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PATHS 2026 & TIER-Plus:

Tools to support prioritization and transition to more sustainable HIV programmes

IAS – the International AIDS Society

Works in Progress: Transforming the HIV Response in a Time of Change, April 20-22, 2026 | Nairobi, Kenya

Background

⚖️ **HIV financing landscape is rapidly shifting**

💰 **Countries must make trade-offs across prevention, testing and treatment prioritize and integrate HIV with other health services**

⚒️ **Many tools are available to support prioritization, integration and designing sustainable HIV programmes but are not always easy to find**

PATHS 2026:
Planning and Action Toolbox for HIV Sustainability

Objective:

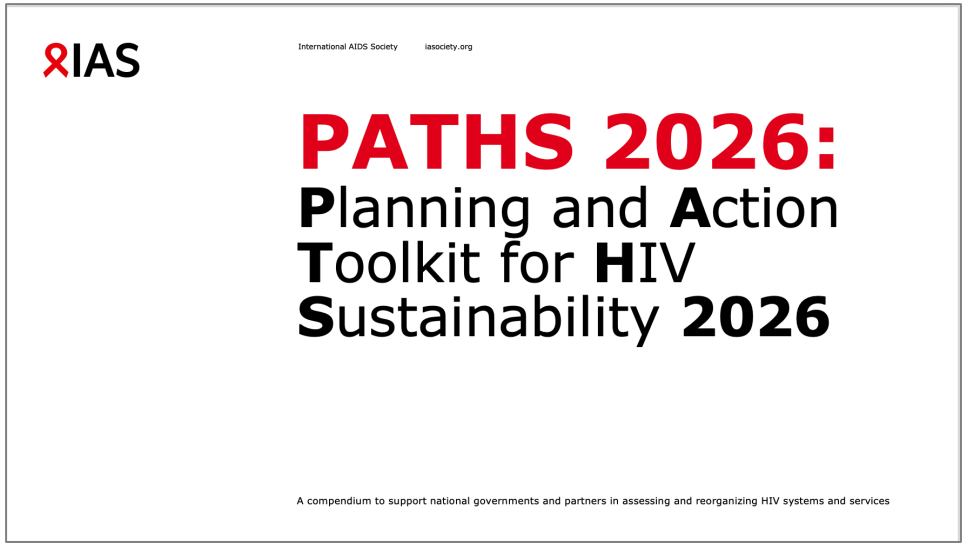
PATHS is a compendium designed to support national governments and partners in assessing and reorganizing HIV systems and services.

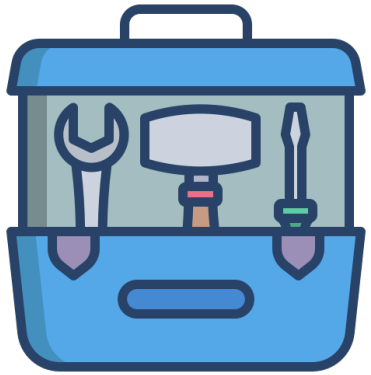
It compiles practical guidance, frameworks and tools that countries can use to:

- identify programmatic efficiencies and priorities
- move forward with integrated service delivery and systems adaptations
- guide national discussions on sustainability and transition planning.

2026 update:

- New: changing donor financing arrangements, bilateral country–US government memoranda of understanding, and the upcoming Global Fund GC8 cycle.
- PATHS is designed as a living resource, updated regularly as new tools and country experiences emerge.





From TIER to TIER-Plus

Adding a **quantitative** element to TIER – to understand the impact of different scenarios on costs and outcomes

The decision gap

Countries need to answer questions like:

- *What happens if we reduce testing but expand ART?*
- *What is the trade-off between PrEP scale-up and retention investments?*
- *How do we prioritize under budget constraints?*

TIER-PLUS is different from other tools

❌ It is not a modelling tool

❌ It is not a budgeting tool

✅ It is a conversation tool for prioritization

Objective of TIER-Plus

To enable stakeholders to compare outcome and cost trade-offs across HIV interventions through an accessible, interactive platform.

