



25th LEAP Meeting
3rd - 4th OCT 2018, Kampala

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VL Cases in Kenya, Jan-Sept 2018

- West Pokot County (Sept 2018) = 236
- Baringo County (Sept 2018) = 94
- Turkana County (Aug 2018) = 190
- Isiolo County (June 2018) = 60
- Marsabit County (April 2018) = 60



VL studies status

- On track at Kacheliba site – 49 as of 2nd Oct 2018
- Study not commenced at Kimalel site -Infrastructure repair works still ongoing, hence study cannot start in October.
- Diagnostic study- Fine tuning the protocol
- No patient recruited for intensive cohort

Challenges

- Intensive cohort- This phase of study not easy to achieve, may require a different strategy eg all sites to participate



Other VL research activities

- **CBRD, KEMRI:** Entomology studies - Gilgil, Marsabit, E. Pokot
Sand fly vectors screening, parasite genotyping (CL & VL).
- **UON/Izumi/Probitas Foundation/Northeastern University/ICIPE/KEMRI/DNDi/WHO/Kaperur CBO**
Epidemiological studies -East Pokot, including: active VL screening (rK39), training of CHW's, Distribution of bed nets, Renovation of Kala-azar ward & Refurbishing and equipping of Lab at Chemolingot Sub county Hospital – Work ongoing.



Other VL research activities cont'

- **Institute of Primate Research:** Depart of Tropical & Infectious Diseases. Primate/rodent models- important in vaccine dev.
- **ICIPE:** Sand fly vectors diversity, density, distribution, Mapping of vector hot spots- East Pokot
- **FIND:** Evaluation of rK39 and rK28 RDT in Kenya (Pilot study) & improving access to VL diagnosis in Turkana & Wajir Counties



Status of VL Drug Registration/Challenges

- Both SSG + PM Registered
- SSG/PM combination- First line treatment for VL

Challenges

- Low funding of research for NTD's
- Devolution of Health Ministry
- Insecurity in some VL areas – Cattle rustling
- Poor infrastructure eg roads
- Human resource- high turnover for technical staff

Opportunities

Foundation Probitas:

- NGO principal objective of supporting and encouraging health & development projects in vulnerable communities.
- Foundation has grant proposal calls on operational research - to improve quality of health care for communities with limited resources
- Currently renovating kala-azar ward and refurbishing and equipping the lab for Chemolingot Sub County Hospital- Baringo County

CL studies

Cases in Gilgil Nakuru County. No treatment protocol ? Explore role of MF in Rx of CL (has been used on compassionate grounds for 3 cases)



Thank you (Asante)

KEMRI Head Office, Nairobi

