

PROJECT SOAR

SUPPORTING OPERATIONAL AIDS RESEARCH

Through operations research, **Project SOAR** will determine how best to address challenges and gaps that remain in the delivery of HIV and AIDS care and support, treatment, and prevention services.

Project SOAR will produce a large, multifaceted body of high-quality evidence to guide the planning and implementation of HIV and AIDS programs and policies.

Project SOAR partners will work globally in close collaboration with in-country program implementers to:

- » demonstrate how increasingly constrained resources can be used to successfully reach those most in need;
- » improve the use of high-quality HIV services through the adoption of evidence-based best practices;
- » address barriers to program scale-up and sustainability;
- » contribute to updated global program implementation guidelines and revised strategic priorities; and
- » strengthen in-country capacity to set agendas for and conduct operations research and apply research findings.

Led by the **Population Council**, Project SOAR will be implemented in collaboration with:

**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**

Futures Group

Futures Institute

Johns Hopkins University

**The University of
North Carolina**

**For more information,
please contact:**

Julie Pulerwitz
Project Director,
jpulerwitz@popcouncil.org
or

Alison Cheng
USAID Agreement
Officer Representative
acheng@usaid.gov

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“ **Project SOAR** will allow us to determine how to best translate existing knowledge into practical solutions for health systems, and how to reach the most vulnerable populations. By linking solid science with practical applications, we can help prevent the 1.7 million annual deaths from AIDS and overcome the stigma, gender inequities, and other structural barriers that inhibit access to and use of HIV services. Achieving Project SOAR’s objectives will get us closer to an AIDS-free generation.”

Dr. Naomi Rutenberg, Vice President and Director,
HIV and AIDS Program, Population Council

Project SOAR Key Activities

»» Conduct research to generate data on HIV and AIDS program implementation.

Project SOAR will use the best available science, research expertise, and state-of-the-art methodologies to determine which interventions work best and most cost-effectively under varying circumstances.

Studies will examine strategies for: effectively leveraging community platforms in prevention, care, and treatment; transforming harmful gender norms to improve uptake of and retention in services; strengthening the continuum of care among people living with HIV and for HIV-exposed infants; and addressing barriers to improve prevention and access to HIV services for key populations at elevated risk; and more.

»» Enhance local capacity to conduct and use research.

Through Project SOAR, we will strengthen the skills of research institutions and individuals in conducting high-quality studies; encourage partnerships between researchers and data users to guide policymaking and programming; develop manuscripts for scientific publications; and provide support for continued professional learning.

»» Disseminate and facilitate utilization of research findings to improve policies and programs.

Our research dissemination and use strategy starts with the engagement of country-level decision makers in the operations research process to strengthen skills for research translation, manuscript development, and dissemination of research findings. We will work at the global, regional, country, and institutional levels to share our findings by publishing data syntheses and best practices and by disseminating materials tailored for diverse audiences.

Project SOAR will facilitate policy and program change by working with knowledge brokers and moderated communities of practices to translate research results into recommendations for action.