Users

🏛️ Ministries of Health and other policy makers

👥 Civil society

🧩 Implementers

🌍 Funders

The modelling is being done by colleagues at Boston University, led by Associate Professor Brooke Nichols

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

TIER-Plus prototype: Let's take a look

1. **INPUTS**
(country & coverage)

↓

2. **SCENARIOS**
(adjust interventions)

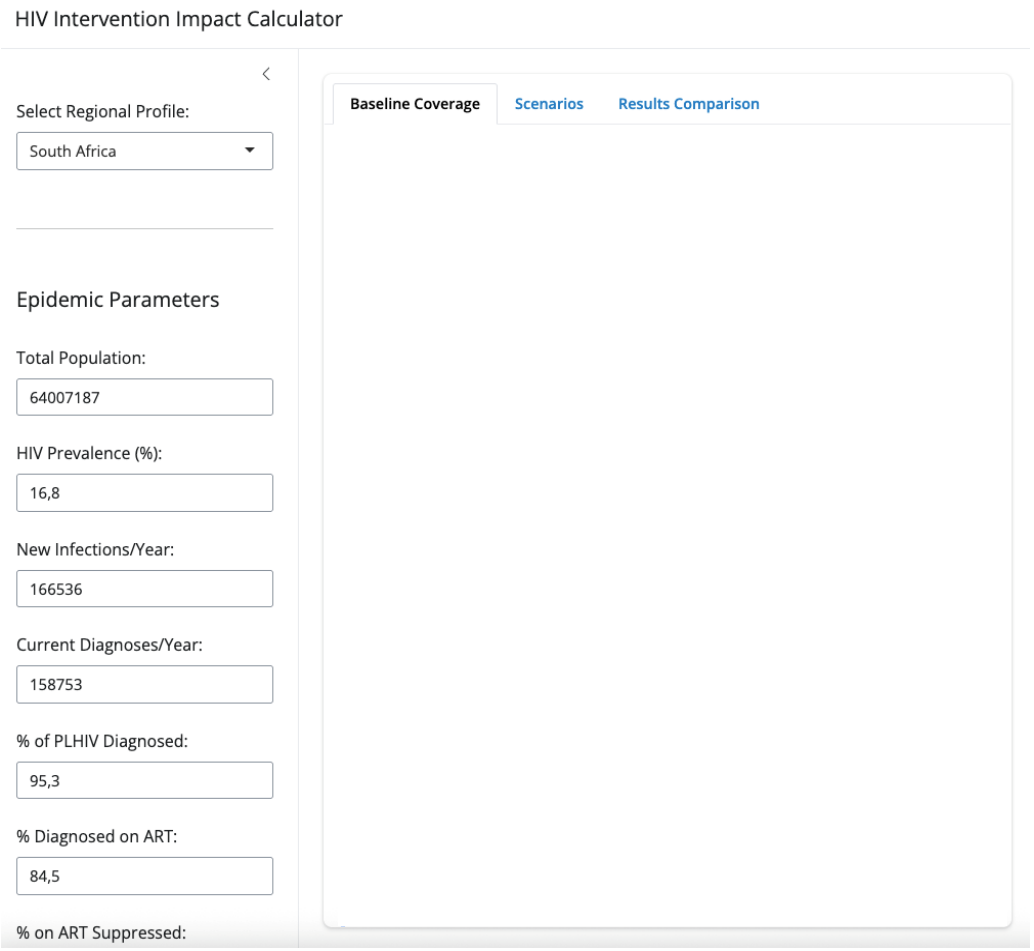
↓

3. **OUTPUTS**
(costs + outcomes + cascades)

