



October 2020

Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control (RISE)

# Oral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

## The Global Challenge

In 2019, there were an estimated 38 million people living with HIV (PLHIV) worldwide. Approximately 1.7 million of these were new HIV infections and almost two-thirds occurred in Africa. Scaling up access to oral PrEP for HIV prevention is a key prevention strategy in COP20 for a number of populations including adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), pregnant and breastfeeding women, serodiscordant couples, men who have sex with men (MSM), people who inject drugs, people in prisons, female sex workers (FSWs), and transgender people. Although significant progress has been made to slow the rate of HIV infection, prevention remains a critical priority. In response, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have provided generous funding for RISE, a 5-year global project (2019–2024), led by Jhpiego, that supports countries to achieve and maintain epidemic control by providing strategic technical assistance and direct service delivery to improve HIV prevention, case finding, treatment, and viral load suppression. **RISE offers support to countries working to scale up access to oral PrEP for targeted populations through technical assistance and service delivery, including national level policy and guideline updates, capacity building for providers, demand generation, and integrating PrEP into national and subnational health information systems.**

RISE delivers a core package of high-quality HIV prevention services tailored to vulnerability, client, and community. In the use of biomedical tools to prevent transmission of HIV, our expertise includes oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and voluntary medical male circumcision.

## RISE Technical Areas

The RISE consortium (Jhpiego, ICAP, Management Sciences for Health, Anova Health Institute, BAO Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Mann Global Health) brings unrivaled expertise in taking evidence-based programming to scale and transitioning to local implementing partners for sustainable, self-reliant, and resilient health systems. We have a history of meeting ambitious targets through provision of high-quality, cost-efficient services matched with innovative and human-centered demand-creation approaches.



## Our Technical Focus in Oral PrEP for HIV Prevention

In partnership with the EpiC project, RISE is implementing the Collaboration for HIV Prevention Options to Control the Epidemic (CHOICE) initiative to address technical assistance needs and support national scale-up of antiretroviral-based HIV prevention products (collectively referred to as pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP) in PEPFAR countries through catalytic evidence generation, translation, and research utilization. CHOICE, a 24-month collaboration funded by USAID in partnership with PEPFAR, is harnessing collaborative engagement and research utilization expertise to increase awareness, expand access, build capacity, and support effective use of PrEP in sub-Saharan Africa.

Through engagement in the CHOICE initiative and through country buy-ins supporting PrEP service delivery, RISE provides technical assistance and service delivery support to address technical gaps and support national scale-up of oral PrEP in PEPFAR-supported countries through multiple approaches, including:

- Supports governments and other stakeholders to develop PrEP policies, guidelines, and implementation strategies;
- Service delivery models that maximize accessibility, safety, and acceptability;
- Innovative and human-centered approaches to engage the community and generate demand;
- Mentorship and training on PrEP provision;
- Strengthens monitoring systems and supports countries to use PrEP performance data to drive programmatic decisions and optimize PrEP uptake and continuation
- Support countries in oral PrEP scale-up through the translation and utilization of evidence-informed planning, programming, and strategic information tools
- Support countries in PrEP demand creation through the development of a low-cost human centered design-infused approach for creating demand creation strategies and tools
- Support countries in the integration of sexual reproductive health and PrEP services through the development of evidence-informed integration strategies and tools

RISE has the program implementation, community engagement, and health systems strengthening expertise to ensure that its efforts to introduce and scale up oral PrEP programs are successful, efficient, and cost-effective.

## Examples of RISE Consortium experience in Oral PrEP

At the global level, Jhpiego has played a leading role in global technical leadership for PrEP research, policy, and capacity building materials. Jhpiego worked closely with the WHO to develop digital tools to support clinicians and other health care workers, including the Oral PrEP Learning Resource Package and the WHO PrEP Implementation Tool App for Health Workers. The app provides key information and practical advice about the use of oral PrEP, with modules for clinicians, counselors, pharmacists, HIV testing providers, and PrEP users. It also features a clinical calculator to estimate creatinine clearance. The mobile app, currently available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, is available through the Apple and Google Play Stores.

