

Folder eCC_00014424 is in stage Annual_Report_Due

Name of the University, Hospital, Research Institute, Academy or Ministry

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, LSHTM

Name of the Division, Department, Unit, Section or Area

Department of Clinical Research

City

London

Reference Number

UNK-274

Title

WHO Collaborating Centre for Sexually Transmitted Infections, STI

Report Year

05-2016 to 05-2017

1. Please briefly describe the progress made in the implementation of your agreed workplan as WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (or the reporting period listed above). Please report on how each workplan activity was implemented, if any outputs have been delivered, if any results have been achieved and if any difficulties have been encountered during this time. If an activity has previously been completed, has not started yet, or been placed on hold, please indicate this.

Activity 1

Title: Support the STI POCTs initiative (advise on research/validation, support normative work (guidelines), training on STI POCTs in LMICs.

Description: Update the performance of commercially available POC STI tests

Finalize TPPs and core protocols for evaluation of STI POC tests

Technical advice on the road map for the evaluation and implementation of new STI POC tests

Evaluation network for STI POC tests

Investment cases for POC STI test

Professor Peeling, at the request of Dr Igor Toskin, participated in the design of the validation of the performance and operational characteristics of the dual HIV-syphilis and mono syphilis POCTs among MSM in Verona, Italy. She carried out a training workshop on the use of the dual HIV-syphilis rapid tests in Verona and joined in the review of the data from this validation study and the preparation of a manuscript on the study outcomes.

The ongoing evaluation of STI POCTs is a common priority shared by WHO RHR and the London School. Professors Peeling and Mabey have developed protocols for laboratory and clinic-based evaluation of POCTs for a variety of STIs in the past. In collaboration with Dr Igor Toskin, Professor Peeling has adapted those protocols into 9 core protocols that can be used for the independent clinic-based and clinic-utility validation of STIs POCTs in different populations and in different use case scenarios. These protocols were submitted to the WHO ERC for approval and Professor Peeling assisted with the responses to the ERC and finalised the protocols for final ERC approval.

Although the prevalence of asymptomatic STIs is high, STI-related knowledge and awareness are very limited. Together with stigma and ostracism they are major barriers to strengthening health-seeking behaviours in all countries around the world. Innovations in technology (biotechnology, information technology, m-Health) as well as innovative approaches to delivering essential STI information and services (testing, treatment, communication and counselling aiming to reduce risk taking and to facilitate access to medical services in a timely manner) could help to overcome those barriers.

WHO RHR and LSHTM organised a joint event, Advancing Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections through Innovations in Diagnostic Technology: Opportunities and New Horizons, at the XVII IUSTI World Congress on 9 -12 May 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco. Dr. Igor Toskin presented the global perspective on STIs and the need to overcome barriers while Professor Peeling presented the results of systematic reviews of the performance of STI POCTs which could be used to increase access to testing. Several members of LSHTM, Professor David Mabey, Philippe Mayaud and Helen Kelly, were involved in the systematic reviews.

Activity 2

Title: Assist WHO in activities that aim to improve STI control and prevention in key populations, mainly MSM, as well as to improve SRH services in adolescents.

Description: Research into social entrepreneurship and crowdsourcing approaches to enhance the uptake of STI testing in MSM

Advise on the EU funded SIALON II project on MSM

Conduct epidemiological studies of HPV and related disease in various population groups

Develop interventions to improve the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents in LMIC

Joe Tucker and R. Peeling with the collaboration of a team of fellows from the University of North Carolina held a crowdsourcing contest for innovative ways to promote and incentivise uptake of testing for Hep B and C on behalf of the HIV department at WHO. The winning entries were asked to present their innovation at the meeting in Barcelona where the WHO Hep Testing Guidelines were presented. These innovations were also included in the WHO Hep Testing Guidelines launched in Feb 2017. This was based on an ongoing social entrepreneurship for sexual health project that LSHTM for increasing uptake of HIV and syphilis testing in MSM and other marginalised populations in China.

Activity 3

Title: Assist WHO in activities that aim to improve women's and children's health particularly in the area of dual elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis (eMTCT) and prevention of cervical cancer.

Description: Update dashboard for eMTCT of HIV and Syphilis

Update toolkit development for eMTCT of HIV and Syphilis

(Point of care activities for eMTCT described in TOR 1 could also be included under this heading)

Evaluate the efficacy of HPV vaccination for the prevention of cervical cancer

Produce systematic reviews, clinical validation studies and health economic evaluations for HPV

Conduct and support evaluation (clinical and health economics) of cervical cancer screening strategies

Professor Rosanna Peeling is a member of the WHO/UNAIDS Global Validation Advisory Committee (GVAC) for the dual elimination of the Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis. She participated in the review of dossiers submitted to GVAC from countries claiming to have achieved elimination of HIV and Syphilis. She participated in face to face meetings in Geneva as well as by teleconference for discussions on submissions from Cuba, Thailand, Armenia, Moldova, and Belarus.

She also contributed to the revision of the dual elimination handbook. In particular, she developed diagnostic quality standards that countries need to meet when they submit data to prove that they have achieved elimination.

2. Please briefly describe your collaboration with WHO in regards to the activities of the WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (e.g. means of communication, frequency of contact, visits to or from WHO). Please feel free to mention any difficulties encountered (if any) and to provide suggestions for increased or improved communication (if applicable).

Both Professors Mabey and Peeling have made frequent visits to WHO in the past year to discuss our collaboration in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Prof Mabey was a member of the committee which agreed the new WHO guidelines for the management of Sexually Transmitted Infections, and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for Reproductive Health and Research. Prof Peeling is a member of the WHO/UNAIDS Global Validation Advisory Committee (GVAC) for the dual elimination of the Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis and the HIV management guidelines expert advisory committee. The LSHTM team contributed systematic reviews for the development of the WHO hepatitis testing guidelines which were launched in February 2017. She is also a member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme on Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)

3. Please briefly describe any interactions or collaborations with other WHO collaborating centres in the context of the implementation of the above activities (if any). If you are part of a network of WHO collaborating centres, please also mention the name of the network, and describe any involvement in the network during the last 12 months.

Prof Peeling has interacted with WHO regional offices in Africa, Western Pacific, South East Asia and South America to discuss the evaluation and implementation of improved diagnostic tests for syphilis and other STIs, including Zika virus.

4. Please briefly describe any type of technical, programmatic, advisory or other support received from WHO during the past 12 months for the implementation of the agreed activities listed above (if any).

Our Centre has worked closely with Dr Igor Toskin and his colleagues at WHO in the development of protocols for the evaluation of POC tests for syphilis, HIV and other STIs