

# FROM IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH TO IMPACT

## The GACD Diabetes Research Programme Report

# KEY MESSAGES FOR EDUCATORS

## BACKGROUND

In 2013, GACD launched a joint call for funding applications, with the overarching aim of tackling the growing global burden of type 2 diabetes (T2D) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and populations experiencing health disparities in high-income countries (HICs) by providing implementation science-based evidence intended to inform policy and practice.

## THE DIABETES RESEARCH PROGRAMME

- Fourteen implementation research projects successfully received funding and were convened as the GACD Diabetes Research Programme.
- Collectively, GACD funding agencies awarded more than \$21 million USD to fund 14 projects, spread across 19 countries.
- The Diabetes Report serves as a summary of the work undertaken by the 14 projects and, where possible, seeks to provide an initial description and synthesis of the methods, results, and impact.

## KEY MESSAGE 1

### ROBUST THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

TMFs\* enhance implementation research but must be contextually adapted. Project teams utilised 17 TMFs across a range of purposes, including formative work, strategy refinement, and evaluation. Theories of change and logic models aid in planning and evaluating interventions. Eleven projects developed these, which varied in format, reflecting project diversity and team expertise. Future implementation researchers require knowledge of TMFs, theories of change, and logic models, along with skills to adapt them.



This flyer summarises key messages from the **GACD Diabetes Report** for people working in higher education, including programme leads and lecturers, with an interest in implementation science.

## KEY MESSAGE 2

### DEVELOP SKILLS BEYOND SCIENCE

Meaningful collaborations with patients and communities, empowering them through education and social support networks can improve implementation and clinical outcomes. Equitable partnerships among researchers and all implementation actors are vital. Future implementation researchers should develop and refine interpersonal skills for effective partnerships.

## KEY MESSAGE 3

### LANGUAGE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

### STRATEGIES IS A WORK IN PROGRESS

Implementation strategies are the targeted, intentional actions to incorporate evidence-based interventions into practice to enhance health outcomes. When these projects were initiated, the term 'implementation strategy' was not commonly recognised.

Both practically and philosophically, it can be difficult for those reporting and those analysing to clearly distinguish between the evidence-based intervention, the context, and the implementation strategies, and to categorise them within today's reporting frameworks.

Future implementation researchers must grasp the diverse terminology in implementation science and various systems to describe their work effectively.

## NINE THEMATIC AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES USED ACROSS THE 14 DIABETES PROJECTS



Community health programme



Community mobilisation



Electronic data management



Facilitator-led group sessions



Health promotion materials



Knowledge building and training for healthcare professionals



Knowledge building for service users



Microfinance



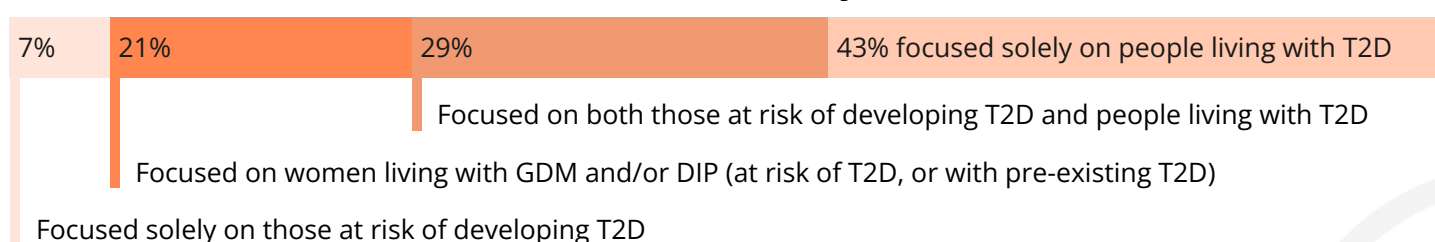
m-Health (Mobile app or software; telephone calls; SMS; voice messages)

\*TMFs: Theories, models, and frameworks.

