



The meeting is organized with the technical support of PAHO/WHO and the financial support of the European Commission through the “*Strengthening the Integration of British and Dutch OCTs in the Regional Response to HIV within the PANCAP Framework*” Project.

ECOCT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING & YEAR 5 PLANNING MEETING OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 2013

CONCEPT PAPER

Background

The Contribution Agreement governing the implementation of the EC/OCT Project “*Strengthening the Integration of the British and Dutch OCTs in the Regional Response to HIV/AIDS through the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS*” was signed by PAHO/WHO and the European Community (EC) in October 2008, with the first disbursement of funds in November 2008. The overall objective of the project is to halt and reverse the spread of HIV within the British and Dutch OCTs.

The participating countries of the project are as follows:

- British Overseas Caribbean Territories: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands Montserrat, and Turks & Caicos; and
- Dutch Overseas Territories: Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten.

Project implementation commenced in 2009 and has focused on the strengthening of the response in the OCTs, given their realities. The first two years emphasised the establishment and finalization of mechanisms and structures for project implementation, while strengthening the capacity of territories to scale-up its response in a strategic manner. During the period of implementation the project has strived to strengthen and expand services for HIV (based on the realities and needs of the territories), while emphasizing the human rights of all individuals. The project also utilizes different strategies and approaches to the development of outputs and outcomes so as to ensure a sustained impact after the closure of the project.

Strengthening of the national HIV response must be harmonized with efforts to strengthen the health sector. Consequently, the ECOCT project emphasizes the strengthening of HIV prevention, care and treatment within the context of the health system. This is especially important since the health sector has a significant component of the national response. Through a strong multisectoral or intersectoral collaboration, the health sector will reduce morbidity and mortality of those who are infected, while mitigating the effects of HIV in the societies. The project has set the framework for the health system to improve HIV services through increased coordination with civil society, key partners and the involvement



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of persons living with HIV, while building the capacity for the management of the national response and service delivery.

The project was expected to end in 2013, but an application for a one year no cost extension has been submitted to the European Commission for consideration. A final decision on the request is pending.

As the project moves into its final year of implementation the following are key priority areas:

- HIV Prevention at Community Level with linkages to the health sector
 - Strengthen & Institutionalization of workplace policies and programmes;
 - Strengthen interventions for Adolescent Health
- Continue to expand and strengthen HIV prevention, care and treatment services in the health sector within the framework of new evidence for HIV such as Treatment 2.0;
- Strengthening and promotion of E-Counseling as part of psychosocial support
- Strengthening Surveillance Capacity for HIV/STI Case Based Surveillance (including HIV Drug Resistance)
- Integration into the Pan Caribbean response
 - Elimination of Vertical Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis Initiative
 - Strengthening Surveillance (as discussed above)
 - Adolescent Health Initiative
- Cross Cutting Issues includes gender and Human Rights. This also involves:
 - Strengthening the capacity of the members of the Networks as Advocates

Objectives of the Steering Committee Meeting:

The objectives of the meeting are:

- Review progress made in the implementation of the year four (4) work plan and review overall achievements of the project;
- Finalize and schedule the year five (5) work plan with regional and territory level activities;
- Facilitate Steering Committee review, feedback and approval of the year five work plan and Year four Progress Report;
- Review the recommendations from the Monitoring Mission;



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- Review and finalize the project sustainability plan and other details relating to the closure of the project.

Preparation

In line with the EC/OCT project cycle, the Year 5 work plan will cover the period October 2012 to September 2013. The work plan to be submitted to the EC for funding will include regional activities, as well as territory level activities. To ensure an inclusive work plan, territories will review their implementation from the final two year work plan with key stakeholders prior to the Steering Committee & Planning Meeting. The information from these work plans will be utilized for the development of the work plan for the final year of project execution.

Languages

The meeting will be in English.



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Steering Committee Meeting Venue and Proposed Agenda¹

The meeting will take place in September, Trinidad & Tobago. Details of venue will be finalized and circulated in advance of the meeting. The proposed agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Date	Session	Details
Travel Day	Arrival of Delegates in Aruba	
31 October 2013	Morning Session	1. Official Opening Ceremony 8:30-9:30am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Greetings from PAHO/WHO Greetings from RTAO b. Greetings from European Delegation c. Greetings from PANCAP
		2. PAHO presentation on the accomplishment, challenges of project implementation, etc. (the results from the monitoring visit should be included in this presentation).
	Afternoon Session	3. Country Presentations (the presentation should focus on sustainability)
		Discussion
1 November 2013	Morning Session (Concurrent Sessions)	1. Experience of Strengthening of Surveillance in the OCTs
		2. Experience with the implementation of E-Counseling
		3. Presentation: Project Sustainability Plan
		4. Discussion
		1. Steering Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review and approval of the Minutes of the last meeting b. Consensus/Resolutions on (i) Sustainability Plan (ii) E-Counseling c. Process for the Closure of Project Year 3 Progress Report and Year 5 Work plan
		2. ECOCT Focal Points Technical Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Revision, discussion and finalization of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
		3. Community Advocates (target 20 persons) Strengthening of British and Dutch Networks

¹ **Notes:** The Minister of Health, Aruba has committed to hosting a formal cocktail reception for the meeting. Details of the date and time will be communicated with the official agenda and Logistics Note



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	Afternoon Session (plenary)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update from Steering Committee 2. Process for Closure of Project 3. Closure of Steering Committee Meeting
2 November 2013	Departure of Delegates from Trinidad & Tobago	

Proposed Participants

Proposed Participants	Details
Territory Focal points	11 ECOCT Country Focal Points
Steering Committee members	11 ECOCT Steering Committee Members 2 Community Advocates 1 Regional Territorial Authorizing Officer 1 Deputy Regional Territorial Authorizing Officer
Community Advocates PAHO/WHO	11 Country Community Advocates 1 PWR Bahamas (PWR, TCI) 3 PWR Barbados and ECC (PWR, ABM Focal Point & Barbados & ECC Focal Point) 1 PWR Jamaica (PWR, CAY Focal Point) 2 PWR Venezuela 1 PHCO Senior Advisor PMT
Observers (self-sponsored)*	1 European Commission 1 PANCAP 1 UNAIDS Regional Support Team 1 CRN+ 1 OECS HAPU
Key Component Facilitators	2 (Claudette Francis & Ward Schrooten,)
Total:	54

*In keeping with the Year 1 Steering Committee Meeting Agreement, Observers will be required to fund their own participation to the meeting.