Remarkable progress has been made in the fight against the global HIV epidemic. As countries strive to reach the UNAIDS 90:90:90 targets, the focus is on achieving sustainable epidemic control.

Optimizing Momentum Toward Sustainable Epidemic Control (OpCon) is a global initiative led by ICAP at Columbia University and funded by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). OpCon is designed to support innovative, flexible and high-impact projects that contribute to improved HIV program outcomes, equity, efficiency and sustainability.

OpCon can assist countries in addressing the challenges they face in reaching epidemic control, sustaining achievements, and exploring innovations to measure progress.

**Year 1 Projects**

In partnership with HRSA, CDC, Ministries of Health and local partners, ICAP conceptualized, planned, and launched the following projects:

**Côte d'Ivoire:** An analysis of out of pocket (OOP) spending by patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Côte d'Ivoire. The OpCon consortium partner for this project is RTI International and local partners include MOH and Santé Espoir Vie Côte d'Ivoire (SEV-CI).

**Mozambique:** A pilot project to design a machine learning application to predict patients at high risk of default in Mozambique. The OpCon consortium partner for this project is Dimagi and the local partner is MOH.

**South Africa:** Development of a protocol for an evaluation of South Africa's "surge" support for ward-based primary health care outreach teams.

**Zambia:** A formative evaluation of HIV self-testing amongst adolescent girls and young women in Zambia. Local partners for this project include MOH and the Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), which is also an OpCon consortium partner.

**Zimbabwe:** A discrete choice experiment to evaluate preferences for differentiated service delivery models amongst people living with HIV in urban Zimbabwe. Local partners for this project include MoHCC and the National Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (ZNNP+).
OpCon | Prioritizing Transition, Filling the Gaps

Through a comprehensive matrix of support activities, OpCon brings unique solutions to countries seeking to attain long-term epidemic control -- from determining the most effective delivery systems for a particular population, region, or country, to transforming the latest scientific breakthroughs into sustainable service delivery models, to improving health workforce capacity and beyond.

The OpCon Framework

Knowledge Generation
- Identify best practices
- Anticipate innovations
- Generate cost and health workforce data
- Implement demonstration projects
- Conduct operational research
- Evaluate service delivery and workforce models

Policy, Strategic Planning & Capacity Building
- Support MOH to:
  - Conduct strategic planning
  - Develop guidelines and policies
  - Develop Health Management and Administration (HMA) and Human Resources for Health (HRH) management capacity
  - Apply knowledge to programs
  - Engage civil society

Knowledge Management
- Foster learning networks
- Support south-to-south learning exchange
- Conduct program reviews
- Link to communities and civil society

Implementation Support
- Provide tailored, multi-level technical assistance
- Support pilot projects
- Monitor quality and coverage
- Support quality improvement (QI) activities
- Engage civil society

What Can OpCon Accomplish?

Address Challenges at Every Level
OpCon projects will provide strategically targeted, multilevel technical assistance across health system domains: service delivery, health workforce, information systems, medical products and technologies, financing, and leadership and governance.

Build Capacity for the Long Haul
OpCon supported teams will work with ministries of health to transfer skills and establish environments that support improved performance, maintain quality, and promote the sustainability of programs.

Deliver the Highest Return on Investment
OpCon partners will bring their expertise to assist with costing analysis and modeling, enabling countries to make informed choices that will yield the greatest impact on epidemic control.

Identify New Sources of Support
OpCon partners will support ministries of health to explore promising models for engaging the nonprofit and private sectors to expand coverage and assure quality of HIV-related services.

Make Quality a Priority
OpCon partners will leverage their expertise and experience to support quality improvement and quality assessment.

Point the Way to Policies that Matter
OpCon is poised to translate scientific, clinical, programmatic, and policy breakthroughs into innovations that enhance program quality, efficiency, and sustainability. OpCon will support ministries of health to develop or adapt policies, guidelines, strategies, and plans based on new discoveries.

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