

Vaccine WG: leaders meeting

Date: 29/07/20

Location: Zoom

Steve (from slides): Normally vaccines take 10-15 years – target of 12-18 months for COVID-19 would be record breaking. COVAX initiative held a meeting with consultations with 136 countries in the past 2 weeks – aims to immunise 20% of each country's population. 139 in preclinical trials, 25 candidates in clinical trials.

Approaches for this WG:

- Importance of efficacy/safety trials
- Role of human challenge studies in accelerating vaccine development
- {Potential alternatives to efficacy trials
- Importance of post-licensure studies

General considerations for resource utilisation in vaccine development:

- Are there scarcities of resources needed for vaccine development?
- How do we ensure LMICs are represented in allocation of these resources
- What criteria would we use to prioritise access to such resources? Access to clinical trial sites

General considerations for vaccine deployment

- General considerations for rapid large-scale manufacturing of vaccines and vaccine-related products
- General considerations to ensure sufficient and equitable access of vaccine globally (LMICs, the elderly, refugees, other vulnerable populations)

Africa, the Middle East and South America especially are lacking in vaccines being developed

Conclusion: Cooperation will limit the exclusion of LMICs; consider building vaccine development networks around ongoing efforts, establish a consortium of experts with diverse backgrounds as part of the vaccines WG; conduct a SWOT analysis for the vaccine development process

Maddy: I'm from the United States and we currently have challenges in terms of science being countered by political administration. Pfizer has a vaccine which has started its phase 3 clinical trials this week; claim that they will have it ready by December (100 million vials for \$1.8bn), but no mention of who gets the vaccine – who are the vulnerable groups etc, and how can we ensure vaccines go to them. My other question is to do with how often we need to repeat the vaccines – some vaccines are providing high levels of IgG response (much higher than COVID-19 infected patients) and some are showing T cell mediated immunity. Do we have to repeat immunisations every year? Is this known?

Steve: good points for starting – definitely key themes in our position paper

Dr Ouedraogo: Clear that from now the situation is not very bad and the number of cases are decreasing; we are ready to do phase 1/2/3 clinical trials – there is lots of interest in running trials but from our perspective in Africa we need to ensure it will be affordable for poor countries, and

therefore African countries will need to be involved in these countries. If we need to write a position paper, we need to include all of these points.

Maddy: Bill and Melinda gates Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that vaccines will be available to Africa and South America – 150mn. Socioeconomic status should be irrelevant, and the entire global population should have access to the pandemic. Not sure if the paper has an element of advocacy, but itemise:

- Who are the vulnerable
- Who should get
- Equity of vaccine distribution

Steve: Health minister has said that there is no VIP any more – we are all at risk from the virus. Position paper draft written and circulated – thoroughly written.

Jamie: We need to get everyone's input from the wider WG

Steve: Inclusivity is very important – call with the wider group? Take inputs of the wider group

Maddy: Good at editing, very happy for people to throw ideas together

Jamie: Draft the paper -> review -> share with wider groups.

Steve & Maddy edit; Grace and Issa draft?

Maddy: come up with 6-10 salient points then ask the wider group via a survey – discuss types of vaccine, vaccine development, efficacy and safety, how to vaccinate people (equitably).

Steve: Use themes from past call and second call -> write an outline -> share with wider group

Grace: Happy for that plan

Steve: Apportion ourselves tasks around what Maddy has listed -> Google Docs -> share with wider group

Timeline: by the 5th of August

Steve: Once Grace shares this we can sign up to sections