

Prevention, Care, and Treatment of Infectious Diseases

I-TECH has a wealth of experience and expertise in planning, developing, and implementing activities in resource-limited settings. Areas of particular capacity in this regard include prevention, care, and treatment of infectious diseases, particularly HIV and opportunistic coinfections such as tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted infections.

Prevention Activities

I-TECH's work centers on three prevention strategies: **training in infection control, behavior change communication (BCC), and prevention with positives (PWP).**

Training health care professionals in proper **infection control** practices helps to stanch the spread of infectious disease in the health care setting. I-TECH has partnered to create several curricula on the fundamentals of infection control practices for health care professionals, and many others incorporate instruction on these measures into their course content. Curricula aim to enhance the skills of health care professionals on prophylactic measures, such as safe sanitation and use of equipment, and setting up systems that mitigate infectious disease transmission and facilitate patient health.

To prevent the spread of HIV in the general population, I-TECH works with its clients and partners to craft **BCC messages and produce media** to educate, inspire, and persuade different segments of the population to change risk behaviors. I-TECH's particular expertise is in the development of culturally appropriate media products that can be used to enhance educational sessions, as outlined in accompanying facilitation guides. I-TECH media products have been honored with many awards.

I-TECH and its partners also develop **PWP strategies** to promote healthy living and reduction in risk behaviors among people living with HIV. These prevention efforts aim to diminish the spread of HIV to sex partners, injection drug use partners, and infants born to HIV-infected mothers, as well as protect the health of infected individuals. I-TECH's international work has applied three basic models for PWP—provider-based, specialist-based, and peer-based—each of which can be adapted to local settings. I-TECH works with each country and clinical setting to refine and tailor technical assistance materials and plans, and then assists these sites with implementing programs based on country or local plans.

Care and Treatment of Infectious Diseases

I-TECH provides technical assistance on the clinical care and treatment of HIV and related opportunistic infections on a continuum that ranges from direct patient service delivery, to training and mentoring health care workers, to the development of national policies and health systems infrastructure. In particular, together with ministries of health and other key stakeholders, I-TECH has developed numerous curricula and clinical mentoring programs to train health care workers to safely and effectively treat patients who have HIV and TB or other opportunistic infections at a level of care commensurate with national and international standards. I-TECH has also assisted ministries of health to create national prevention and care and treatment guidelines for infectious diseases, which has led to standardized care and treatment for HIV, including antiretroviral therapy dosing for adults and children. Additionally, I-TECH has experience working alongside ministries of health and the United States Centers for Disease Control Global AIDS Program (CDC GAP) offices to develop infrastructure for HIV prevention, treatment, and care services. This includes building capacity for laboratory services and monitoring and evaluation activities in-country.



Core Capabilities

- Adapt, pilot, and implement evidence-based PWP interventions.
- Build skills of health care providers, testing and counseling staff, and peer educators working with people living with HIV for developing tailored prevention messages.
- Develop media for behavior change communications (BCC) interventions, including dramas, print, radio and broadcast novelas, documentaries, “trigger” films, and electronic case studies with accompanying discussion guides.
- Provide technical assistance to ministries of health and other stakeholders in the development of national treatment guidelines and policies for HIV and related infections.
- Build capacity of health care workers in clinical management of HIV-infected patients, prevention and treatment of TB, adherence counseling, care and treatment of HIV-infected pregnant women, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

Sample Care and Treatment Projects

I-TECH clinical mentoring toolkit

I-TECH’s clinical mentoring toolkit is a comprehensive resource for developing, implementing, and evaluating clinical mentoring programs. The toolkit reflects the depth of I-TECH’s extensive programmatic experience in this area.

HIV treatment program in Ethiopia

Since 2003, I-TECH has been providing technical assistance to enhance antiretroviral therapy (ART) service delivery in HIV and AIDS care in Ethiopia. I-TECH provides a broad array of technical, clinical, and operational support to 35 health care sites in three northern regions that account for nearly 50% of the national HIV burden. As a means of supporting clinical training, I-TECH has established 13 regional mentoring teams to assist with onsite clinical support for health care workers at established clinics.

National guidelines for implementing TB/HIV collaborative activities

I-TECH has led the development of the national guidelines for Tanzania on implementing collaborative TB/HIV activities. The guidelines were developed in collaboration with the National TB and Leprosy program, the National AIDS Control Program, and other partners, including the CDC, the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP), and PATH.

TB prevention toolkit

I-TECH’s TB Prevention website (www.TBPreventiontoolkit.org) and toolkit were designed assist facility level administrators and health care workers in communities with a high prevalence of both TB and HIV to implement TB infection prevention and control measures, using the “Three I’s” framework as articulated by the World Health Organization.



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