

Guide to ARV Implementation Support



OPTIMIZE – a global partnership led by the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (Wits RHI) – accelerates access to simpler, safer and more affordable HIV treatment. OPTIMIZE supports country programs that are transitioning to optimized antiretrovirals, including the first generic, single-pill HIV treatment regimen containing dolutegravir (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, lamivudine and dolutegravir, known as TLD).

How can OPTIMIZE support transition planning to accelerate access to optimized HIV treatment?



OPTIMIZE is a USAID-managed Cooperative Agreement with a period of performance from October 2015 through October 2020. The OPTIMIZE Cooperative Agreement accepts funding through PEPFAR Country Operational Plans. With this “buy-in” of funding, OPTIMIZE can develop a tailored approach to help PEPFAR country teams meet their transition planning needs.

OPTIMIZE builds on USAID’s Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact’s (CII) business-minded approach to the development, introduction and scale-up of health interventions to accelerate impact against the world’s most important health challenges. Explore the “IDEA to IMPACT” series and the “Market Shaping Primer” that serve as the foundation for OPTIMIZE’s approach at: www.usaid.gov/cii

How is OPTIMIZE helping countries learn from past transitions and from the experiences of early DTG adopters?

While there has been remarkable progress in reducing the amount of time it takes for new ARVs to reach the market in low- and middle-income countries, uptake of these products within countries can still suffer from logistical and implementation challenges.

OPTIMIZE has developed resources to provide HIV programs and their staff with a road map to navigate the complex set of questions and steps that need to be addressed to ensure a timely and effective introduction of promising new treatment options.



Introduction to accelerating access to simpler, safer and more affordable HIV treatment



Case study on past transitions to new adult first-line antiretroviral regimens



Needs assessments from South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe

Menu of potential OPTIMIZE activities to accelerate product introduction.



Creating an Enabling Environment

- Share up-to-date evidence, guidance and lessons learned from country experiences in the introduction of optimal new ARVs
- Assist in updating HIV Care and Treatment guidelines to incorporate use of optimal new ARVs
- Train and sensitize healthcare workers, program managers and communities of PLHIV to the introduction of optimal new ARVs including trainings, sensitization meetings and the development of informational materials



Planning and Preparation

- Conduct situational assessments of current landscape and analyze capacity and readiness of health system to effectively transition to optimal new ART regimens
- Develop tailored recommendations for key areas of focus for new ARV introduction based on countries' unique profiles, resources and past experiences
- Develop new ARV introduction strategy in collaboration with MoH and other key stakeholders which includes timelines, targets, supply planning and processes for the transition to optimal new ARVs
- Coordinate new ARV introduction planning and implementation across stakeholders at national and local levels



Service Delivery Support

- Provide training materials and supportive resources to ensure health care workers are equipped to manage transition to optimal new ARVs
- Provide supportive supervision and mentorship of clinical and pharmacy management staff involved in new product introduction activities
- Develop operational guidance for program and facility managers to enable them to adapt systems and procedures to support optimal ARV introduction
- Revise data capture tools to ensure appropriate documentation of new ARV use
- Develop and implement QA/QI systems to focus on regimen optimization, viral load suppression and ARV drug resistance monitoring



Transition Monitoring and Visibility

- Rapid assessment of existing pharmacovigilance (PV) systems to assess post-marketing surveillance of optimal new ARVs
- Support strengthening of national pharmacovigilance programs
- > Secondment of expert personnel to support Ministries of Health with adapting existing PV programs to include optimal ARVs, for instance to develop new forms to document adverse events
- > Develop and implement enhanced monitoring systems at sentinel sites for pharmacovigilance and pregnancy monitoring
- Conduct routine tracking of transition progress to new optimal ARVs at national and local levels



If your country is interested in these services, please contact the USAID/Washington project team (ProjectOptimize@usaid.gov) to discuss what is feasible and appropriate for your country context.

Powered by OPTIMIZE, a global partnership unifying distinct voices to achieve a common goal: accelerating access to simpler, safer and more affordable HIV treatment.



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