BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

- The Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group was registered with The Cochrane Collaboration in June 1994.
- Our scope covers healthcare interventions for communicable diseases such as malaria, acute diarrhoea, tuberculosis, helminth infections, scabies and headlice, and other protozoan, bacterial, and viral infections.
- The focus is mainly, but not exclusively, on diseases that affect people in low- and middle-income countries.

OUR PEOPLE

- We have 18 editors, each with topic and methodological expertise.
- The editors provide feedback on reviews, help develop policies and guidelines for the Group, and help define the scope and topics covered by the CIDG.
- We have over 400 active review authors from over 50 countries.

Over 100 published reviews with around 30 more in development.

Important reviews published in 2013-14:

- Home- or community-based programmes for treating malaria
- Vaccines for preventing enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli (ETEC) diarrhoea
- Rifamycins (rifampicin, rifabutin and rifapentine) compared to isoniazid for preventing tuberculosis in HIV-negative people at risk of active TB
- Mosquito larval source management for controlling malaria
- Combined and alternating paracetamol and ibuprofen therapy for febrile children
- Larvivorous fish for preventing malaria transmission
- Mass drug administration for malaria
- Dihydroartemisinin-piperazine for treating uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria
- Artesunate plus pyronaridine for treating uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria
- Rapid diagnostic tests versus clinical diagnosis for managing people with fever in malaria endemic settings
- Pre-referral rectal artesunate for severe malaria
- Antimicrobial drugs for treating cholera

Policy

- We have a global track record of impact on policy.
- In 2014, the WHO Expert Technical Group in malaria chemotherapy required our reviews. We mobilised trained authors to contribute, and completed 11 new reviews and review updates in a period of 12 months, with fellowships, intensive distance coaching, and active management of review production.
- Seven authors from low- and middle-income countries thus contributed to reviews that directly contributed to global policy.

**LMIC authors directly contributing to policy**

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Links with WHO

- CIDG editors and authors are on over five WHO guidelines panels.
- Seventeen Cochrane Reviews used to guide the WHO Technical Expert Group in drafting the new malaria guidelines.
- Our work helped clarify the evidence of toxicity with dihydroartemisinin-piperazine (DHAP), interpretation of the large trial of pre-referral treatment, malaria prevention in pregnancy, and in primarquine for preventing transmission.

Institutions

The South Asian Cochrane Centre & Network, Vellore, was established in 2005. The network currently has sites in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and supports and mentors the work of over 448 Cochrane authors and nine Editors.