1. What goes in (inputs)

a. Select the **country**

b. Confirm (or edit) **epidemic parameters**



1. What goes in (inputs)

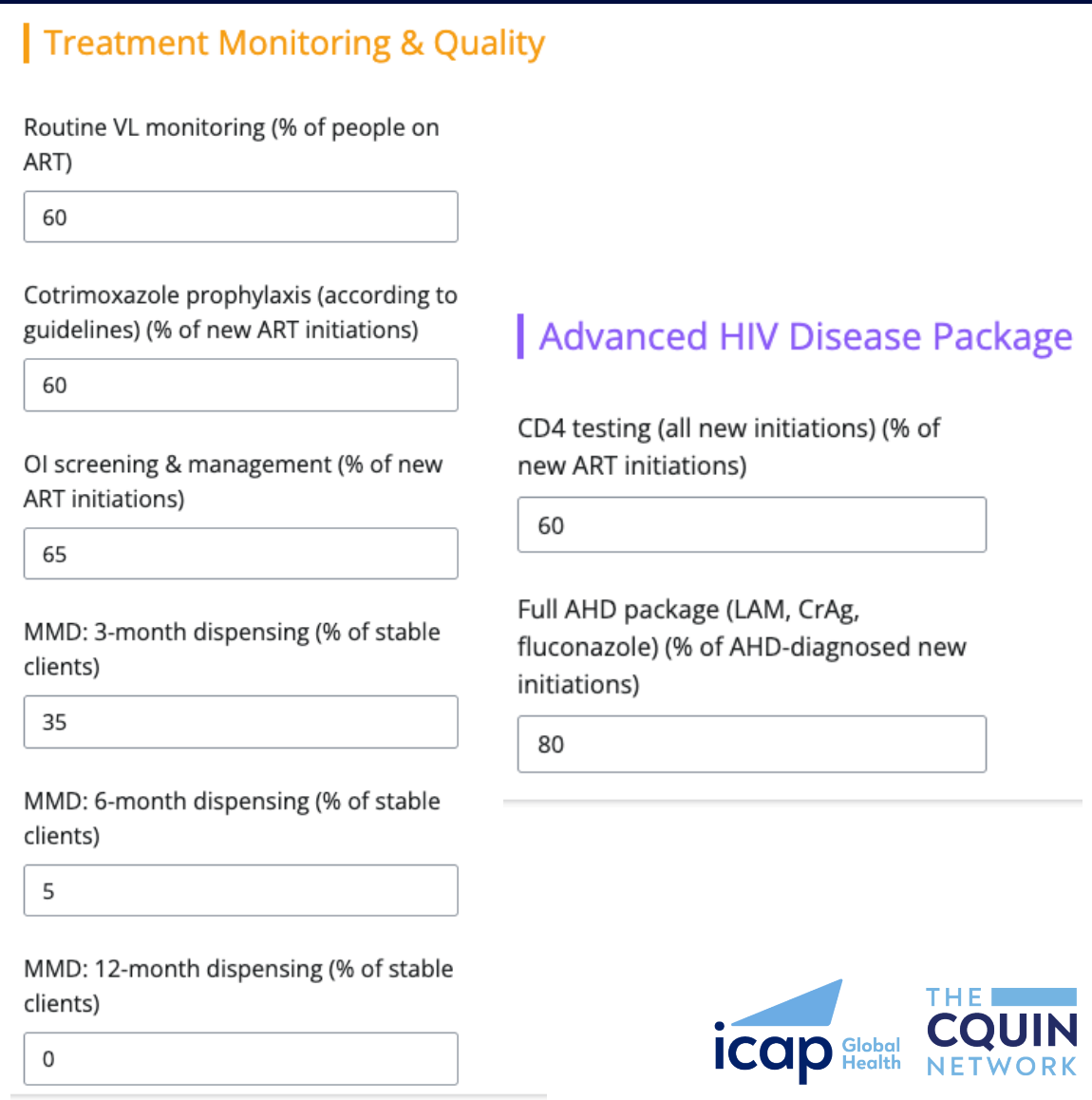
c. **Baseline interventions** (coverage)

- For prevention
- For testing and diagnosis
- For treatment monitoring and quality
- For retention and adherence support
- For advanced HIV disease

Important note!

Default data is provided →

Users can customize if better national data is available.



