



INNOVATION
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PUBLIC HEALTH

Advanced HIV Disease (AHD) overview in South Africa

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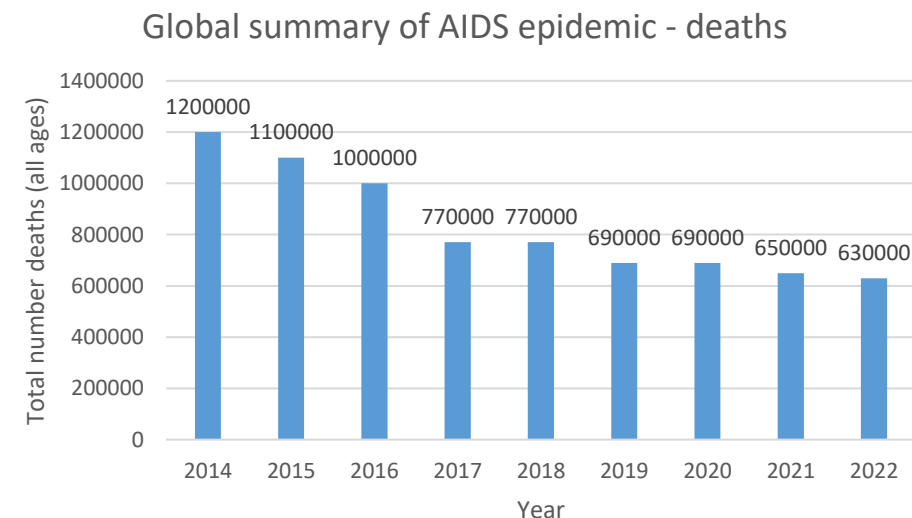
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Introduction

Mortality ratio with CD4 counts
<200 vs >350
3.43 : 1

- Scale up of ART has averted millions of deaths in SSA over the past decade
