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## Drawing from what they know

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Countries in sub-Saharan Africa face the daunting task of supporting millions of HIV-infected patients on anti-retroviral treatment and responding to an emerging burden of chronic, non-communicable diseases in the region. This thesis examines the process of health system adaptation and transition as countries in the region re-orient their health systems towards the provision of chronic care. It presents research findings from Ethiopia, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia, with a focus on primary health and community care. It explores how the substantial experience of primary-level HIV service providers can be used to address the changing burden of disease across the region. The thesis reveals the emergence of an 'African chronic care model' in which civil society-led community home based care programmes play a critical role. It draws attention to the threat to effective health system re-orientation if their role is not appreciated whilst also showing the capacity that currently exists for developing chronic care subsystems which can enable equitable access to affordable and quality health care in sub-Saharan Africa.



Carolien Aantjes (1974) holds a bachelor's degree in Nursing and a master's degree in Public Health. Her first encounter with community care for AIDS patients in sub-Saharan Africa was in 1994 when she worked with the Catholic Diocese of Ndola, Zambia. Between 1999-2001, she established community care programmes in Namibia in her capacity as a regional AIDS co-ordinator for the Ministry of Health. She has since worked as a nurse and HIV counsellor in Amsterdam and as a research consultant for a public health consultancy firm in Leusden. She has undertaken many short-term assignments in Africa and Asia, assisting national governments, funding agencies as well as non-governmental organisations in the design or review of their HIV policies and strategies. She currently works as a researcher and lecturer in Global Health at the Athena Institute, VU University in Amsterdam.

Drawing from what they know

Carolien Aantjes

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they know

How primary health and community care  
adaptations for HIV can serve patients with  
other chronic conditions

Carolien Aantjes