



INDUSTRY LIAISON FORUM
STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 – 2011

APPROVED BY ILF

ADVISORY GROUP

DEC 2008

1. Introduction

The Industry Liaison Forum (ILF) is an initiative of the International AIDS Society (IAS). ILF promotes scientific, intellectual and financial commitment from pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies to research in resource-limited settings. The ILF is an integral component of the vision of the IAS, as reflected in Stronger Together - Strategic Framework: 2005-2009. The IAS strategic framework directs the ILF to expand opportunities for policy dialogue with the pharmaceutical industry and research community, specifically to:

- Utilize the existing ILF framework to strengthen ongoing policy dialogue with the pharmaceutical industry and academia in order to accelerate research in the developing world.
- Develop additional processes to facilitate dialogue with industry on non-research related issues, in line with identified IAS priority areas.

In late 2007, a comprehensive evaluation of ILF was undertaken by the IAS. The evaluation confirmed the value of ILF as a unique venue for bringing together a range of stakeholders to address the scientific, operational and ethical issues related to clinical research in the developing world. The evaluation also recommended areas for improvement, including establishing more tangible outcomes and indicators of success for ILF and expanding the participation of developing world stakeholders in ILF (including investigators, government and civil society groups). At the ILF Advisory Group meeting in February 2008, Advisory Group members accepted the recommendations of the evaluation and directed ILF staff to develop a strategic plan that would address those recommendations.

Concurrent with the evaluation, IAS consultants and staff worked with ILF stakeholders to obtain input on priority work areas for 2008 – 2010 that would be incorporated into the strategic plan. The work priorities were reviewed at the February 2008 ILF Advisory Group meeting in Boston, and AG members agreed to focus on research related to women and children.

An ILF Strategy Working Group (see Appendix 1) was established to guide development of the strategic plan, and a reference group, which includes expertise from donor, scientific and civil society organizations, was established to provide additional input on the plan prior to the final review in August 2008 at the ILF Advisory Group meeting. Following the Advisory Group meeting and the guidance provided by members of the Advisory Group, the strategic plan was further developed for final approval. Below is the draft strategic plan that the ILF Strategy Group proposes to guide the work of ILF over the next three years, beginning with a brief overview of the evaluation approach which guided development of the plan. Although developments in the biomedical prevention research field (particularly pre-exposure prophylaxis) are not specifically referenced in the two major objectives outlined below, ILF is committed to continue monitoring the PrEP research agenda as an extension of its focused work in this area over the last two years, including operational and implementation issues related to PrEP.

The Logical Framework Approach

To be consistent with the approach to evaluation across IAS programme areas, ILF developed its strategic plan using the Logical Framework Approach. The Logical Framework Approach is a process that uses the expertise and experience of ILF stakeholders to establish the objectives, outputs and activities required to achieve its mission. The process builds methodically from the 'big picture' of what ILF intends to achieve in three years down to the required outputs and activities in support of the objectives. Key indicators and methods of verifying progress using those indicators were established, together with underlying assumptions. The numbers assigned to each output corresponds to the activities, indicators and verification tools required to deliver it. The narrative below provides an overview of the strategic plan, with additional detail available in the accompanying tables.

2. ILF Mission

Accelerate scientifically promising, ethical HIV research in resource-constrained settings with a particular focus on the role and responsibilities of industry as sponsors and supporters of research.

3. Objectives

ILF will address **one major objective** over the next three years:

3.1. Objective 1

Increase the number of HIV clinical research projects in resource-limited settings that industry is involved with that address the needs of women and children.

The four major outputs in support of this objective are:

Output 1: Establish a list of priority clinical research questions in countries where ILF can have an impact

Output 2: Provide online resources/information on relevant granting agencies/donors and research projects /networks to stakeholders

Output 3: Deliver regional trainings on how to increase clinical research projects on women and children, including how to integrate gender and paediatric issues in existing research

Output 4: Sponsor a prize to be given at the IAS Conference on Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention to scientists for excellence in research that advances HIV research that benefits the needs of women and girls.

To deliver these outputs, ILF will first conduct a mapping exercise, using the IAS member database and information from other stakeholders to establish the potential role of ILF in accelerating research in this area within a few pilot countries. Once the ILF Advisory Group has provided direction, based on the result of the mapping exercise, information on relevant local research priorities will be collected to support delivery of regional trainings focused on strategies to increase research that address the needs of women and children. ILF will partner with existing initiatives and organizations as required to develop online resources (such as a

database of stakeholders and granting agencies involved in research on women and children and other resources) and to select prize winners based on established criteria.

Indicators of success associated with each output, verification tools, assumptions and additional detail for this objective are included in the table below.

