

# GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP ON PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND HIV INFECTION IN AFRICA

We hope this finds you and your families and friends safe and well.

## RESEARCH STUDIES

### Management of Chronic Conditions in Africa (MOCCA)

The main paper, health economics paper and social science papers should be ready for circulation shortly.

### NIHR-funded META Trial Phase 2

We have now recruited 355 patients. A quick and dirty study on the knowledge and attitudes to Covid-19 was conducted alongside this, at the request of Tanzania public health services, and is now ready for analysis.

### EDCTP-funded META Trial Phase 3

We held a virtual ‘kick-off’ meeting for project partners on 23 June, attended by partners (LSTM, NIMR, Hindu Mandal, IS Global and University of Bergen), members of our international steering committee, EDCTP and MERCK. Given the many challenges we overcame with phase 2 and that the number of study sites was increased, we are confident that phase 3 will be done to a very high-quality standard. The trial follow-up will be for 3 years per patient, although we will be looking to set up a cohort for a 10+ year follow-up. Special thanks to Merck for attending the meeting and for such glowing praise about our phase 2 trial!



META Phase 3 virtual kick-off meeting, 23 June 2020

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## INTE-AFRICA

We have spent the last month training / retraining study staff, and re-engaging health service partners. Enrolment re-started in Uganda on 2 July and should start in Tanzania by 8 July, with stringent infection control measures in place.



On 22 June we held the first meeting of the INTE-AFRICA Data Safety Monitoring Committee (DMC), chaired by Prof Pablo Perel from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

On 24 June, Marie-Clare and Max led a training session for social science staff on process evaluation. Attended by teams from Tanzania and Uganda, the meeting included presentations from Jamie Murdoch (University of East Anglia). Elizabeth and Dominic discussed the preliminary findings from MOCCA. Marie-Clare introduced the process evaluation for INTE-AFRICA. On-site training is planned for when travel restrictions are lifted.



*Process evaluation training session, 24 June 2020*

We have uploaded the following deliverables/milestones to the EC portal:

- 1st meeting of independent data & safety monitoring committee (LSTM)
- Dissemination of scientific manuscript on (UCD)
- Assessment of system preparedness and sustainability completed (UCD)
- Copies of ethical approvals (LSTM)

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We have been working with TASO in Uganda and Hindu Mandal in Tanzania, focusing on activities that support the following questions:

- How should we empower patients?
- How do patients engage with health services?
- What issues do patients with chronic conditions face in accessing care?
- How can we enhance community involvement in our research?



*Stakeholders engagement event, Uganda*

We are now pushing ahead with the following key activities:

- Short films- what it's like to live with chronic conditions from the patient's perspective and what it's like to be part of a research study.
- Drama skits using expert patients.

The Tanzania NCD Alliance and the Uganda Diabetes Association are supporting us to identify expert patients to sit on our national and international steering committees.

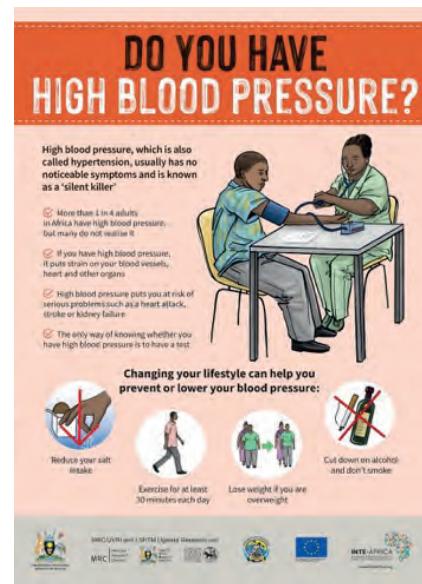
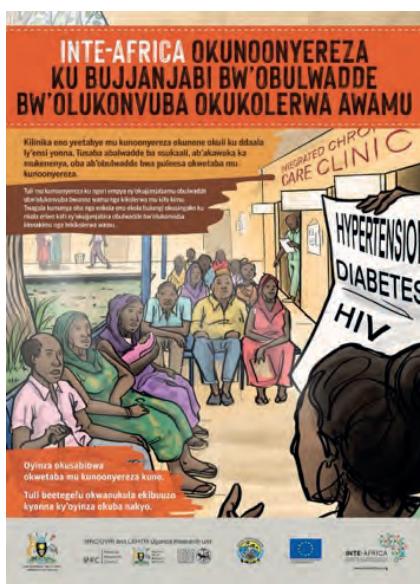
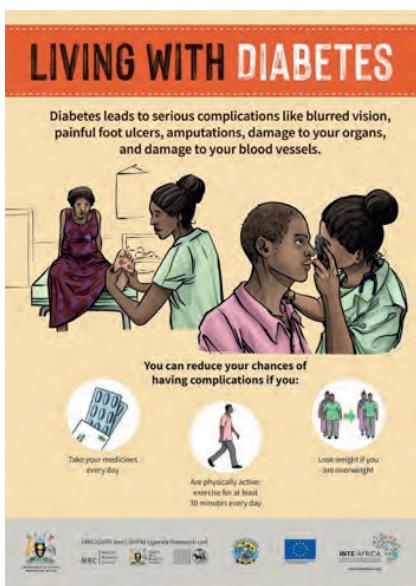


*Stakeholders meeting, Tanzania*

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## COMMUNICATIONS

We now have a set of posters in English, Swahili, Laguna and Runyakore for the INTE-AFRICA programme, approved by partners including the Ministries of Health. They will be used in health facilities alongside a patient leaflet to provide easy to understand information about chronic conditions and our research study.



## FUNDING UPDATE

We are in advanced stages of negotiation for our NIHR Health Policy & Systems Research proposal—INTE-COMM, with expected start date of 1 September 2020. This project (£4m over 4 years) will fund the development and evaluation of an integrated community care model in Tanzania and Uganda and substantial new capacity development including 4 PhDs and 1 MSc fellowship.

The 2nd stage application for our NIHR RIGHT call 3 (£5m to expand the chronic care model to incorporate mental health) is due in September with further discussions on this at our international steering committee in July.

We hope to apply for the NIHR Unit call which was announced in May. The first stage is to get approval from LSTM as only 2 applications per institution are allowed. We feel we have a very strong argument given the success of our Group to date, the equitable partnership we have in place and the strong outputs we have produced. Transitioning from a Group to a Unit, we will be shifting our focus from retention in care, clinical management to preventing mortality from chronic conditions, and shift our capacity development focus much more towards post-doc level in order to create the researchers of tomorrow.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, 28 July: International Steering Committee meeting
- Wednesday, 9 September: INTE-AFRICA partners meeting

FUNDED BY



This research was commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) using UK aid from the UK Government. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.



EDCTP



This project is part of the  
EDCTP2 programme supported  
by the European Union.



The INTE-AFRICA project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 825698.