- However, a reduction in AIDS-related deaths has stagnated in this same period mostly due to high mortality in people with AHD
- Approx. 30% of adult PLHIV globally presenting or returning to care have AHD
- Data analysis for South Africa based on NHLS results reported a similar picture*



Source : Lancet April 2023

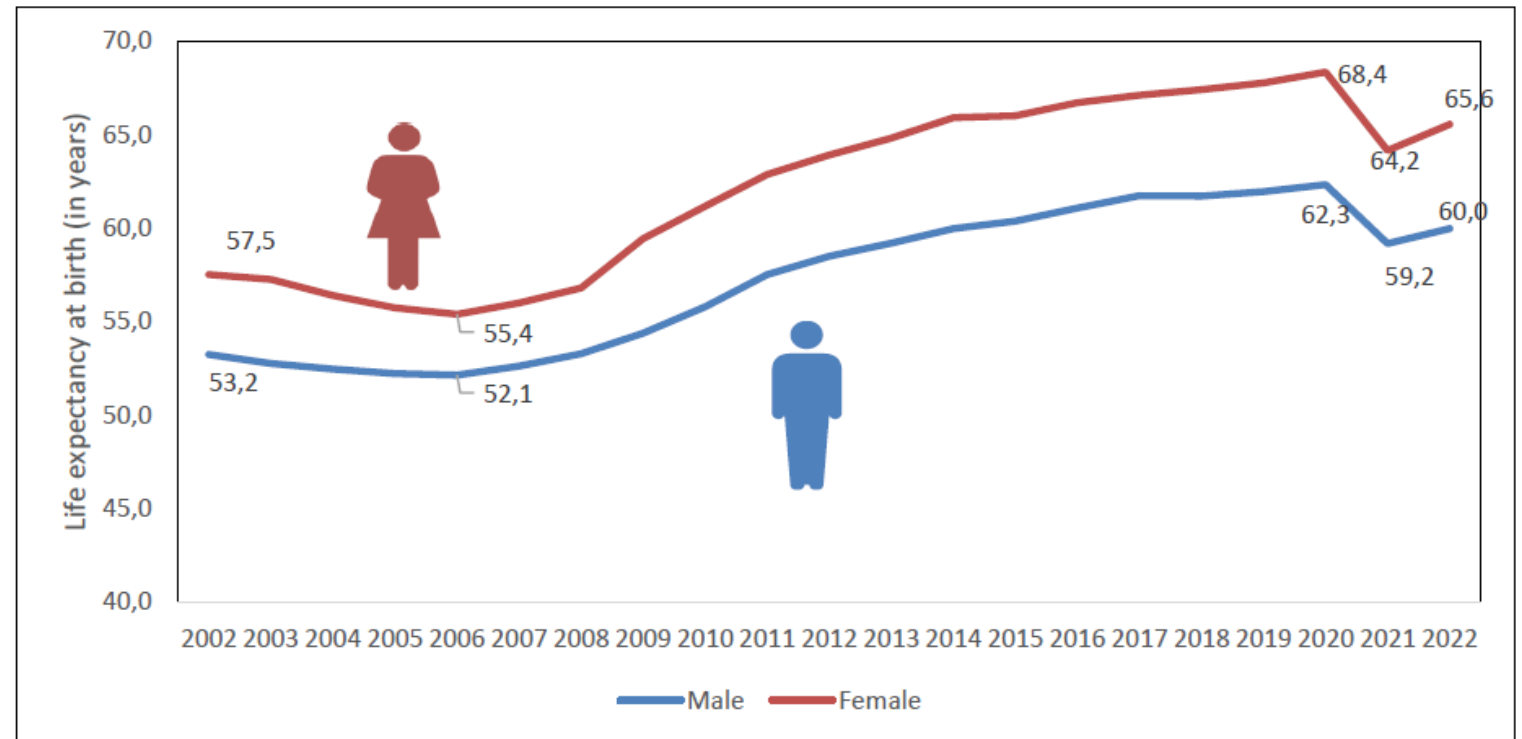
The definition of Advanced HIV Disease (AHD) is any patient presenting late with :

