



**Knowledge Translation Platform Malawi  
(KTPMalawi)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> National Knowledge Translation Platform Steering Committee  
Meeting Report**

**26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014**

**HIV and AIDS Department – Conference Room**





## **Background**

Through the Malawi Ministry of Health (MoH) and with support from Dignitas International, Malawi has established an innovative Knowledge Translation Platform (KTPMalawi) to engage national-level policymakers, researchers and implementers in a coordinated approach to generate and utilize more effectively health-sector research in Malawi. KTPMalawi has received official endorsement from the MoH's Senior Management Team.

Since the inaugural KTPMalawi Steering Committee Meeting that was held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at Kamuzu Central Hospital, KTPMalawi had made significant progress. In fulfilling its governance role KTPMalawi's Steering Committee met on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at Community Health Sciences Unit-HIV and AIDS Unit Conference Hall in Lilongwe.

## **Meeting Agenda**

The agenda of this 2<sup>nd</sup> National Steering Committee meeting was as follows:

- a) To review and assess the progress of KTPMalawi
- b) To review and assess progress on the two evidence briefs that are currently in development
- c) To review and assess next steps for KTPMalawi

## **Session 1: Opening Remarks**

The opening remarks were made by Dr. Collins Mitambo, the Knowledge Translation Platform Coordinator in the Ministry of Health. In his remarks, he welcomed all the participants from different stakeholder groups to the meeting. He also emphasized the importance of active participation and inputs to the proposed agenda and officially opened the meeting.

## **Session 2: KTPMalawi Progress Update**

Dr. Mitambo briefly reviewed the knowledge translation cycle and KTPMalawi's overall and sub-objectives:

- To strengthen linkages between policymakers and health researchers in Malawi by developing a sustainable Knowledge Translation Platform to promote evidence-informed health policymaking in Malawi
  - To establish the institutional infrastructure to foster and sustain Malawi's KTP
  - To improve the accessibility and quality of the dialogue on research relevant to high-priority policy issues
    - To strengthen regional and international partnerships under WHO-EVIPNet to improve the dissemination and implementation of regionally adapted KT best practices



The Committee then reviewed the activities KTPMalawi has undertaken to-date:

- a) Completed a baseline political context analysis
- b) Built knowledge translation capacity in researchers and policy makers through two introductory workshops
- c) Convened National Knowledge Translation Platform Steering Committee where two Communities of Practice (CoP) were prioritized:
  - Supply Chain Management and
  - The Integration of Non-Communicable Diseases and HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment

Each CoP is mandated to develop rigorous evidence briefs and convene policy dialogues in conjunction with the steering committee.

Joshua Berman then described the process undertaken by KTPMalawi to convene experts within these two fields at the two inaugural CoP meetings. At each respective CoP meeting experts in the field of Supply Chain Management and NCD-HIV integration narrowed the content scope of their evidence briefs and discussed initial policy options. See reports from the NCD-HIV and Supply Chain Management CoP meetings by clicking [here](#) and [here](#) respectfully. Several members of each CoP were selected and rigorously trained as evidence brief authors (See report linked [here](#)).

Josh also briefly reported on his attendance at the recently held WHO African Evidence Informed Policy network (EVIPNet) meeting in Burkina Faso. Committee members were also informed that KTPMalawi was accepted and gave a presentation at the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA), which was held in South Africa in December, 2013. Lastly, Joshua introduced the Ministry of Health-KTP Coordinator, Dr Collins Mitambo.

### **Session 3: Discussion on CoP**

During this session the committee reviewed each of the CoP's problem statements.

David Bagonza gave a brief update on the progress of the evidence brief being developed by the Supply Chain Management team. The authors adopted and started working on a topic on *"Inadequate utilization of supply chain data to inform decision at all levels"*.

There was a constructive discussion by all committee members on the NCD-HIV CoP's problem statement. The NCD-HIV CoP had previously prioritized the problem statement of a large burden of undiagnosed hypertension within HIV+ patients. Moving from that CoP meeting to the author training the NCD-HIV authors proposed to change the topic of the evidence brief to *"improving hypertension screening and treatment"*. A very lively and spirited discussion followed between all Steering Committee members. Dr. Shiraz Khan represented the NCD-HIV authors. In conclusion, the committee agreed that the NCD-HIV



problem statement should remain as finalized during the CoP meeting and focus on the large burden of undiagnosed hypertension within HIV+ patients.

#### **Session 4: Next Steps of KTPMalawi**

This session was facilitated by Getrude Chindebvu who reviewed upcoming KTPMalawi activities:

- a) To develop evidence briefs on supply chain management and integration of NCD and HIV Care and Treatment
- b) To convene two policy dialogues for supply chain management and integration of NCDs and HIV Care and Treatment. Each evidence brief will be the primary input into these meetings.
- c) To further our partnership with WHO-EVIPNet and KTPs in Zambia, Cameroon and Uganda.
- d) To hold a pre-service KT training at College of Medicine and
- e) To continue to seek out bridge funding for KTPMalawi activities.

#### **Closing Remarks**

Josh thanked all steering committee members for their strong involvement and active participation during the meeting. He emphasized that he is looking forward to working with all committee members in the coming months to achieve KTPMalawi's objectives.



### Annex : Participants for Steering Committee Members

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