

TREATMENT PROGRAMS



HEP C-IMPACT

DEMONSTRATING FEASIBILITY OF HEPATITIS C TREATMENT THROUGH A SOCIAL IMPACT BOND STRUCTURE IN CAMEROON

PharmAccess Group and the Joep Lange Institute have joined forces to structure the first Hepatitis C impact bond (HEP C-IMPACT) around the demonstration that a cure rate of >85% is achievable among 150 infected patients treated with directly active antivirals in Cameroon. The Hepatitis C impact bonds represent an innovative approach to sustain the scale up of a Hepatitis C treatment program at a national level.

Chronic Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is an important contributor to global morbidity and mortality. It is estimated that approximately 115 million people worldwide carry HCV antibodies and 80 million people experience chronic active HCV¹ infection. The economic impact of the HCV burden is significant in terms of healthcare costs, life expectancy and disability adjusted life years. However, new drug regimens are now revolutionizing the management of HCV, with clinical cure rates consistently over 95% after only 12 to 24 weeks of treatment. This treatment is increasingly available in high income countries, but remains largely inaccessible in countries with the highest burden of disease – mainly low and middle income countries. Even though economic impact analyses show that the costs of providing treatment now will be set off by future cost savings, governments in these high burden countries often do not have (or trust) the operational capacity for a successful treatment program at a national level. Often, they also lack the upfront capital to finance it.

We propose a model in which the Hep C treatment program can be financed through a social impact bond structure. This approach intends to catalyze innovative and sustainable models for large scale cooperation and financing from public and private stakeholders.

TREATMENT OF 150 HCV PATIENTS

The initiative is centered around demonstrating the feasibility of achieving high cure rates upon directly active antiviral treatment of 150 HCV infected patients already on waiting lists for treatment in six specialized health facilities in Yaoundé, Cameroon's capital city. The treatment protocol has been developed by an internationally recognized group of HCV experts from the University of Yaoundé, Duke University, Academic Medical Centre Amsterdam, Clinton Health Access Initiative and PharmAccess, adapted from World Health Organization (WHO)

recommendations. Besides the clinical evidence of treatment effectiveness, the program provides an opportunity to collect more accurate data on costs and clinical outcomes. This information is crucial for analyzing the economic impact of HCV infection in Cameroon, based on tested HCV disease burden and economic impact models from the Centre for Disease Analysis².

SOCIAL IMPACT BOND

The proposed financing structure of the program is a social impact bond. A social impact bond is a contractual arrangement in which investors pay for a set of interventions coordinated by an implementing organization to improve a social outcome that is of social and/or financial interest to a government (social impact bond) or other third party like a donor (development impact bond). It creates a link between the outcome of an intervention and a financing structure: investors take the upfront investment risk and (public) beneficiaries only pay for positive outcomes that relate to their cost savings due to the intervention. The outcome of the intervention is evaluated by an independent evaluator and forms the basis to release funds from the outcome payer – government or third party – to the implementing organization which subsequently allows to repay investors plus return on investment.

The treatment of HCV represents an attractive intervention to finance through a social impact bond. First, the intervention (treatment) is straight forward with a strong causal relationship with the outcome (cure) and the potential for scaling up. Second, the outcome is a clear cut metric – sustained undetectable HCV viral load – and has a strong cause-and-effect relationship to future costs savings for governments. Finally, the short intervention cycle of 12 to 24 months combined with the anticipated high cure rate of 95% makes an interesting case for investors.

PROGRAM FACTS

24 MILLION
population

1-7%
HCV prevalence

GENO-TYPES 1,2,4
circulate locally

YAOUNDÉ
project location

150
participants in project



PharmAccess, the initiator of the Hep C impact bond structure, will coordinate the demonstration of feasibility of the treatment program through a local team of HCV specialists. The outcome of the treatment will be evaluated by the Centre Pasteur de Yaoundé – an accredited public health and research center with the necessary infrastructure and capacity to assess the virological outcome of Hep C treatment. As a first test case JLI functions as investor. The aim is to provide the proof-of-concept that the mechanics of the system work, as a way to mobilize other investors and outcome payers to support the scale up of the program. The initial structuring of the program as a social impact bond allows other investors and stakeholders to join in a proven structure.

