Welcome to our Research Event

July 8, 2020
What we’ll cover

• Organizational update
  • CEO Elie Hassenfeld

• COVID-19’s impact on GiveWell’s recommendations
  • Senior Research Manager Natalie Crispin

• Grants to address COVID-19
  • Senior Research Analyst James Snowden

• New research avenue
  • Senior Fellow Teryn Mattox
We really appreciate your continued, generous support of GiveWell during these challenging times.
Top Charities and COVID-19
Our top charities are adapting

• Our lifesaving charities are following the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation to continue their programs

• Safety modifications
  • Retraining staff
  • Protective equipment and sanitizer
Example of training materials

Portion of Malaria Consortium’s 12-step protocol for safe distribution

**STEPS for using Infection Prevention and Control to Deliver SMC during COVID-19 Pandemic**

1. **At START of EACH SMC distribution day**
   - **AT HOME:**
     1. Do not leave home if you had contact with someone infected with COVID-19.
     2. Do not leave home except to get medical care if you are feeling sick with fever, cough, body aches, sore throat or difficulty breathing. Do not visit public areas.
     3. Ensure SMC shirt, hijab or vest is clean—do not wear the same clothes from previous day without washing.
     4. Wash hands with soap and water for 30 seconds before leaving home.
   - **AT HEALTH FACILITY:**
     1. Take temperature. Notify supervisor if temperature is >37.5°C orally, >37°C axillary or forehead, >38.0°C by ear.
     2. Wear gloves and use disinfecting solution to disinfect all SPAQ blister packs, laminated Job Aid, pen, mobile phone and equipment used for SMC delivery. Do not allow anyone to touch disinfected materials during the day and do not place on dirty surfaces.

2. **TRIAGE child and caregivers for COVID-19**
   1. Do not deliver SMC in the community if you are feeling sick with fever, cough, body aches, sore throat or difficulty breathing.
   2. Put on face mask before entering compound or household and leave on for the entire day.
   3. Wash hands with soap and water for 30 seconds as soon as you enter the compound or household.
   4. Avoid touching mouth, nose, eyes and face with hands.
   5. Greet household members and gather caregiver and children in area with good ventilation.
   6. Limit to 8 children and 2 caregivers at a time.
   7. Practice **safe distance of 2 metres** with caregivers and children at all times.
   8. Determine what the caregiver knows about COVID-19 and explain why you are wearing a mask and why physical distance of 2 metres must be maintained.
COVID-19 disruptions

• Surveys to check on distributions will likely be skipped this year

• Our deworming charities are following WHO’s recommendation to pause deworming rounds
  • Retaining staff and top charity status to resume programming when it’s safe
Current funding gaps

• Most pressing funding gaps we see now are Against Malaria Foundation or Helen Keller International’s vitamin A supplementation program

• Top recommendation: “Grants to recommended charities at GiveWell’s discretion”
COVID-19
Grantmaking
Our approach to COVID-19 grants

• **Look** for opportunities that might be more cost-effective than our recommended charities

• **Identify** areas that other funders might not be focusing on

• **Act** quickly and investigate more shallowly than our core recommendations
Our COVID-19 grantmaking

• Four grants totaling $1.1 million
  • IDinsight, Development Media International, and Yale economics professor Mushfiq Mobarak

• Most recently, $650,000 to IDinsight for three projects
  • Prioritizing COVID-19 test supplies (India and Zimbabwe)
  • Delivering essential health services during pandemic (Uttarakhand, India)
  • COVID-19 patient follow-up (Delhi, India)
Data management of positive COVID-19 tests

- 80,000 confirmed COVID-19 infections in Delhi
- ~35% of patients with positive tests uncontactable
- Delhi government requested IDinsight support for project
- Aiming to reduce uncontactable positive tests by 50%
New Research Avenue: Technical Assistance
GiveWell’s traditional approach: direct delivery

- Donor funds support all aspects of the program
- For Malaria Consortium,
  - Buying medicine
  - Hiring and training staff
  - Delivering medication
  - Surveying to ensure medication was distributed
Technical assistance as a new area

- Donor funds go toward supporting and **improving existing government service** infrastructure and staff.
- Could be more cost-effective than our traditional approach, **less clear line of sight** between action and impact.
- Programs we’ve looked at focus on:
  - Seasonal fluctuations in malnutrition
  - Umbilical cord care
Syphilis in pregnancy

- Around 1 million pregnant people have active syphilis each year, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia
- Untreated syphilis in pregnancy can cause stillbirth, neonatal death, or disability for the child
- Syphilis is treatable with a 16-cent dose of penicillin
- Treatment is recommended by WHO but has limited implementation
Syphilis screening and treatment

- Opportunity to work with Evidence Action to help the government of Liberia switch from HIV tests to **dual HIV/syphilis tests**
- Exploratory grant for GiveWell
  - Could be cost-effective, but also could be too difficult to evaluate
Thanks so much for supporting GiveWell!
Q & A