Objective: Increase the number of research projects that industry is involved with that address clinical research questions relevant to the needs of women and children

Outputs	Indicators / Targets	Verification	Assumptions
1. Establish a list of priority research questions in countries where ILF can have an impact	1. A list of priority research questions is established for three pilot countries by first quarter of 2009	1. Final list of research priorities	Donors are willing to fund identified research priorities
2. Provide online resources/ information on relevant granting agencies and donors and research projects and networks to stakeholders	2. Resources/information on relevant granting agencies and donors and research projects and networks is available on ILF website by second quarter of 2009	2. ILF website	
3. Deliver regional trainings on how to increase clinical research projects on women and children, including how to integrate gender and paediatric issues in existing research	3. At least one regional training is delivered at each regional conference (e.g. FORO2009 Latin America, ICAAP 2009 Asia, IAS2009 Africa)	3. Final reports of regional trainings and participant evaluation forms	
4. Sponsor a prize to be given at the IAS Conference on Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention to scientists for excellence in HIV research that benefits the needs of women and girls.	4. One prize of \$3,000 is awarded at the IAS Conference on Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention	4. Nomination letter and evidence of payment to prize winner	

Objective: Increase the number of research projects that industry is involved with that address clinical research questions relevant to the needs of women and children

Activities

- 1.a Use ILF AG, ILF participant list and IAS membership to collect information on developing world stakeholders (investigators, government officials and civil society groups) involved in research on women and children in resource limited settings, including existing partnerships/initiatives
- 1.b Conduct mapping exercise with ILF stakeholders (including, investigators, civil society and government) to establish potential role of ILF in strengthening research on women and children in one – two regions and in a few pilot countries
- 1.c Present results of ILF mapping exercise to ILF AG for review; confirm two - three research focus areas for women and children in strategic regions/countries
- 1.d Conduct needs assessment in identified target countries, based on direction from ILF AG
- 2.a Create an online database to facilitate links between investigators and potential industry/non-industry supporters/ donors
- 3a. Select participants for ILF regional trainings on research priorities for women and children
- 3.b Develop training programmes based on participant needs
- 3.c Select trainers/speakers and moderators
- 3.d Provide all logistic and administrative support as required
- 4a. Establish selection criteria to apply for the prize of scientific excellence in research advancing HIV research that benefits the needs of women and girls
- 4.b Conduct review of applications and make final selection

Activities common to the three outputs will include:

- Organize multi-stakeholder forum(s) on clinical research issues relevant to the needs of women and children

Objective: Increase the number of research projects that industry is involved with that address clinical research questions relevant to the needs of women and children

- Establish a network of investigators that can work with ILF to deliver regional trainings/meetings on research priorities for women and children
- Establish an ILF intranet / communication platform to facilitate communication among members of the ILF Advisory Group

4. Sustainability and Success

4.1 Funding

IAS-ILF receives membership fee from industry partners in the ILF advisory group. Sponsorship covers the operational costs of ILF including staffing, event planning, design, printing and distribution of reports and other materials, and support for ILF advisory group members from in low and middle-income countries to attend ILF meetings and events.

4.2 ILF profile and communication

Information on the ongoing work of ILF, such as an event calendar and meeting reports, will be available via a dedicated page on the IAS website (www.iasociety.org/ILF.aspx). ILF work will also be promoted through the IAS newsletter, conferences, reports and related programmes such as IAS educational and policy initiatives.

5. Linkages with Other IAS Initiatives

The ILF is well-placed to benefit from links with other IAS initiatives that share related objectives. As such, ILF is committed to broadening its role within the IAS and strengthening relationships with other initiatives and programmes that would support ILF in its goal to strengthen clinical research in low and middle-income countries.

5.1 Support for investigator participation

A limited amount of scholarship support is available for developing country stakeholders to participate in ILF satellites, symposia or ILF Advisory Group meetings if they do not have other means of support. Decisions regarding scholarship support are made on a case by case basis by the Manager, Initiatives, in consultation with the ILF Co-Chairs.

5.2 Professional development of investigators

The Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS), now co-published with BioMed Central, welcomes submission of original manuscripts, as well as commentaries from investigators involved in ILF. In collaboration with the ILF, the editors of the journal promote the submission of manuscripts

on research specifically related to women and children. Wherever possible, the authors will be encouraged to provide gender disaggregated data and analysis. The peer review form designed for journal reviewers asks if the manuscript takes gender and paediatric perspectives into consideration, raising awareness for reviewers and authors.

The IAS education programme also provides opportunities for the professional development of investigators from low and middle-income countries, including curricula delivered at regional conferences.

Appendix A: ILF Strategy Working Group

Pedro Cahn, IAS (ILF Co-Chair)

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Michael Rabbow, Boehringer Ingelheim

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