- WHO clinical **Stage 3 or 4**
- *Children from 5 years age, adolescents and adults* with CD4 count **< 200** cells/mm³ (CD4 is the best indicator of disease stage and risk of death). *Severely* immuno-compromised **< 100** and *very advanced* disease defined as **<50** cells/mm³ (with associated increasing morbidity and mortality)
- all children **< 5 years** age (not on ART and clinically stable) – evidence shows that 80% of all children starting ART have severe immunosuppression. Note : A child who has been on established ART for >1 year and older than 2 years can be excluded.
- Note : *A late presenter* as defined as any patient who presents with a CD4 count **<350** cells/mm³ or an AIDS defining event, such as the occurrence of an opportunistic infection or malignancy.


HIV outlook

- HIV remains a treatable and controllable chronic disease with good life expectancy
- In South Africa, life expectancy for males is 60 years and 65,6 years for females.

Figure 4: Life expectancy by sex over time, 2002–2022



Management of AHD in Africa



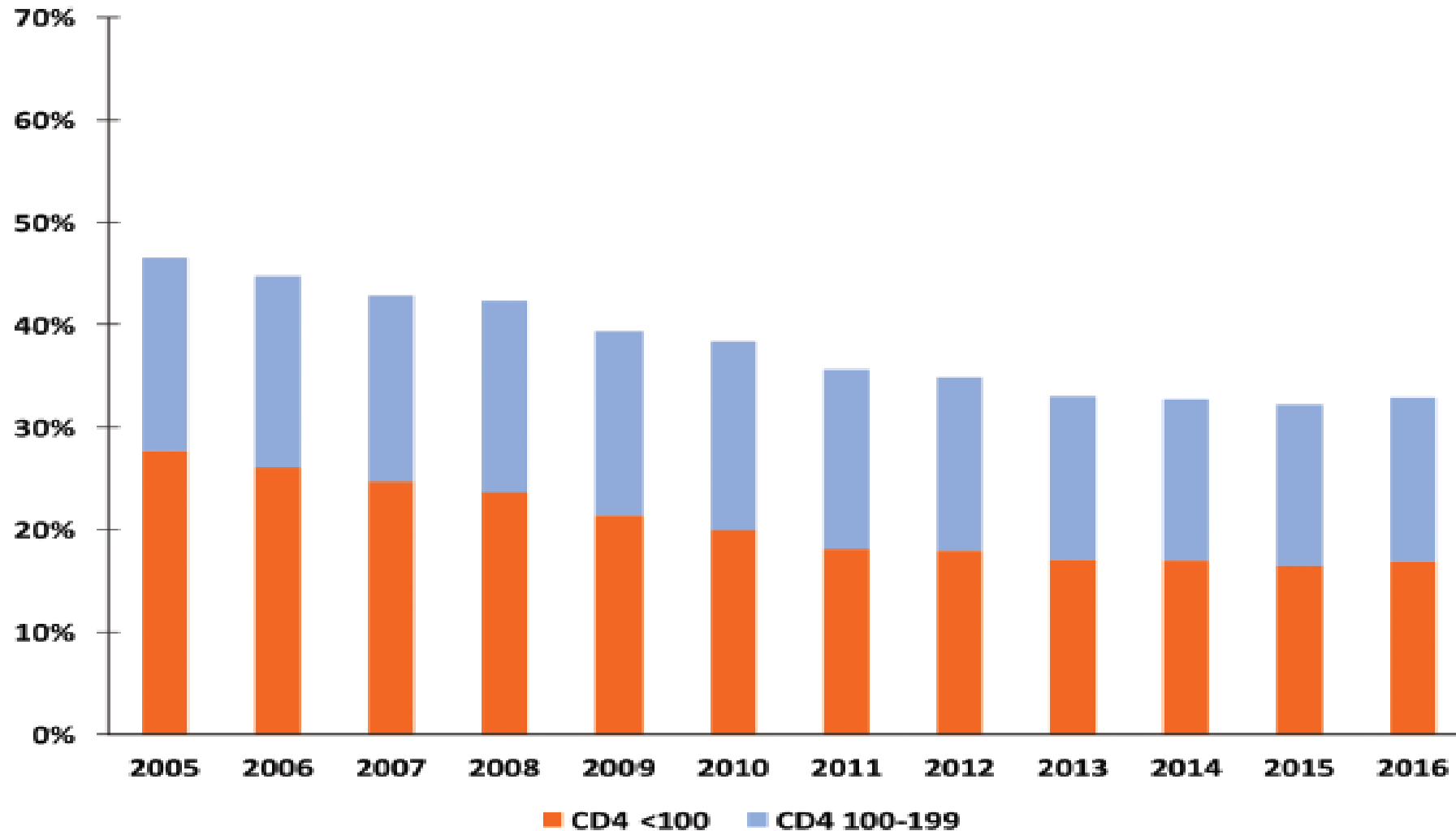
	Access to CD4 testing	Sputum Xpert as first test for tuberculosis diagnosis	WHO 2019 policy update on use of TB-LAM	Use of urine TB-LAM	CrAg screening	Co-trimoxazole prophylaxis	Tuberculosis preventive treatment	Fluconazole pre-emptive therapy	Rapid antiretroviral therapy initiation	Adapted adherence support	
Angola											
Burkina Faso											
Chad											
Comoros											
Côte d'Ivoire											
Equatorial Guinea											
Eswatini											
Gabon											
The Gambia											
Ghana											
Guinea											
Kenya											
Madagascar											
Mauritius											
Namibia											
Niger											
Rwanda											
São Tomé and Príncipe											
Senegal											
Seychelles											
South Africa											
South Sudan											
Togo											
Uganda											
Zambia											
Number of countries	25	12	11	11	1	7	14	14	7	17	12

Countries that reported wide implementation (>95% of treatment sites) of recommended interventions for advanced HIV disease