SCALE UP

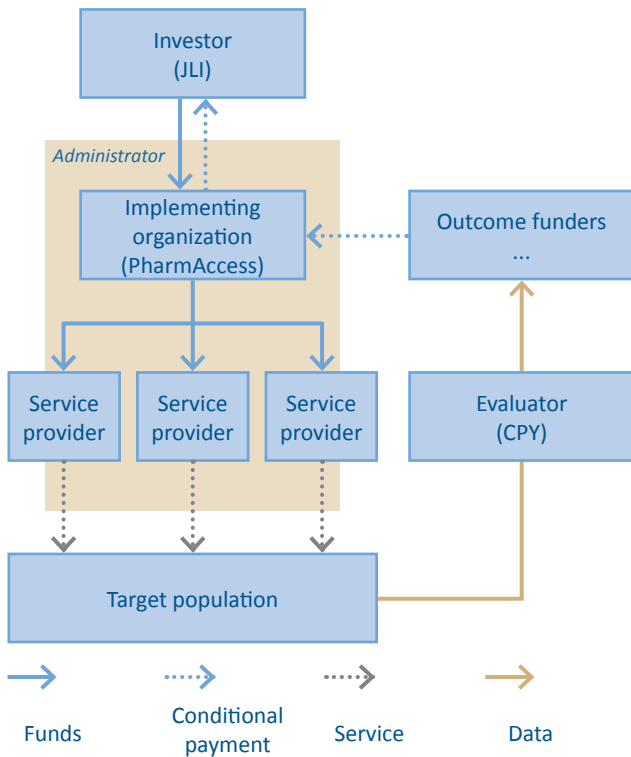
If proven successful, the bond structure has the potential to cure over 9,000 HCV infected patients over five years, equivalent to a 90% prevalence reduction in the adult population of Yaoundé.

ABOUT THE PLAYERS

The initiative is developed by a group of local and international professionals who are recognized in their specific fields of expertise:

1 Gower E, Estes C, Blach S, Shearer K, Razavi H. Global epidemiology and genotype distribution of the hepatitis C virus infection. *J Hepatol* 2014; 61(1): S45-57.

2 Please refer to www.centerforda.com for models and publication



SIB/DIB Player	Role	Potential entity types
Investors <i>Joep Lange Institute (JLI)</i>	Provide capital to service providers upfront or over the duration of the contract	Investment firm (impact), development finance institutions (DFIs), CSR branches, public sector entity, individual, trust, foundation
Implementing organization <i>PharmAccess</i>	Coordinate implementation and administration of social service in transaction	Non-profit or for-profit social enterprise, non-profit or non-governmental org, cooperative
Evaluators <i>Centre Pasteur de Yaoundé (CPY)</i>	Assess outcome of programs	Independent evaluation firm, research institution, university
Outcome funders ...	Pay for outcomes	Government agency, foundation, CSR branches



- HCV diagnosis and treatment protocol is developed by internationally recognized group of HCV experts from the University of Yaoundé, Duke University, AMC, CHAI and PharmAccess. The program is locally headed by Prof Oudou Njoya, a national authority in this field. Technical and scientific support is provided by Prof Roel Coutinho and Prof Tobias Rinke de Wit.
- Program implementation is coordinated by PharmAccess. PharmAccess is dedicated to improving access to better healthcare in Africa by mobilizing public and private resources for the benefit of doctors and patients. www.pharmaccess.org
- Impact bond structuring is done by TOTAL Impact Capital, a US based firm specialized in sourcing and developing private investment opportunities that are socially and financially attractive. www.totalimpactcapital.com
- Economic impact modelling is done by the Center for Disease Analysis (CDA). CDA is world-renowned with respect to its statistical data on hepatitis C prevalence, incidence and economic impact in more than 150 countries. www.centerforda.com

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