

Technical Guidance Note for Global Fund HIV Proposals



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Prophylaxis and treatment of HIV-associated opportunistic infections and other co-morbidities

Rationale for including this activity in the proposal

- ◆ Interventions for prevention and treatment of HIV-associated opportunistic infections and other co-morbidities are safe and cost-effective in reducing morbidity and mortality among people living with HIV.
- ◆ Children exposed to or living with HIV are at greater risk of mortality due to common childhood illnesses and opportunistic infections.

Elements to be considered in the situation analysis

- ◆ Prevalence of HIV infection in children (under 15 years of age) and adults (15–49 years of age).
- ◆ Estimated number of adults and children living with HIV.
- ◆ Prevalence, incidence and burden of common opportunistic infections and other co-morbidities.
- ◆ Number of people living with HIV in need of antiretroviral treatment.

Examples of objectives

- ◆ To scale up access to services for prophylaxis and treatment of opportunistic infections for children and adults living with HIV.
- ◆ To reduce morbidity and mortality among people living with HIV by increased access to treatment and prevention of HIV-associated opportunistic infections and other co-morbidities.

Focus populations

- ◆ Focus populations for co-trimoxazole prophylaxis, isoniazid preventive therapy and other prevention interventions, such as hepatitis B vaccination, pneumococcal vaccine, water treatment, insecticide-treated bednets and influenza vaccination, will depend on the burden of disease, local incidence, and geographical and sociodemographic factors. These should be explained in the proposal. Treatment for common opportunistic infections needs to be considered on an assumed number of episodes per year per adult patient and per child patient, and is related to the clinical stage of HIV disease at entry into the programme. In children, management of common childhood illnesses should also be included in estimations of need.

Suggested activities

- ◆ **Provision of co-trimoxazole prophylaxis** for children and adults living with HIV and for infants exposed to HIV, according to national recommendations.
- ◆ Secondary fluconazole prophylaxis for cryptococcosis according to national guidelines.
- ◆ Isoniazid preventive therapy.
- ◆ **Management of non-severe and severe opportunistic infections** and other co-morbidities. Common HIV-associated opportunistic infections include fungal infections such as candidiasis and cryptococcosis, herpes simplex and some bacterial infections. Other opportunistic infections include toxoplasmosis, cytomegalovirus, and malignancies such as Kaposi sarcoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas.

Major co-morbidities include viral hepatitis B and C. Management of opportunistic infections and co-morbidities requires appropriate diagnostic services and availability of necessary medicines; therefore PLHIV with opportunistic infections and co-morbidities are often managed at more complex health facilities.

- ◆ **Vaccines.** The national Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) may provide selected vaccines, particularly hepatitis B and influenza vaccines; however, these may not be available or may not include provision to the adult population.
- ◆ **Training of health workers** to provide prophylaxis and treatment of opportunistic infections and co-morbidities. Such training is included in integrated management of adolescent and adult illness/ integrated management of childhood illness (IMAI/IMCI) modules (see <http://www.who.int/hiv/capacity/en/index.html>).
- ◆ **Monitoring and evaluation activities.**

Approach to costing

- ◆ Cost for purchase of co-trimoxazole, aciclovir, amphotericin B, fluconazole, ganciclovir, interferon, ribavirin and other medicines or vaccines specifically recommended for prophylaxis or treatment of major HIV-associated opportunistic infections and co-morbidities purposes based on the target population described above should be included in the costing exercise. The cost of the logistics to ensure availability of the drugs at all health facilities, in addition to covering the cost of clearance charges, import duties and taxes, should also be considered, as operating a fully functional supply chain will require significant resources.
- ◆ International wholesale prices of the medicines required to treat opportunistic infections can be found in the Global Price Reporting Mechanism online database, published by the World Health Organization (WHO) on behalf of the partners in the AIDS Medicines and Diagnostics Services (<http://www.who.int/hiv/amds/gprm/en/index.html>), and in the *International Drug Price Indicator Guide*, published regularly by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), in collaboration with WHO (<http://www.msh.org/resource-center/international-drug-price-indicator-guide.cfm>).

Suggested key indicators

- ◆ Number and proportion of HIV care and treatment facilities actively providing co-trimoxazole prophylaxis.
- ◆ Percentage of adults and children enrolled in HIV care and eligible for co-trimoxazole prophylaxis (according to national guidelines) currently receiving co-trimoxazole prophylaxis.

Linkages with other activities

Prophylaxis and treatment of opportunistic infections may be linked to other programmes, such as:

- ◆ testing and counselling;
- ◆ stopping new infections and keeping mothers alive;
- ◆ antiretroviral treatment;
- ◆ care and support;
- ◆ EPI;
- ◆ maternal and child health.

Key implementing partners to be considered

- ◆ General medical services in the public and private sector.
- ◆ National tuberculosis (TB) and hepatitis programmes.
- ◆ Importers and distributors of medicines, such as national medical stores, and their counterparts in the private sector.

- ◆ United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) implementers.
- ◆ Other development partners.
- ◆ United Nations partners, including WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- ◆ Specific humanitarian drug donation programmes.

Type of technical assistance that may be required during implementation

- ◆ Developing national strategy or plan for management of HIV-associated opportunistic infections and other co-morbidities, within the national plan for HIV or the national health sector plan.
- ◆ Improving drug procurement and supply chain management system, including quantification of national requirements for co-trimoxazole and other drugs for prophylaxis and treatment of opportunistic infections and co-morbidities (for more information, see <http://www.who.int/hiv/amds/en/>).

For further information, please see “Essential prevention and care interventions for adults and adolescents living with HIV in resource-limited settings” (<http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/plhiv/interventions/en/index.html>).

For operational guidance for integrated patient management, please see “IMAI/IMCI health centre/primary care guideline modules” (<http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/imai/primary/en/index.html>).

