



on HIV treatment and care systems

Evidence for Action on HIV Treatment and Care Systems

Evidence for Action is an international research consortium with partners in Africa, Asia and Europe, carrying out policy-relevant research on issues relating to HIV treatment and care. Through increasing knowledge, and informing and influencing policy and practice in this area, the programme is working to reduce HIV-related morbidity and mortality. The programme is funded by the UK Department for International Development.

Evidence for Action is an international research consortium investigating HIV treatment and care systems

To find out more, go to www.evidence4action.org or email info@evidence4action.org

Evidence for Action partners

The partners in this consortium are leaders in research into HIV treatment and care, and in the delivery systems for this care. Researchers come from a wide range of disciplines, including experts on policy and advocacy work. Partners include both academic and civil society organisations. Working together through this consortium is enabling partners to share expertise and deliver research solutions that can be translated into policy and actions rapidly and on a large scale in developing countries.

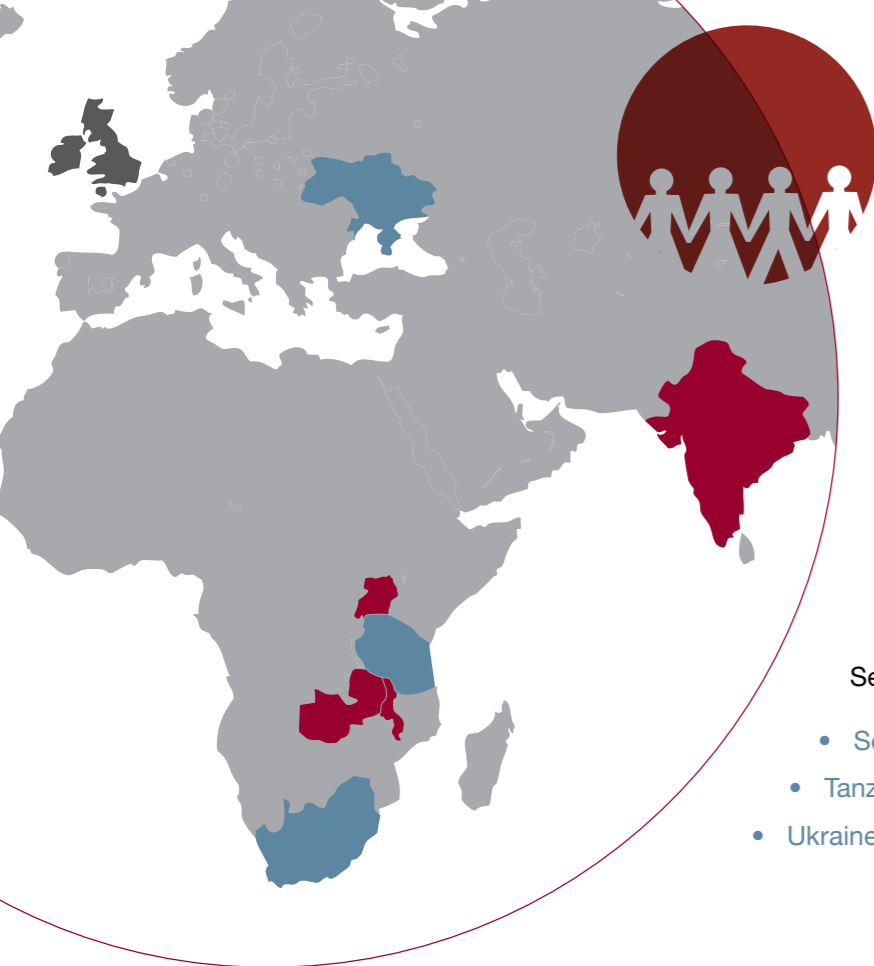
The consortium is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the core partners are:

- International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK
- Lighthouse Trust, Malawi
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit and University College London, UK
- Medical Research Council UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS, Uganda
- National AIDS Research Institute, India
- Zambian AIDS-Related Tuberculosis Programme (ZAMBART), Zambia

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Where we are working

Core Evidence for Action countries:

- India
- Malawi
- Uganda
- Zambia

Secondary Evidence for Action countries:

- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Ukraine

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Our research themes

Theme 1.