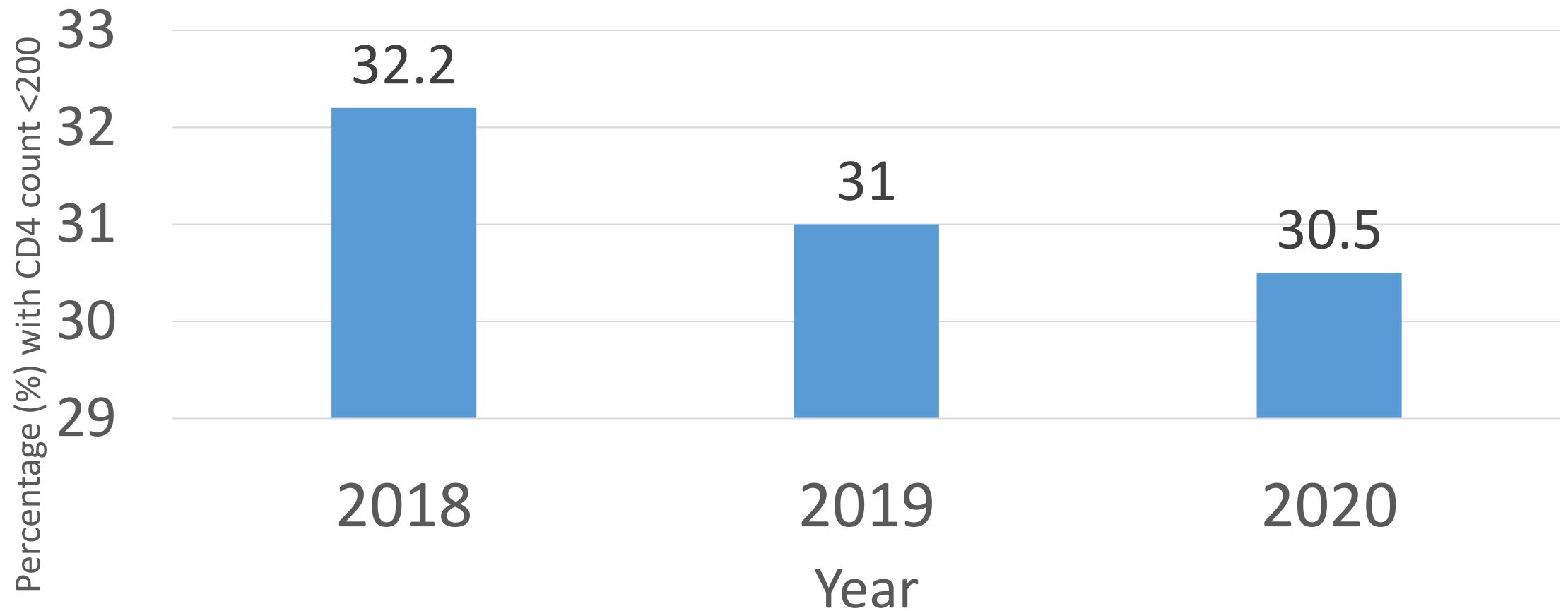
25 countries evaluated on 10 aspects of AHD included in the “Package of Care”

Source : Lancet June 2023 p. e358 – e360

Proportion of patients entering care with AHD and very AHD (CD4<100) in South Africa *NHLS



Percentage of patients with a CD4 count <200 cells at time of HIV diagnosis in South Africa, 2018 to 2020 (DHIS)



Late HIV diagnosis

Why ?

Late HIV diagnosis, the percentage of PLHIV with CD4 count less than a particular threshold at the time of diagnosis, monitors how early PLHIV are diagnosed. Data from the District Health Information System (DHIS) show that late HIV diagnosis was 30.5% in 2020 when using the threshold of <200 cells/mm³, only a slight decrease from 32.2% in 2018.

When the threshold is increased to <350 cells/mm³, late HIV diagnosis was 56.3% in 2018 and 54.7% in 2020.