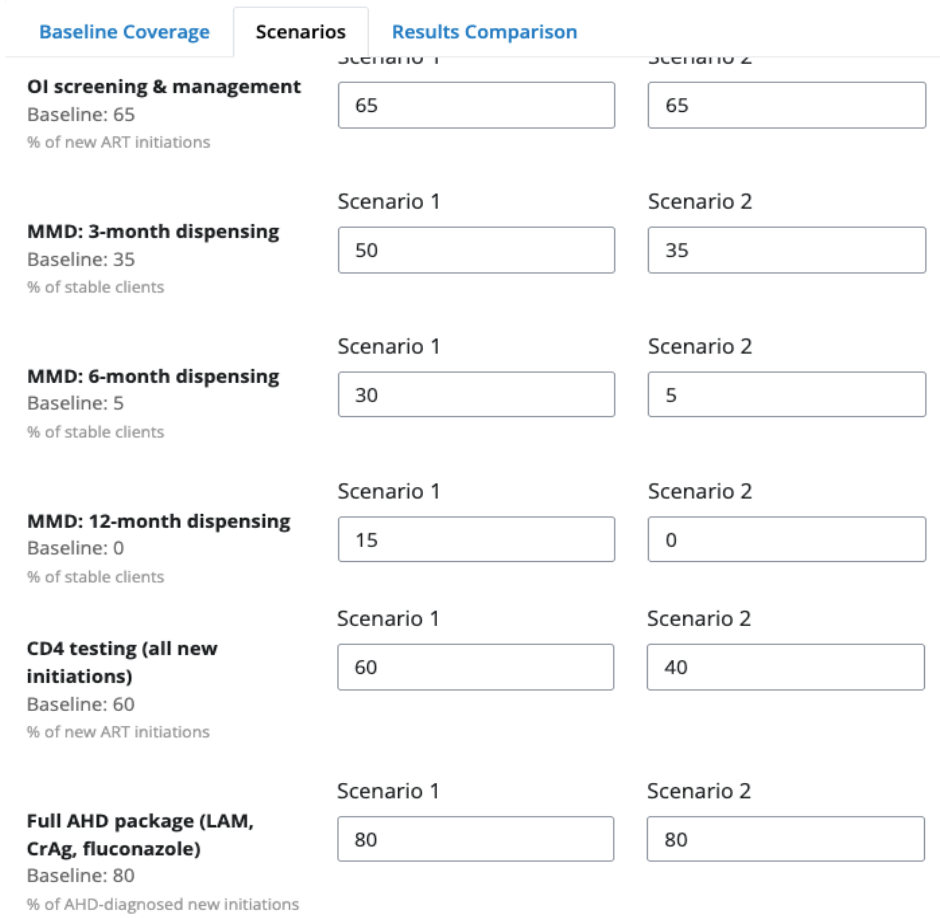
2. Then it's time to play – or build scenarios

- Adapt the coverage of different interventions (populate different scenarios for comparison)
- Add more interventions, and/or take some away

With this information, more and less of different interventions, **TIER-Plus can then compare the impact** on costs and outcomes

For example:

- Add more MMD
- And less CD4 testing



3. What TIER-Plus produces (outputs) 1/3

Two scenarios compared to the baseline

a. Progress towards 95-95-95s
b. Key epidemiological outcomes

Progress Toward 95-95-95 Goals (End of Year)

Baseline		Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
1st 95: % of PLHIV diagnosed	**98.8%**	**1st 95:** % of PLHIV diagnosed	**98.8%** (0pp)	**1st 95:** % of PLHIV diagnosed	**98.8%** (0pp)
2nd 95: % of diagnosed on ART	**87.6%**	**2nd 95:** % of diagnosed on ART	**87.9%** (+0.3pp)	**2nd 95:** % of diagnosed on ART	**87.6%** (0pp)
3rd 95: % on ART suppressed	**93%**	**3rd 95:** % on ART suppressed	**93%** (+0pp)	**3rd 95:** % on ART suppressed	**93.1%** (+0pp)

Key Epidemiological Outcomes (End of Year)

Baseline		Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
New Adult Infections:	**168,003**	**New Adult Infections:**	**164,239** (-3,764)	**New Adult Infections:**	**168,003** (0)
New Infant Infections:	**6,210**	**New Infant Infections:**	**6,210** (0)	**New Infant Infections:**	**6,210** (0)
HIV-Related Deaths:	**180,233**	**HIV-Related Deaths:**	**177,999** (-2,234)	**HIV-Related Deaths:**	**182,904** (+2,671)
New LTFU:	**257,581**	**New LTFU:**	**226,974** (-30,607)	**New LTFU:**	**257,581** (0)

