**Introduction**

- Booming applications of informatics and telecommunication had a major impact on society over the last decades.
- This Information Age is creating a new frame in which all sectors, including Tropical Medicine, can collect data at high speed and in large volumes.
- Research projects become more ambitious but must achieve appropriate standards on data quality, leaving a number of challenges for Data Management (DM).

**Method**

- Collaborative workshop by a network of clinical data managers and database developers at ITM, Antwerp in December 2010
- Participants from: Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Nepal, Netherlands, UK and Zambia
- Knowledge sharing; technical assistance; introduction of new and available tools and technologies

**Results**

- **Underestimation of the DM workload**
  - impact on quality of deliverables
- **Late involvement in projects**
  - streamlining of DM with project purposes becomes difficult
- **Low position and involvement of DM in hierarchy of projects**
  - causing communication problems and safeguarding requirements
- **Scarcity of experienced human resources and broader network**
  - DM is often left alone to choose appropriate technical solutions

**Conclusions**

- We recommend clinical data managers working in tropical medicine to gather in formal networks
  - To introduce common tools and working methods + **uniform templates and SOP’s**
  - To facilitate communication and collaboration among institutions in similar resource settings
- In the long term each network member will upgrade his/her level significantly, with a better involvement in research projects and a positive influence on quality of research.