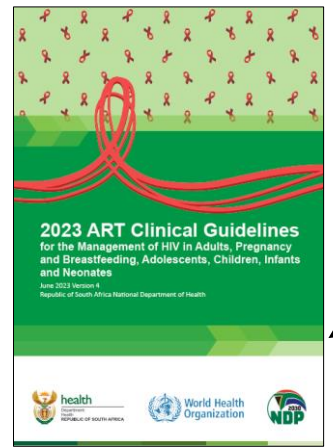
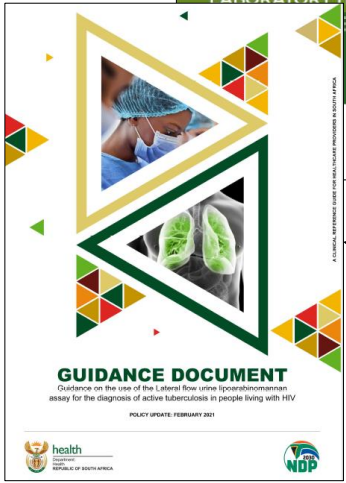
Source : Global AIDS monitoring report, SANAC, 2020 p.14

AHD

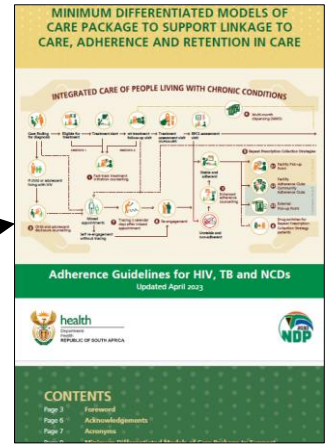
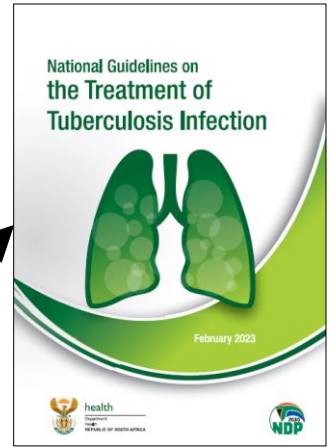
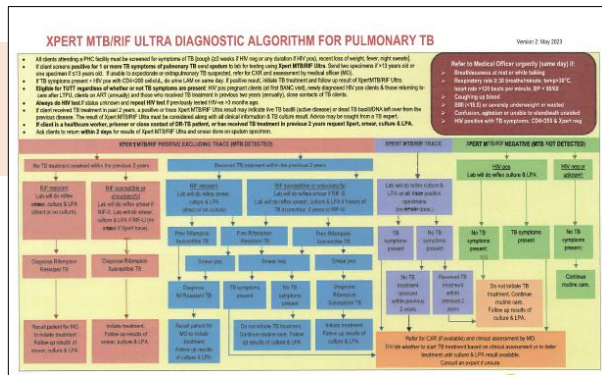
How ?

Component of the Baseline Clinical Evaluation	Purpose	Adolescent (10-19 years) and Adults
Recognise the client with respiratory, neurological, or abdominal danger signs needing urgent care	To identify opportunistic infections and conditions needing urgent care or referral See also the section on <i>"Advanced HIV Disease" in the 2023 Consolidated ART Guideline</i>	Identify respiratory, neurological, abdominal disease as outlined in Primary Care guideline
Nutritional assessment	To identify recent weight loss that may indicate	Measure weight and height a

AHD "Package of Care" (10)



- Access to CD4 testing TrakCare® (NHLS)
- Sputum Xpert as first test for tuberculosis diagnosis
- WHO 2019 policy update on use of TB-LAM
- Use of urine TB-LAM
- CrAg screening
- Co-trimoxazole prophylaxis
- Tuberculosis preventive treatment
- Fluconazole preemptive therapy
- Rapid antiretroviral therapy initiation
- Adapted adherence support



Reflex CrAG

EML & STG, IMCI, APC

In-depth: What the approval of flucytosine means for the treatment of cryptococcal meningitis in SA