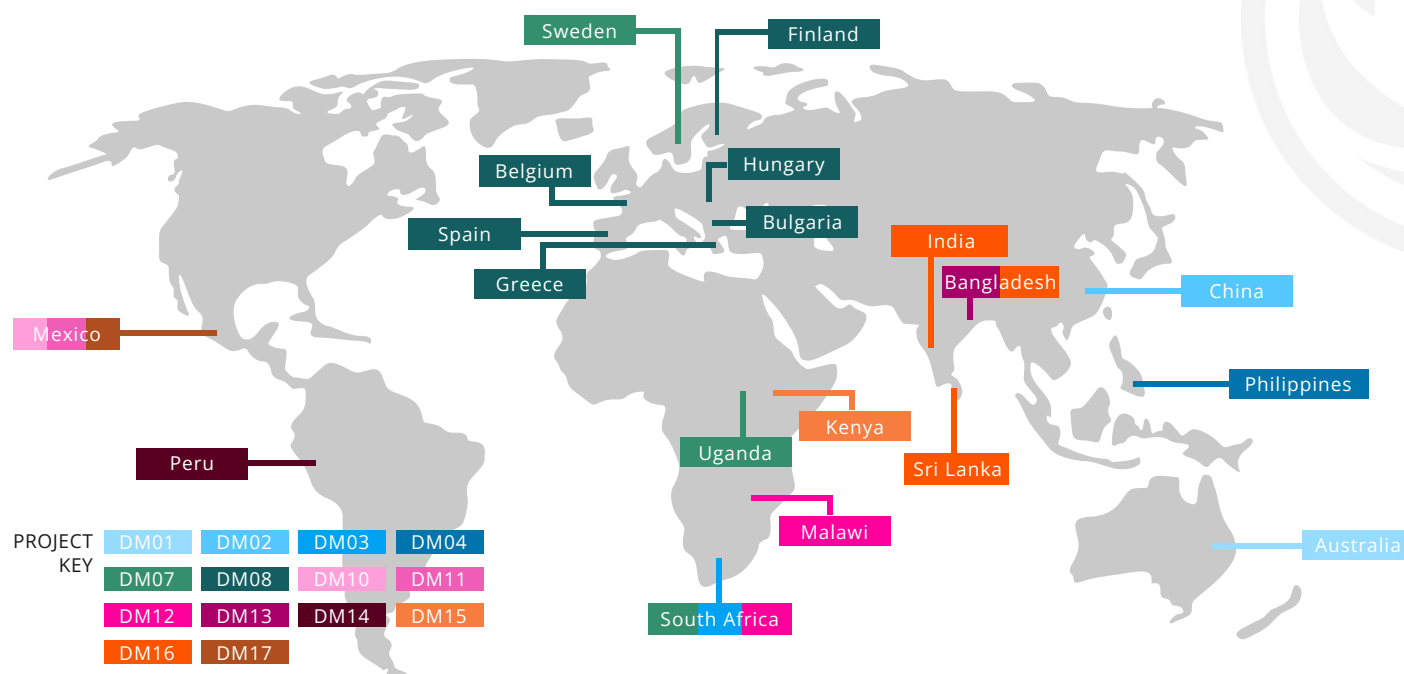
## THE 14 DIABETES PROJECTS

DM01	Improving the management of diabetes in pregnancy in remote Australia	DM11	Desarrollo y validación de un software ligado a un portal de internet que facilite el tratamiento médico y el empoderamiento del paciente con diabetes tipo 2
DM02	SMART Diabetes: Systematic Medical Assessment, Referral and Treatment for Diabetes care in China using Lay Family Health Promoters	DM12	Mobile phone text-messaging to support treatment for people with type 2 diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa: a pragmatic individually randomised trial
DM03	IINDIAGO: Integrated INtervention for DIAbetes risk after GestatiOnal diabetes	DM13	The Bangladesh D-Magic Trial: Diabetes Mellitus Action through Groups or Information for better Control
DM04	CHAPP: Community Health Assessment Program in the Philippines	DM14	Implementation of foot thermometry and SMS to prevent diabetic foot ulcer
DM07	SMART2D: A people-centred approach through Self-Management and Reciprocal learning for the prevention and management of Type 2 Diabetes	DM15	BIGPIC: Bridging Income Generation with Group Integrated Care
DM08	Feel4Diabetes: Families across Europe following a hEalthy Lifestyle 4 Diabetes prevention	DM16	A lifestyle intervention program for the prevention of type 2 diabetes mellitus among South Asian women with gestational diabetes mellitus
DM10	Desarrollo de una red social interactiva para el control metabólico de los pacientes con diabetes	DM17	Tools and practices to reduce CVD and complications in diabetics in Mexico

## GROUPS IN FOCUS ACROSS THE 14 DIABETES PROJECTS



## GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF THE 14 DIABETES PROJECTS



### Accompanying outputs

- **Commentary:** A commentary article written by GACD researchers reflecting on this report is in development.
- **Database:** An online, interrogatable database containing information submitted by diabetes project teams. Content can be used for examination, exploration, and analysis at the project teams' interest and discretion. Only available to GACD project teams.
- **Summary slide set:** Ready-made slide set summarising report content. Primarily intended for researchers but available to all.
- **Social media toolkit:** Visuals and text for social media posts related to report dissemination, available to all.

### Authors and attributions

Content of this key message flyer was prepared by Izzy Bandurek. All contributors are listed in the report. Members of all diabetes project teams are listed on the GACD website.

This key message flyer is shared under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 international license.

**Suggest citation:** Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD). 2024. From implementation research to impact: The GACD Diabetes Research Programme Report - Key messages for educators. Available at [www.gacd.org](http://www.gacd.org). Accessed [date].