In FY20, RISE collaborated with AIDSFree to pilot virtual facilitation and use of the WHO/Jhpiego PrEP online learning platform in Nigeria and Lesotho. The evolving COVID-19 pandemic has made online training more relevant than ever; in FY21 RISE is developing a facilitation guide to help programs expand access to virtual training on PrEP, providing online learners with additional virtual mentoring and learning support sessions in the form of facilitated WhatsApp groups and webinar discussions with expert panels. RISE-Nigeria is working to scale up PrEP in four project supported states (Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, and Niger) as well as working through CHOICE at the central level to support development of policy guidance, implementation support materials, demand generation approaches and materials.

RISE, through the CHOICE initiative, developed clinical guidelines and implementation support materials to advance provision of PrEP to pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBFW). The clinical guidelines are part of a package of training and implementation support materials to help introduce PrEP for this population through MNH care platforms (ANC and PNC services). In addition to the clinical guidelines, the package includes a training curriculum (session plan and implementation guide) and PPT, interactive case studies, a facility assessment tool, safety surveillance tools, and a resource sheet. In FY21, RISE will provide technical assistance to countries working to expand availability of PrEP for PBFW.

Additionally, through the CHOICE initiative RISE contributed to the development of a global PrEP clinical guideline template and in FY21 will be developing a complementary clinical guideline template focused on provision of Event Driven (ED) PrEP for MSM.

In addition to the RISE-supported efforts above, Jhpiego also brings extensive implementation experience working to roll out PrEP for HIV prevention in multiple countries, including Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Tanzania. As lead of the Bill & Melinda Gates-funded Jilinde project, Jhpiego is spearheading the first global project aimed at moving oral PrEP research into full-scale implementation. Through this project, introduced in Kenya in 2016:

- Jhpiego worked with local stakeholders to demonstrate and document an effective model to scale up the administration of oral PrEP in limited-resource settings. Between February 1, 2017 and September 30, 2020, Jilinde has cumulatively initiated 36,171 clients on oral PrEP.
- Jhpiego developed a nationwide oral PrEP delivery system that employs drop-in centers, public health facilities, and private providers to reach high-risk populations, including FSWs, MSM, and AGYW.
- Jhpiego supported national-level policy changes to integrate oral PrEP into Kenya's HIV testing and counseling and family planning programs, and demand-creation efforts to reach priority populations with information, counseling, and services.

In addition, RISE consortium partners are well-positioned to support countries to make oral PrEP available among key and priority populations in FY21 and beyond. RISE partners ICAP and Anova both bring additional expertise in bringing PrEP to key and priority populations, and working with governments to expand provision of PrEP to key populations through public health facilities as well as community-based services.

## RISE Project Principles

- Break the cycle of HIV transmission and reach those at highest risk for HIV.
- Scale up proven and innovative approaches, using human-centered design thinking to inform the development and implementation of locally driven, adaptive solutions.
- Implement interventions that address structural drivers.
- Strengthen local partners and build networks for resilient systems.
- Impart a culture of quality, data use, and accountability.
- Rapidly mobilize to respond to immediate country needs and establish strong working platforms to achieve the bold vision of epidemic control by 2020.
- Work with local partners to tailor impactful, innovative, evidence-based services to targeted populations, particularly at-risk adult men and women, including key populations.

## Tools & Resources

- [WHO / Jhpiego Oral PrEP Learning Resource Package](#)
- [WHO Oral PrEP Implementation Tool](#) (downloadable app)
- [HIV Prevention Toolkit A Gender-Responsive Approach](#)
- PrEP for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women: Clinical Guidelines and Training Package – coming soon!

## RISE Technical Areas

To learn more about our work, visit our website at <https://www.jhpiego.org/riase>, and see our briefs on:

- [RISE Introductory Brief & Project Overview](#)
- Health Systems Strengthening
- HIV Prevention: Oral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
- HIV Prevention: Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision
- Engaging Men in HIV Testing, Linkage, and Retention in Care
- Antiretroviral Therapy Optimization
- Strategic Information
- Key Populations
- TB/HIV Integration
- Laboratory Services

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