

# Building a National Direction for Research in the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV: Results from a National Prioritization Initiative in Malawi

Landes et al. (2013)  
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## For which topic were research priorities identified?

mother to child transmission of HIV

## In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Africa - Malawi

## Why was it conducted at all?

In 2011, Malawi initiated an ambitious program for the prevention of maternal to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, called 'Option B+', which employs a universal test and life-long treatment strategy for all pregnant women. Priority setting should take place in defining a national research agenda for evaluating Option B + rollout in Malawi.

## What was the objective?

to provide an update on current prevention of maternal to child transmission operational research in Malawi, find consensus on key questions not yet being addressed, identify opportunities for collaboration, and develop multi-partner research proposals

## What was the outcome?

a list of 4 research areas

## How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

## Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

workshop

## How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: before workshop participants sent selection of recent literature to be reviewed. Step 2: workshop: discussion of review of existing literature and ongoing operational PMTCT research, participants then asked to brainstorm, categorize and define thematic areas of priority, small groups each then covered one area, small groups explored and prioritized research questions, small groups then outlined potential proposals, plenary presentations, plenary discussion

## Which stakeholders took part?

Experts in prevention of maternal to child transmission of HIV. 24 participants: MOH, the National Aids Commission, 6 multilateral and NGO implementing partners involved in program support and evaluation (= Médecins sans Frontières - Belgium, Management Sciences for Health, Dignitas International, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNAIDS), 5 primarily academic and research based institutions (university of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Malawi project, Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit-UK, College of Medicine, Dream Clinic, Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust/College of Medicine, International Union against TB and Lung Disease).

## How were stakeholders recruited?

No information provided.

## Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.