



Concept Note

DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIV EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES

November 20 – 22, 2013

Trinidad and Tobago

I. Background

The HIV Epidemiological Profile, based on a template as recommendations of The Caribbean Technical Working Group for HIV/STI Surveillance, is designed to:

- provide a thorough description of the HIV epidemic among the various populations (overall and subpopulations) in a geographic area
- identify characteristics of the general population and of populations who are living with, or at high risk for, HIV in defined geographic areas and who need prevention, care and treatment services
- describe the current status of the HIV epidemic in the geographic area and provide some understanding of how the epidemic may look in the future
- provide information required to conduct needs assessments and gap analyses

This HIV Epidemiological Profile ultimately serves as a source of quantitative data from which HIV prevention, care and treatment needs are identified and should be utilized to develop targeted interventions, evidenced based decision making and policy formulation.

Country participants will be provided with an electronic copy of the updated “Template for Annual Report of HIV Epidemiological Profile, Recommendations of the Caribbean Technical Working Group for HIV/STI Surveillance” as well as a document demonstrating the specific data that is needed to develop this Profile. This will provide the participant with the opportunity to collect data in country

and before the workshop, bring this data along to the workshop and to analyse these data for the development of the country profile. It is understood that countries may not have all the data as outlined in the template and the supporting data needs document, however, this will also provide the evidence to assist participating countries, in the near future, to strengthen surveillance systems for the collection of specific data to satisfy the data needs at country level.

II. Workshop Objectives

- To develop an HIV Epidemiological Profile which will serve as the first, depending on the country/territory, as well as the evidence of the baseline data collection at country level
- To build capacity in the Epidemiologist and Surveillance Officers in the PEPFAR Countries and other countries to develop an HIV Epidemiological Profile
- To foster cross-pollination among participants of ideas involving the development of an HIV Epidemiological Profile
- To sensitize participants to data needed for specific reports including ART in the Spotlight, HIV DR EWIs and Elimination Initiative

III. Expected Results

- Final Draft of HIV Epidemiological Profile for participating countries

IV. Relevant Documentation

1. Template for Annual Report of HIV Epidemiological Profile, Recommendations of the Caribbean Technical Working Group for HIV/STI Surveillance
2. Data Deeded for the Development of the HIV Epidemiological Profile
3. HIV DR Early Warning Indicators

4. Indicators for the Elimination Initiative

5. The Barbados HIV/AIDS Surveillance Reports

V. Methodology

Once the participants have been identified to attend the workshop it is recommended that they form a small working group at country level with the finality to collect the data that was recommended to bring to the workshop. A virtual session will be organized to review the data needed as well as to develop a workplan to collect the data. The two persons who attend the workshop, Nov 20-22, 2013, will develop a solid draft report, with direct support of the facilitators at the workshop. One of the key activities at the end of the workshop is to identify if the data gap can be reduced with a little more time for data collection at the country level. With capacity built at the workshop and a solid draft report the participants will go back to country to work with their small working group with the intent to improve the product developed at the workshop and have the virtual guidance of the facilitator who had provided direct technical support at the workshop.

The involvement of the six facilitators will be critical. They will provide support in the review of the data needed as well as support countries in the development of a workplan to collect the data. It is envisioned that with two participants from each country, including 12 PEPFAR Countries, 3 countries and one facilitator will be working around a table with the facilitator providing direct technical support for capacity building as well as the development of the draft report. The facilitators will continue to provide a critical role in the virtual provision of technical support, after the workshop, to the country to result in the final report.

VI. Profile of Participant

It is anticipated that the participants that will be represent the Countries will be Epidemiologists, Surveillance Officers, National AIDS Program Coordinators or Focal Points.

VII. Anticipated Participants

The participants of this workshop will include the following:

PEPFAR Country Participants (2 participants each per country).....24

EC/OCT Country Participants (2 participants each per country).....8

Other Caribbean Countries (2 participants each per country).....6

French Caribbean Territory Participants.....x

CDC Caribbean Facilitators.....2

University of California, San Francisco Facilitators.....2

CARPHA Facilitator.....2

PHCO Facilitator.....1

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