SACEMA-UNITID EPIDEMILOGICAL MODELLING WORKSHOP

DAY 3 RECAP

The participants highlighted the following things* that they learned on Day 3 of the workshop:

1. Systematic reviews of existing models can help inform the robustness of policy decisions.
2. You may have a good strategy but a policy or funding organization might not be interested because they have different objectives from you or constraints you have not considered.
3. You can use models during outbreaks to make predictions about what will happen as well as test interventions that will work.
4. There is a need for collaboration between modelers and policy makers because of things like pre-existing bias – for example, policy makers are familiar with the strategies that have been used in the past and may be biased against actions that others haven't tried, but models may show that new intervention approaches are more effective or cost-efficient.
5. Models that use data can be used to make policy decisions.
6. Before beginning a modelling project, it is a good idea to conduct a systematic review of existing models. This can help avoid duplicating effort.
7. Models can be used for real-time decision making using, but only if objectives are clearly specified.
8. History and activities of University of Nairobi Institute for Tropical and Infectious Diseases.
9. There is a need for greater engagement between modelers and policy makers.
10. How structured model-based decision-making helps reach optimal decisions by comparing outcomes across intervention scenarios.
11. It is important to clearly state your objectives and directly relate your conclusions to the specified objectives. For example, if your objective is to inform a policy decision, what is your policy recommendation?
12. When you're publishing reproducible research, it is important to make sure that the code you provide will run 'out-of-the-box'.
13. When doing cost modelling, it is common to discount future costs, which may be very uncertain.
14. Agent based models have many interacting components, which can lead to complex behaviors.
15. Application of stochastic modelling; using NetLogo for Agent Based Modelling.
16. Models can be sensitive to parameters and initial conditions. Assessing this sensitivity can help determine how robust the models' conclusions are.

* Some items have been combined due to similarity and/or reworded to improve clarity.