



# **KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION PLATFORM MALAWI (KTPMalawi)**

## **Evidence Brief Author Training Report**



**17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> February 2014**  
Hippo View Lodge, Malawi



## **KTPMalawi Background**

In early 2012, through seed funding from EVIPNet, KTPMalawi completed an in-depth context analysis of knowledge translation systems and stakeholders (policymakers, health researchers and practitioners). This analysis led to two successful capacity building workshops to improve Malawi-based researchers' and policymakers' abilities to develop and evaluate systematic reviews and evidence-informed policy briefs. Through these workshops, stakeholders provided direction, objectives and activities to set the stage for the further development of KTPMalawi.

Also in 2012, working with an emerging community of national KTPs in Africa, KTPMalawi representatives attended two international KT forums: the EVIPNet International Forum and the EVIPNet Africa Forum. KTPMalawi had opportunities to strategically link with regional and international KTPs and shared lessons learned across the various platforms.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the inaugural KTPMalawi Steering Committee Meeting was held at Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe with 17 policymakers, health research leaders and civil society members. The purpose of the KTP Steering Committee is to engage Malawi's policy and research leaders in providing overall strategic direction and expertise to KTPMalawi. This engagement is essential to ensure the initiative's success in significantly improving the use of evidence and research in the development and implementation of health policy in Malawi.

This high-level group was led by Dr. Damson Kathyola, MoH Director of Research. He outlined KTPMalawi objectives and activities and reviewed several KTPMalawi models to feed into the KTPMalawi steering committee terms of reference (ToR) and prioritized the development of two Communities of Practice (CoPs) in:

1. The integration of non-communicable diseases with HIV Treatment and Care and
2. Supply chain management

These CoPs will report to the Steering Committee and will bring together policymakers, researchers and program implementers who are focused on these specific content areas. Each CoP's purpose will be to produce policy-relevant documents, such as graded evidence briefs, based on emerging research within these content areas in close collaboration with the relevant MoH stakeholders and technical work group (TWG) partners.

## **Evidence Brief Authors Training Report**

KTPMalawi's Steering Committee prioritized the development of two communities of practice (CoP): 1) The Integration of Non-Communicable Diseases Into HIV Care and Treatment and 2) Supply Chain Management. These two CoPs narrowed the content scope of their evidence briefs, described the problem and brainstormed initial thoughts around potential policy options. At each of these two CoP meetings 4-6 authors from within each CoP were chosen to take forward the writing of each evidence brief. To support and build capacity within these author groups an "evidence brief author training" was conducted. This training was facilitated by Dr. Lisa Puchalski-Ritchie (Dignitas International & University of Toronto, Canada), Dr. Martha Masamba



(Stellenbosch University & Cochrane, South Africa) and Dr. Lonia Mwape (University of Zambia & Zambia Forum for Health Research, Zambia).

### **Scope of the Training**

Over a five-day period the facilitators lead the authors through several modules including:

- Overview of study designs/hierarchy of evidence
- bias, statistical vs clinical significance
- How to conduct and utilize systematic reviews
- Grading evidence using structured methods (GRADE and AMSTAR)
- Utilizing clinical guidelines and
- Steps in developing an evidence brief

The author groups then developed rough work plans documenting out the process they will take in developing each evidence brief. These authors will now be supported over the next several months in developing each evidence briefs. Early drafts will be shared with the steering committee and the respective CoP. Once completed these briefs will serve as a primary input into policy dialogues, which will convene senior level officials as well as members of KTPMalawi's steering committee and this CoP. The development of this evidence brief and the convening of the policy dialogue will inject timely evidence into the policymaking process.



## Annex 1: CoP Participants

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