



Company incorporated under section 21 of the Companies Act, **Registration Number:** 2003/009927/08
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Questions frequently asked about the TAC Treatment Project

Why should I contribute to the TAC Treatment Project?

You can help save lives! 600 people die in South Africa of AIDS-related illnesses every day. Most of these lives can be saved with antiretroviral medicines (ARVs). The TAC Treatment Project will provide antiretroviral therapy to an equal number of TAC activists and members of the community not involved in TAC. Contributing to the TAC Treatment Project will help eradicate this inequity and make a life-and-death difference to people in the project and their families.

Why must I still donate after Government announced its intention to provide antiretrovirals in the public health system?

Government estimated that half a million people need ARVs today. Fewer than one percent of these people have access to these medicines, and those that do, mostly in the private sector. Although Government has decided to develop an antiretroviral treatment plan, most communities will have to wait years before the phased rollout reaches them. We have a responsibility to help treat as many people as possible.

How does the Treatment Project choose who receives treatment among the millions of HIV positive South Africans?

The Treatment Project is aware that the number of South Africans in need of antiretroviral treatment far exceeds its current capabilities. For this reason, a clear and transparent selection mechanism has been put in place. For members of the community treated through the TAC Treatment Project, public sites with the capacity to treat are selected and allocated treatment slots. The TAC TP insists on clear and fair selection criteria (including clinical criteria identical to its own), but does not itself select patients.

The activists – whose treatment is administered by the TAC TP itself – are selected after a screening process designed to identify those in greatest need. A wellness programme, which (among other things) provides CD4 counts and health-related counselling to TAC members provides the database of eligible candidates. Candidates are selected on the basis of three sets of criteria: (1) clinical criteria, (2) social criteria relating to a patient's ability to benefit from treatment and (3) social criteria relating to organisational involvement.

How will saving 50 or 1000 people make a difference in South Africa's HIV/AIDS epidemic?

Everyone has the right to life. By contributing to the TAC Treatment Project you are helping to realise this right for people on the programme, their families and communities. This sets an example to businesses, faith-based bodies and other civil society organisations. If all of us help save lives in this way, it makes the task of government easier and helps our society gain the upper hand in the fight against poverty and disease.

Furthermore, the TAC TP's use of affordable generic medicines and public healthcare facilities demonstrates the feasibility and affordability of making antiretroviral therapy available, not only in South Africa, but in all poor countries and communities.

How will the Treatment Project be sustainable?

The Treatment Project relies mostly on the donations of individuals who recognize important contribution antiretroviral makes to people's lives. Antiretroviral therapy is a life-long treatment, therefore the TAC TP commits to treating each patient for at least five years. It manages its funds to ensure that it always has enough funding for three years of treatment before a patient is started on medicines. In order to ensure the sustainability of the programme, however, each contributor is requested to make a regular monthly contribution. You can also make an annual donation or even a single contribution. We appeal to everyone to make regular donations.

How can I be sure that money will be managed appropriately and spent on treatment?

While the TAC TP has a close relationship with the Treatment Action Campaign, it is organisationally and financially independent. It is a registered section 21 (non-profit) company and any funds raised by the TAC TP will be used solely for treatment and related support services. As with the TAC, the TAC TP will maintain the highest standards of financial control. Our books will be open to the public for scrutiny upon request and annual reports including audited financial statements will be published. The TAC TP auditors are Douglas and Velcich. Progress reports will also be made available to the public every 3 months. The TAC TP is run entirely on a non-profit basis and none of the directors, except the pharmacist, receive income from the project.

How can I contact the TAC Treatment Project?

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or visit our website at <http://www.tac.org.za/treatment/> for further details.