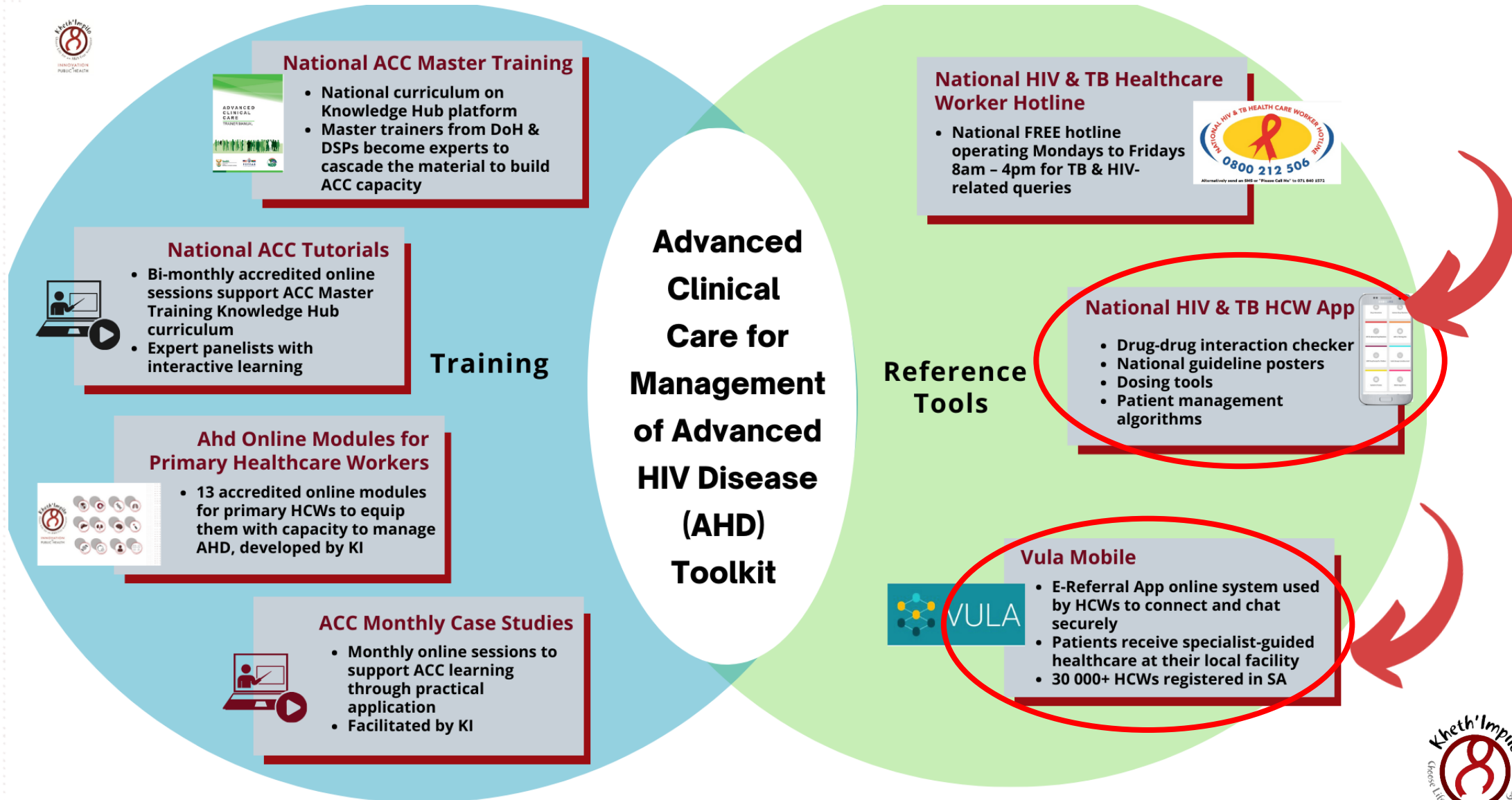
ACC programme more than ART provision

- Adopt a comprehensive approach by including :
 - Laboratory and PoC tests – TB, Cryptococcus
 - Medicines – for prevention and treatment of TB and Cryptococcal disease
 - Training of HCWs – on Package of care and integrated services
 - Stress importance to reach TB clinics and hospitals (sometimes neglected)