What “package” of HIV treatment & care services should be provided in different settings?

Evidence for Action research on this theme seeks to find solutions that are cost effective and feasible in low-income settings. The consortium is examining what packages of treatment and care are provided in different settings, and researching issues related to adherence, mental health and monitoring and evaluation, as well as assisting in producing clinical guidelines.

Two examples of Evidence for Action projects under this theme are:

- Contributing to development of the WHO Priority Interventions for HIV / AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care for the Health Sector
- Evaluating outcome indicators used to assess the performance of HIV programmes on treatment and care in resource-limited countries (India, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Ukraine)

Theme 2.

What delivery systems should be used in different contexts?

Finding the best way to deliver HIV treatment and care is a vital aspect of ensuring that it is accessible to all. Evidence for Action is studying the roll-out of ART to peripheral health facilities, and examining the role the community and family care-givers play in delivering treatment and care. The consortium is also examining barriers at the entry points to accessing anti-retroviral therapy, including Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programmes and TB clinics.

Two examples of Evidence for Action projects under this theme are:

- A Pilot Study to Develop and Evaluate a Strategy to Roll Out ART with Integration of HIV Prevention: Operational and Clinical Research, (Uganda)
- Access to Care for Women Testing HIV Positive in PMTCT: Missed Opportunities (Malawi)

Theme 3.

How best should HIV treatment & care be integrated into existing health & social systems?

The rapid scale-up of HIV treatment programmes have often led to vertical programmes with varying degrees of integration with the rest of the health system. Within this theme, Evidence for Action is examining a number of important questions. What impact is the rapid scale-up of Anti-retroviral therapy (ART) having on the health system as a whole? How integrated are HIV programmes with the rest of the health system? What is the patients’ experience of navigating multiple programmes such as HIV and TB? Evidence for Action is also addressing the key areas of human resources to deliver treatment and care, decentralisation and task shifting.

An example of an Evidence for Action project under this theme is:

- Constructing an analytical framework to map the level of integration of ART delivery in Zambia

Theme 4.

How best can new evidence from research be rapidly translated into new policies & actions?

Evidence for Action is committed to carrying out research that influences policy and practice in developing countries. Findings from theme 4 research projects are enabling partners to understand policy processes better, and to ensure that results are communicated in an effective and timely manner to the right people.

Two examples of Evidence for Action projects under this theme are:

- The policy implementation process of ART roll out in Zambia and South Africa.
- Knowledge, policy and practice in the use of cotrimoxazole prophylaxis in adults and children in Zambia, Malawi and Uganda

Cross-cutting issues

Evidence for Action research across all themes also takes into account the following cross-cutting issues:

- Efficiency, cost effectiveness and implications for equity
- Impact on adherence to treatment, health outcomes, and the development of drug resistance
- Impact on the wider health system and other social sectors
- Impact on individuals, households, families and the wider community

Communicating to influence policy & practice

In order to ensure the research is of relevance to policy makers and programme managers, Evidence for Action partners are engaging with key stakeholders at local, national and international level from the design phase of research projects onwards. Individuals from the consortium are also active members of advisory groups at national and international levels. Evidence for Action is seeking to communicate research findings effectively through face-to-face meetings, publications including technical papers, policy briefs, presentations, the Evidence for Action website, knowledge intermediaries and other forms of communication.

Building Capacity

As a consortium, Evidence for Action is building the research and policy influencing capacity of partners through:

- Helping partners to attract and retain key staff
- Skills building workshops
- Short courses
- Exchange visits between partners
- Collaboration within research projects
- Increased exchange of research ideas, methods and approaches

Examples of successful capacity building activities carried out so far include:

- Workshop on Policy & Research - Translating Evidence into Action
- Communications workshop
- Exchange visits between Southern Partners

How to find out more

The Evidence for Action website (www.evidence4action.org) contains more details about the work of Evidence for Action, and is regularly updated. If you have a specific question, would like to comment on the programme, or would like to receive the Evidence for Action email newsletter, please email info@evidence4action.org.



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International HIV/AIDS Alliance

ZAMBART PROJECT

LIGHTHOUSE



Supported by

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