**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**Appendix 1. MenAfriNet Work Groups**

Surveillance and Outbreak Work Group: The mission of the Surveillance and Outbreak Work Group was to enhance surveillance and outbreak response capabilities through developing a common framework for case-based surveillance activities, and supporting and building capacity for case-based surveillance and outbreak response in MenAfriNet countries. During the project development phase, the Surveillance and Outbreak Work Group was tasked with developing a standardized meningococcal case investigation form, updating case-based surveillance guidelines, and proposing indicators to monitor and evaluate surveillance system. As MenAfriNet moved into the implementation phase, the work group’s activities focused on developing training material for surveillance workshops, conducting and coordinating trainings and workshops, supporting outbreak investigations, and developing a NmA case investigation protocol.

Laboratory Work Group: The mission of the Laboratory Work Group was to strengthen laboratory capacity for meningitis diagnostics and implement laboratory-based meningitis surveillance in each MenAfriNet country. The Laboratory Work Group aimed to develop a framework for laboratory activities, coordinate the implementation of laboratory activities, develop standardized protocols and training materials, reinforce the quality of laboratory diagnostics and laboratory data management, and improve reporting for each MenAfriNet country. Additionally, the Laboratory Work Group sought to improve case confirmation rates and emphasize quality control and assurance of laboratory tests and results, at both national and peripheral levels of the surveillance system. During the project development phase, the Laboratory Work Group helped identify laboratories and key laboratory focal points that would participate in the MenAfriNet consortium from each country. The Laboratory Work Group also assessed the capacity for meningitis diagnostics, reviewed current testing protocols and procedures including specimen collection and transport, and identified gaps. During the implementation phase, the Laboratory Work Group helped develop country-specific laboratory work plans; implemented trainings on specimen handling, laboratory techniques (i.e., real-time polymerase chain reaction and culture), laboratory data management and reporting; and implemented laboratory quality assurance and quality control programs. Additionally, throughout the course of the project, the Laboratory Work Group provided technical support to the MenAfriNet countries as well as helped procure laboratory supplies for meningitis diagnostic testing.

Data Management Work Group: The Data Management Work Group aimed to improve the quality, consistency, and representativeness of case-based meningitis surveillance data in the MenAfriNet countries through strengthening systems for data collection and management and promoting the sustainability of high-quality data management practices. Particularly, the Data Management Work Group aimed to standardize data collection while allowing site flexibility, and to implement a system that would facilitate the collection, transmission, and harmonization of data among all MenAfriNet countries. The Data Management Work Group was also tasked with monitoring the quality of data being collected through key surveillance indicators and helping build capacity in MenAfriNet countries through data management workshops. During the project development phase, the Data Management Work Group helped develop standardized data elements that would be collected from all MenAfriNet countries, develop an EpiInfo 7-based data management system, and helped MenAfriNet countries develop their own specific data management plans. During the implementation phase and throughout the project, the Data Management Work Group provided technical assistance as the data management system was rolled out in different countries, held training workshops, and assessed MenAfriNet performance through monitoring the surveillance indicators.

Research and Evaluation Work Group: The Research and Evaluation Work Group aimed to foster collaborations among MenAfriNet consortium members and partners and leverage the high-quality, cased-based meningitis surveillance data and MenAfriNet platform to answer priority research questions, such as evaluating the impact of MACV and better understanding the epidemiology of meningococcal disease in the African Meningitis Belt. The Research and Evaluation Work Group developed a list of priority research questions, data access guidelines, a project proposal template, and authorship guidelines. In addition, the Research and Evaluation Work Group reviewed manuscripts written using MenAfriNet-supported data, and solicited and funded proposals to support small country-led research projects.

Communications Work Group: The Communications Work Group’s goal was to facilitate efficient and transparent communications and messaging with implementing and external partners, CDC Foundation, Ministries of Health, and the general public. The Communication Work Group facilitated public-facing messages to promote MenAfriNet and was responsible for final clearance of public-facing communications. During the implementation phase and throughout the project, the Communications Work Group helped establish an overall MenAfriNet communication plan; develop and maintain a MenAfriNet website ([www.menafrinet.org](http://www.menafrinet.org)); write and distribute MenAfriNet newsletters; and develop, review, and clear communication materials.