Stephensi in Africa: basic facts

- Spread:
  - First seen in Djibouti in 2012.
  - Spread slowly at first
  - **Recent evidence for more advanced (and more rapid ?) spread**
- Biology – abundant and diverse breeding sites
- Circumstances:
  - In Djibouti
  - Tigray/Ethiopia/Eritrea

Stephensi in Africa: Tactical Questions

- Biology
- compare with *arabiensis*
  - role of man-made containers?
- Transmission –
  - more intense ?
  - in previously malaria-free areas?
  - in urban centres?
  - water-storage in semi-arid settings?
- Management
- Training needs etc.

Stephensi in Africa: the Strategic Question

- Two possible long-term outcomes:

  a) we drive it out of Africa, to extinction.

  b) this species will spread, slowly but surely, to most large towns and cities in Africa

  - the urban centres that until now have been rare and precious islands of malaria-free life
  - delayed sub-regional elimination

- Two views:
  - Some say we MUST drive it out!
  - Others say 'its too late, wishful thinking, can't be done'.

- (a) and (b) are both unpleasant and expensive, but which is worse in the long run?

Try to drive it out completely
Accept it, try to mitigate?

- The precedent of *An gambiae* in Brazil
  - We were very slow to respond…
  - But campaign was successful!
    - famously disciplined and hierarchical (could we?)
    - genetic control?
- This decision is bigger than us:
  - long-term and intersectoral
  - bigger than VCWG, bigger than WHO & the MoH,
  - bigger (even) than PMI

- **Our job – more important than all those important tactical questions – is to raise political attention and explain the key information to the world outside.**

Stephensi in Africa: the Strategic Question

- Consensus statement?

- **An independent report setting out the technical issues:**
  - **Campaign vs mitigation**
    - **Expected economic costs,**
    - **health impacts,**
    - **likelihood of success**
    - **Long-term**
  - **Must be independent: so NOT VCWG or WHO**
    - **UN Foundation?**
    - **World Bank? UNDP?**
    - **BCG?**