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LSHTM Research Online

Mcperson, S; (2024) Safety of the Co-Administration of Azithromycin, Albendazole and Ivermectin Versus Standard Treatment Regimens During Mass Drug Administration (MDA) in Ethiopia: A Cluster Randomized Trial. PhD thesis, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17037/PUBS.04673426>

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SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Partner Organizations participating in the study:

Federal Ministry of Health NTD case team

Background: The Federal Ministry of Health NTD case team leads the nationwide campaign to combat NTDs. The case team conducts evidence-based planning and implementation of strategies to address lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, trachoma, soil transmitted helminths, schistosomiasis, visceral and cutaneous leishmaniasis, and podoconiosis throughout the country. The case team was created by the Hon. Minister of Health in 2013 following the National NTD symposium and launch of the National NTD Master plan.

Study Role: The Federal Ministry of Health requested this study as one of its priority research questions. The FMOH will be responsible for garnering the full support of this study from the National Trachoma Task Force (NTTF) and the Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs) in the region where this study will take place. The FMOH will also be directly involved in every phase of implementation of this study.

Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI): (<http://www.ahri.gov.et>)

Background: AHRI is a biomedical research Institute in Ethiopia specializing in biomedical and clinical investigations, including clinical trials. In addition to the clinical trials group, AHRI has specialized research groups focusing on: non-communicable mycobacterial diseases, bacterial and viral diseases, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, and biotechnology/bioinformatics. Each research group includes rigorous training and research capacity building component. More than 670 papers in peer reviewed journals have been published from AHRI during its 45 years of existence. In addition, it has also produced a substantial number of theses and dissertations from international and Ethiopian scholars in biomedical research. The AHRI NTD team has done nationwide risk mapping and validation studies and accumulated experience in working with communities, including with those in remote areas.

Study Role: AHRI will co-implement this study with the LSHTM. First and foremost, AHRI will be responsible for co-designing the protocol, gaining ethical clearance and arranging for the logistics. AHRI will also provide day to day management of the medical response and survey teams on the ground. As this study will also serve as a capacity building initiative, LSHTM and AHRI will work together to find opportunities within the study for AHRI's up and coming researchers.

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine – United Kingdom

(<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/introducing/mission/index.htm>)

Background: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is a world-leading centre for research and postgraduate education in public and global health. The London School is a WHO Collaborating Centre for Trachoma and played a major role in the Global Trachoma mapping project. They have recently led a study on co-administration of Azithromycin and ivermectin in the Solomon Islands.

Study Role: The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine will co-implement this project with AHRI and advise on the study design and implementation of the project.

International Trachoma Initiative – United States of America (<http://trachoma.org/about iti>)

Background: The International Trachoma Initiative (ITI) was founded in 1998 in response to the World Health Organization's (WHO) call to eliminate blinding trachoma by 2020 (GET2020). ITI's founding partners, Pfizer and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, saw the need for an international nongovernmental organization dedicated solely to the elimination of blinding trachoma. To achieve that goal, ITI collaborates with governmental and nongovernmental agencies at the local, national and international levels to implement the WHO-recommended **SAFE** strategy for trachoma control (**S**urgery; **A**ntibiotics—using donated Zithromax®; **F**acial cleanliness; and **E**nvironmental improvement).

Study Role: ITI will provide the funding for all aspects of this study and advice on the study design and implementation.

World Health Organization, Department for Neglected Tropical Diseases:

http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/en/

Background: The Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases coordinates and supports policies and strategies to enhance global access to interventions for the prevention, control, elimination and eradication of neglected tropical diseases, including some zoonotic diseases. Consistent with World Health Assembly resolutions and in line with the WHO NTD Roadmap, the WHO Department for NTDs support Member States to expand access to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care interventions for all those in need.

Study Role: The WHO will advise on the study design to ensure that the results of this study, if favourable, will inform possible WHO recommendations in the future concerning co administration of azithromycin, albendazole and ivermectin.