3. What TIER-Plus produces (outputs) 2/3

c. Health outcomes

Health Outcomes (relative to baseline)

Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
Tests Performed:	0	Tests Performed:	0
New Diagnoses:	0	New Diagnoses:	0
ART Initiations:	0	**ART Initiations:**	0
Infections Averted:	+2,297	Infections Averted:	0
Deaths Averted:	+2,393	Deaths Averted:	-2,671
Additional Suppressed:	+30,454	Additional Suppressed:	0

d. Cost analysis

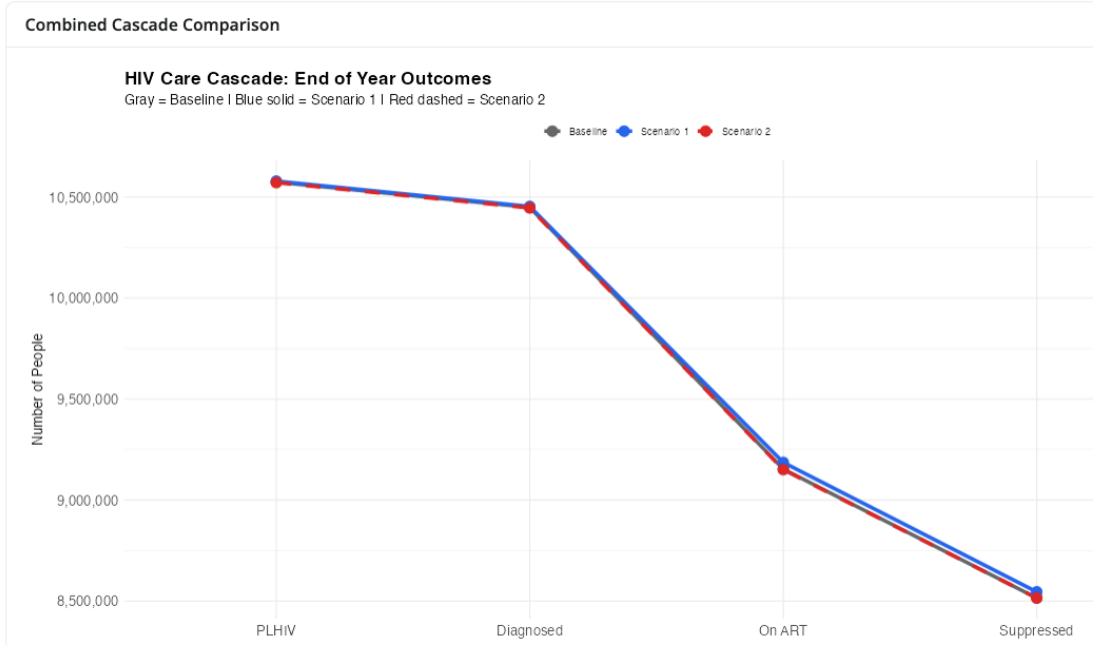
Cost Analysis

Baseline		Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
Intervention Costs:	$967,877,348	Intervention Costs:	$1,021,175,934 (+$53,298,586)	Intervention Costs:	$964,865,889 ($3,011,459)
ART Provision:	$1,830,652,809	→ Scale-up costs:	+$53,298,586	→ Scale-down savings:	-$3,011,459
Total Program Cost:	$2,798,530,157	*ART Provision:*	$1,836,743,642 (+$6,090,833)	*ART Provision:*	$1,830,118,602 ($534,207)
Cost per Infection Averted:	$107,197	**Total Program Cost:**	$2,857,919,576 (+$59,389,419)	**Total Program Cost:**	$2,794,984,491 ($3,545,666)
Cost per Death Averted:	$47,756	**Net Budget Impact vs Baseline:**	+$59,389,419	**Net Budget Impact vs Baseline:**	$-3,545,666
		Cost per Infection Averted:	$90,162	Cost per Infection Averted:	$106,863
		Cost per Death Averted:	$50,386	Cost per Death Averted:	$54,834

