NEW TREATMENTS TO SAVE LIVES
NEONATAL SEPSIS R&D PROGRAMME SNAPSHOT
The Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), a joint initiative of DNDi and the WHO, aims to develop and deliver new treatments for bacterial infections where drug resistance is present or emerging, or for which inadequate treatment exists.

**Neonatal Sepsis, A Global Concern**

Neonatal sepsis is an on-going concern for community acquired infections and of growing concern, especially among middle-income countries, where a booming number of hospital births exposes newborns to multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacteria, which are especially common in hospital settings and are associated with a very high mortality among neonates. To try to offset this, neonates in some areas will be given antibiotics, even when their risk of having a bacterial infection is very low, while in rural communities babies with true infections still go untreated. The outcome is inadequate antibiotic cover in areas with a high prevalence of antibiotic resistance, a waste of resources, poor clinical outcomes, steep community costs, and the generation and spread of yet more resistant bacteria. Ending these scourges of disease and achieving the sustainable development goal’s (SDG) child survival target means countries must continue scaling up proven life-saving interventions and capitalize on the current global political momentum to address prevention, diagnosis and treatment needs of sepsis – including the WHO Executive Board’s decision to support a resolution on Sepsis in January 2017.

**GARDP’s Neonatal Sepsis R&D Programme**

The GARDP Neonatal Sepsis programme aims to provide an evidence base for the use of antibiotics, both old and new, in neonates with serious bacterial infection, as the currently available standard of care in many countries is increasingly becoming less effective due to antibiotic resistance. Other long-term objectives include the development of formulations that are adapted for use in babies, as well as collaborations with WHO and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that the R&D innovation of new treatments encompasses a solid strategy for stewardship, as well as affordable and sustainable access. This programme aligns with the SDG of reducing under-five mortality.

**Partnering on a Global Scale**

The programme constitutes an international, multidisciplinary partnership of experts, institutions and research centres from Greece, Italy, Kenya, South Africa, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and China underlining neonatal sepsis’ truly global burden. It is part of a collaboration with the South African Medical Research Council and is establishing collaborations with partners and research institutions in other targeted countries, such as the Indian Council for Medical Research, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Kenya Medical Research Institute, among others.