Overlapping areas with NTDs and how best to join forces?

Focus on R&D
Unlike most governments, CEPI has the benefit of knowing what our funding envelope will be for the next four to five years and does not face the political pressure that elected governments face (Richard Hatchett, CEO, CEPI)
Germany and Global Health Research

German annual funding volume (Mio €) for Global Health Research

Source: G-Finder
NTD and EID overlaps – a simplistic set theory approach

\[ ? = \text{NTDs} \cap \text{EIDs} \]
**NTDs ∩ EIDs – possible elements of the intersecting set**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing factors for EIDs</th>
<th>EIDs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microbial adaptation</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing human susceptibility</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate and weather</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in human demographics, economics and trade</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakdown of public health</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty, social inequality / weak PH systems</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient therapeutic, diagnostic, preventive instruments</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NTDs $\cap$ EIDs – possible elements of the intersecting set

- NTDs
  - vaccine and drug development
  - elimination & eradication programs
  - poc diagnostics
  - vector control
  - UHC
  - capacity strengthening
  - regulatory issues
  - diagnostic platforms
- EIDs
  - pandemic preparedness programs
  - operational research
  - surveillance
  - vaccine and drug development
  - poc diagnostics
Joining forces in Global Health R&D – the BMBF position

1. Support WHO’s role for framework and priority setting as a basis for coordinated actions
   • global observatory, blueprint initiative
   • But: there is no „one fits all solution“

2. Strive for better international coordination of R&D efforts
   • G7 (2015) – NTDs / PRDs
   • G20 (2017) – AMR

3. Foster an excellent national research community as a basis for joining forces
   • German center for infectious diseases, national research platform for Zoonoses

4. Consider ownership of the most affected countries as a prerequisite

5. Invest in broader initiatives aiming at research capacity building in LMICs AND in targeted product development initiatives
   • Research networks for health innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa, PDPs

6. Seek to join forces with other donors where possible and appropriate
   • European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, CEPI
The BMBF Funding Concept (2015 – 2020)

Elements
• National research activities
• European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership
• Research Networks for Health Research Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa
• Product Development Partnerships

Not yet included
• Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
• G20 AMR Hub
• GARD-P
BMBF approaches to join forces (1)

**German Center for Infection Research**

- Affiliation of 35 research institutes, located at seven sites throughout Germany
- 8 thematical research units
  - Emerging infections
  - Malaria
  - TB
  - HIV
  - NTDs
- 4 African partner sites in Gabon, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Tanzania
BMBF approaches to join forces (2)

Research Networks for Health Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa

- 4 years preparatory work
- Funding: € 50 M. / 5 yrs
- Aim: Strengthening Health Research by networking, NS- and SS-partnership, Capacity building

- 5 autonomous networks
- 2 German, 3 - 7 African partners each
- Network coordination by African lead scientist/institution mandatory

- ANDEMIA
- CEBHA+
- CYSTINET-Africa
- TAKeOFF
- TB-Sequel
Research Networks for Health Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa

- **ANDEMIA**
  African Network for improved Diagnostics, Epidemiology and Management of common infectious agents

- **CEBHA+**
  Network for evidence based health care and public health in Africa

- **CYSTINET-Africa**
  Cysticercosis Network for Sub-Saharan Africa

- **TAKeOFF**
  Tackling the Obstacles to Fight Filariasis

- **TB-Sequel**
  Co-morbidities, risk factors and long-term sequel defining the individual outcome and public health impact of TB disease
Research Networks for Health Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa

• Funding measure addresses different possible levels for joining forces
  
  o Researchers within one thematic research area ✓
  o Researchers between different thematic areas ✓
  o Researchers and national authorities (MoHs, MoSTs)
  o German and African Governments room for improvement
  o Different (northern) research initiatives

Current conclusion: highly challenging exercise, success not guaranteed
BMBF approaches to join forces (3)

European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)

- European and African platform for Clinical Trials since 2003 (approx. € 1.5 bln, 2014-2024)

- Covers PRDs (HIV, Malaria, TB), NTDs and EIDs

- Allows research on drugs, vaccines and diagnostics

- Strong focus on capacity building/strengthening

- Principle of joined forces at the very heart of the initiative

Conclusion: Could be a blueprint for a true joined forces initiative, if.................
What it takes for joining forces – a funder’s perspective

Prerequisite for better joining forces in Global Health Research is a common framework, building on a common set of principles (e.g. UHC, access and equity)

- We need Information on what is going on (research, funding)
- Identification of gaps and priority setting
- Need for coordination of funding activities – coordinating platform(s)
- Decision on what should better be tackled by horizontal approaches (e.g. research networks) or where to use vertical approaches (e.g. CEPI)
- Consider CEPI as a blueprint for making the impossible happen
Tusen takk!