Study Co-ordinators’ Working Group Session

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Tabitha Kabayo - Project Manager, TrypanoGEN (Matovu group)

H3Africa 5th consortium meeting, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
10th November, 2014
Summary:

- Introduction & Background
- Challenges & issues reported
- Other challenges faced by study co-ordinators
- Possible solutions & Action points
Background

- H3Africa Consortium projects are diverse, some issues and challenges shared, common to all.
- Strength in collaboration within Working group.
- Challenges of Biomedical Research in Africa.
Challenges reported:

- Communication
  - Problems with Internet connection / telephone network,
  - Community engagement
  - Intra-network communications (WG scheduled calls)
Challenges reported (Cont’d):

**Training**
- More co-ordinated training for LIMS & IT management for project staff
- Continuous skills audits
- Orientations / Induction of new staff

**Logistical**
- Transportation from laboratory to study sites
- Delays in getting laboratory materials/reagents
Challenges reported (Cont’d):

- **Quality Control / Monitoring**
  - Poor documentation, reporting, tracking & archiving for project audit

- **Host Institutions**
  - Low level of support / Commitments not met
  - Bureaucracy

- **Ethical issues**
  - Broad consent
  - Delays in gaining approval
  - Participant recruitment (how to motivate & retain study participants)
Other issues and challenges faced by study co-ordinators

- Ebola outbreak
- Availability of PIs
- WG Scheduled calls, more participation
SO, WHAT DO WE DO?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge or Issue</th>
<th>Possible solution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Investigate different service providers, high-speed internet modems to supplement internet connection. Explore new methods of community engagement from other SCs</td>
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<td>Training</td>
<td>Training / skills audit, establish a training record for project staff, identify relevant people in Education &amp; training WG</td>
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<td>Logistical</td>
<td>Adequate planning</td>
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<td>Quality Control / Monitoring</td>
<td>Establish appropriate Quality management systems</td>
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<td>Host Institutions</td>
<td>Establish better communication with relevant stakeholders at the institution</td>
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<td>Ethical issues</td>
<td>Evaluate different scenarios at various sites, explore viable &amp; appropriate incentives that can be used in community</td>
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<td>Ebola outbreak</td>
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<td>Availability of PIs</td>
<td>Delegation of responsibility</td>
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<td>WG Scheduled calls, more participation</td>
<td>Provide alternative daytime telephone numbers</td>
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Thanks for listening!

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- Study co-ordinators WG members esp. respondents to survey.

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- H3Africa administrators & organising committee

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