Key messages

- Some patients with AHD may not be able to be managed at primary healthcare level and need up-referral for more specialized tests and treatment
- An adequate and good functioning referral network is an important part of AHD care (may be urgent in some cases)
- AHD patients remain one of the most vulnerable and important sub-group of HIV patients
- Ageing up HIV patients (esp. adolescents) and patients that disengage with health service need to be urgently re-engaged
- HIV remains a treatable and controllable chronic disease with good life expectancy

Advanced Clinical Care Toolkit: Overview



National ACC Master Training



- National curriculum on Knowledge Hub platform
- Master trainers from DoH & DSPs become experts to cascade the material to build ACC capacity

National ACC Tutorials



- Bi-monthly accredited online sessions support ACC Master Training Knowledge Hub curriculum
- Expert panelists with interactive learning

Training

Ahd Online Modules for Primary Healthcare Workers



- 13 accredited online modules for primary HCWs to equip them with capacity to manage AHD, developed by KI

ACC Monthly Case Studies



- Monthly online sessions to support ACC learning through practical application
- Facilitated by KI

National HIV & TB Healthcare Worker Hotline

- National FREE hotline operating Mondays to Fridays 8am - 4pm for TB & HIV-related queries



National HIV & TB HCW App

- Drug-drug interaction checker
- National guideline posters
- Dosing tools
- Patient management algorithms



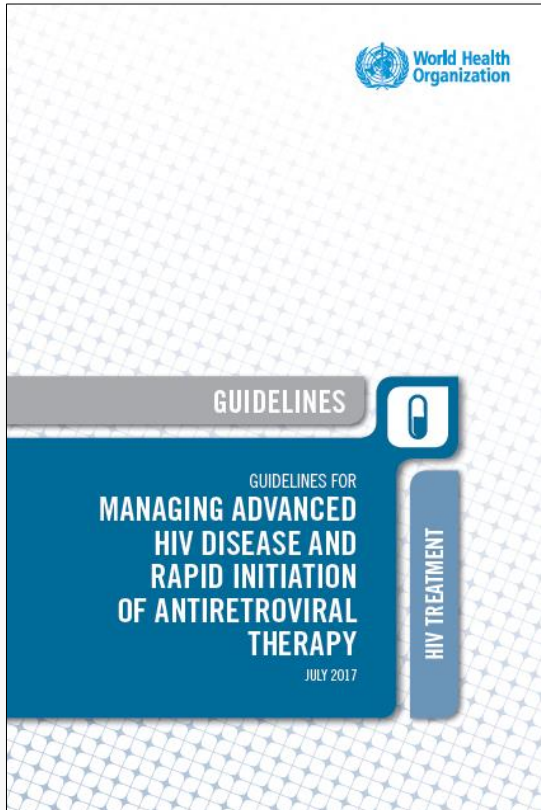
Reference Tools

Vula Mobile

- E-Referral App online system used by HCWs to connect and chat securely
- Patients receive specialist-guided healthcare at their local facility
- 30 000+ HCWs registered in SA



References



Boyd et al. *AIDS Res Ther* (2020) 17:40
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12981-020-00296-x>

AIDS Research and Therapy

REVIEW

Open Access

Addressing advanced HIV disease and mortality in global HIV programming

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CLINTON
HEALTH ACCESS
INITIATIVE

PROVIDING CARE TO PEOPLE WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL

POLICY BRIEF

SAHCS
GUIDELINES



SOUTHERN AFRICAN HIV CLINICIANS SOCIETY CLINICAL
GUIDELINES FOR HOSPITALISED ADULTS WITH
ADVANCED HIV DISEASE 2022



A publication of the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society

THE ROAD TO ZERO

Report on the implementation of the
Advanced HIV Disease Package of Care
in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

With support from
Unitaid
Innovates in Global Health

Open access

BMJ Open Feasibility of implementing HIV disease care package as part of community-based HIV/TB activities: a mixed-methods study protocol

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Klaus Reither,^{5,6} Alastair van Heerden^{4,7}

WAITING ISN'T AN OPTION: PREVENTING AND SURVIVING ADVANCED HIV

**MEDICINS
SANS FRONTIERES**

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AOSIS

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Assessing very advanced HIV disease in adolescent girls and young women

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