwords for networks to be able to upload information and engage in discussion on the CORDS membership area platform.**

**Action – Network chairs and coordinators to feedback on Zika concept note, including potential areas of work and concerns by the end of the week (12th February 2016).**

**Action – Network chairs and coordinators to discuss with CORDS HQ specific data items at a future meeting.**

**Action – EO to send round a doodle poll for a follow up meeting week commencing 15th February 2016.**