

ACS Team in Namibia Wins International AIDS Society Prize for Young Investigators

Washington, DC – The African Collaborative for Health Financing Solutions (ACS) is pleased to announce that the International AIDS Society (IAS) awarded the **IAS/ANRS Lange/van Tongeren Prize for Young Investigators** to the ACS project’s team in Namibia. The award, presented at the IAS 2020 Virtual Conference, is jointly funded by IAS and the France Recherche Nord & Sud Sida-HIV Hépatites (ANRS) to support young researchers who demonstrate innovation, originality, rationale and quality in the field of HIV research.

Six prizes in total are granted to the top-scoring abstract in each of six tracks. The ACS winning abstract, ***Maintaining epidemic control in Namibia: designing the optimal package. Lessons from ACS support to the Namibian Government*** was submitted to Track F: Political Research, Law, Policy and Human Rights.

Edward Owino, ACS Health Financing Officer said, “We are honored that the International AIDS Society has chosen to recognize our team. This was a very challenging activity, but incredibly worthwhile. Just as Namibia is one of the pioneers in developing an HIV/AIDS epidemic-maintenance package, I believe ACS is a pioneer in the work that we did to support the Namibian government.”

From August to December 2019, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)-supported ACS project provided support to the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) to create a package for HIV/AIDS Services for epidemic control. In Namibia, 94% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) know their status, 96% of PLHIV are on antiretroviral therapies (ART) and 95% of PLHIV who are on ART have achieved viral suppression. The Namibian Government sought to develop a priority package of HIV/AIDS services for epidemic control, a process that was supported and coordinated by the ACS’ team in Namibia. Namibia is the first sub-Saharan African country to create an HIV/AIDS package of services.

Allison Kelley, ACS Project Director, said, “This award is an important recognition and validation of ACS’ values and approach to advancing sustainable access to health for all: facilitating inclusive country-led processes grounded in sound evidence and analysis, attuned to local context, and benefiting from broader African expertise and experience. I am excited to see the learning from this experience radiate outwards and be useful to other countries.”

To read the full abstract and related materials, please click [here](#).

About ACS

Launched in 2017, ACS is a five-year, USAID-funded project that supports countries to advance toward universal health coverage in sub-Saharan Africa.

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