

How this will be made accessible through the Global Meningitis Genome Partnership

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Genomic surveillance of bacterial meningitis pathogens is crucial for effective disease control globally, enabling identification of emerging and expanding strains, epidemic preparedness, vaccine design and public health intervention. Bacterial meningitis and meningococcal disease are most common in the poorest populations. However, the rising use of whole genome sequencing has been driven predominately by higher income countries with adequate capacity and resources. To address this inequity between burden of disease and genomic surveillance capacity, the WHO Defeating Meningitis by 2030 Global Roadmap has called for the establishment of a Global Meningitis Genome Partnership (GMGP) that links resources for *N. meningitidis*, *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae* and *S. agalactiae*. A steering group has been established to coordinate the initial focus of the GMGP on meningitis in Africa, with the aim of subsequently creating other Regional working groups. Next steps include the identification of and engagement with countries under-represented in bacterial genomic surveillance; the development of minimum metadata standards for collection and storage in Genomic surveillance; strengthening local and regional capacity in genomic surveillance analysis; and securing funding to enable partnership and data dissemination.