3. What TIER-Plus produces (outputs) 3/3

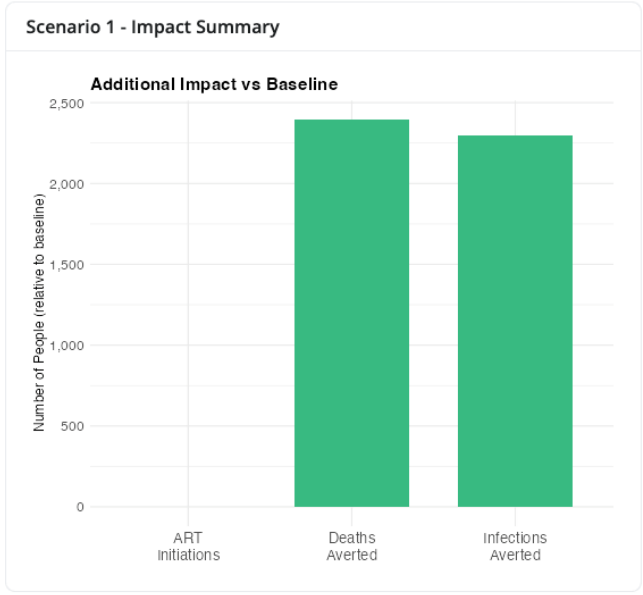
e. Impact on HIV care cascade

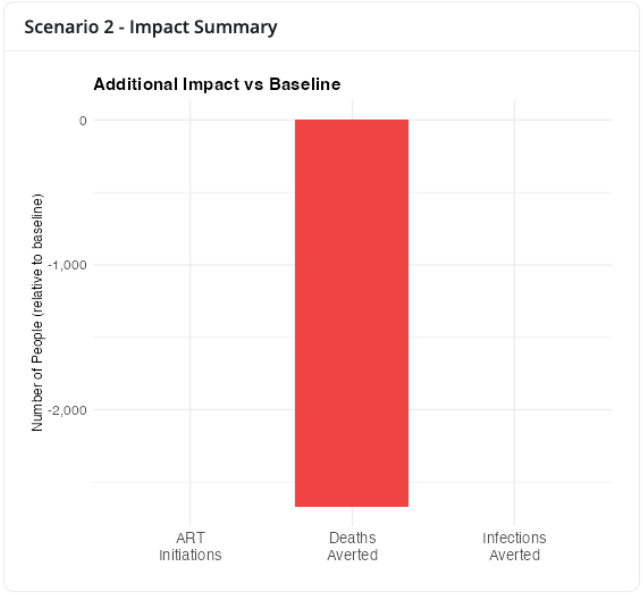
HIV Care Cascade: Baseline vs Scenarios (End of Year)



f. Impact summary

Key Outcomes Summary





What TIER-Plus can and cannot do

✅ What TIER-Plus can do

✅ Support decision making conversations at a national level

✅ Look at the impact across the cascade of multiple interventions

✅ Give an understanding of relative impact of different interventions on both outcomes and cost

❌ What TIER-Plus cannot do

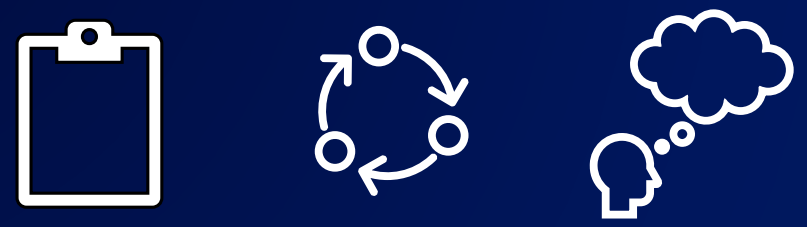
❌ Provide exact cost estimates for budgeting

❌ Give long-term estimates on epidemic impact

❌ Replace intervention-specific planning (use DMPPT, PrEP-it, etc.)

What do you think?

1. How do you feel about the TIER-Plus tool?
2. How clear is the purpose of TIER-Plus?
3. How useful is TIER-plus for decision-making in your context?
4. How likely are you to use TIER-Plus when it is available?
5. What is the ONE thing that would make TIER-Plus most useful for you?
6. What concerns or barriers might prevent you from using TIER-Plus?



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Thank you

For more details, contact dsd@iasociety.org