

Health Systems 20/20 Caribbean – Summary of accomplishments for PEPFAR Semi-Annual report (October 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013)

Health Systems 20/20 Caribbean is a one-year Associate Award that provides technical assistance to improve health financing capacity and leadership in the Eastern Caribbean, with the goal of ensuring long-term financial sustainability for health and HIV programs in the region. Abt Associates leads the project in partnership with the Centre for Health Economics, University of the West Indies (UWI-HEU).

National Health Accounts and HIV Subaccounts in St. Kitts and Nevis and in Dominica

National Health Accounts (NHA) is a health expenditure tracking methodology that helps inform better health planning and resource allocation, by providing comprehensive information on the amount, sources, and uses of public and private expenditures on health and on HIV. HS20/20 Caribbean is implementing the first-ever NHA exercises in two countries in the eastern Caribbean, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis. During the initial phase in 2012, data were collected on health expenditures among governments, donors, non-governmental organization (NGOs), insurance companies, and employers. The current phase involves a household health expenditure survey and a survey of health expenditures made by PLHIV in each country. Working collaboratively with local Ministries of Health, Abt and UWI-HEU have drafted survey questionnaires to examine these expenditures, obtained Institutional Review Board approve for human subjects research in each country, pre-tested the instruments, and begun the process of recruiting data collectors. The activity is also serving to build UWI-HEU's capacity to conduct routine NHA estimations as regional resource institution in the future. Relatedly, in **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**, the project prepared terms of reference and draft tender documents for consultants to conduct an NHA estimation there in the future.

Estimating costs of health and HIV services in Antigua

In Antigua, HS 20/20 Caribbean is strengthening the MOH's capacity for evidence-based financial management of the HIV program by costing services at the primary health care (PHC) level, costing outpatient HIV/AIDS services, and costing services at Mt. St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC), including inpatient costs for treatment of PLHIV. The HS 20/20 Caribbean team has taken a collaborative approach to implementing these costing exercises in order to build capacity among country counterparts. In the fall of 2012, the project team provided training to counterparts on using costing data for planning and resource allocation, and helped establish two local multi-institutional working groups to gather cost data, using templates and processes provided by the project. Costing Committee members and HS20/20 Caribbean staff jointly collected the bulk of the required data for the hospital costing by the end of the second quarter. In addition, remaining data needed for the PHC and HIV/AIDS outpatient services costing (including information on opportunistic infections) was collected.

Gathering cost information to inform design of insurance in Grenada and St. Lucia

In Grenada, the project developed a scope of work for costing inpatient services for 5 priority health conditions at the island's General Hospital, in addition to costing inpatient and outpatient HIV services. The study will inform the design of a benefits package for a planned National Health Insurance Scheme, to be rolled out in the coming years. Including coverage for HIV prevention and treatment in that insurance program will help ensure greater sustainability for HIV services into the future.

Saint Lucia is also developing a Universal Health Care (UHC) program and needs information on the costs of services that might be covered by the program, including HIV services. While the project's budget cannot support actual cost data collection, the project team is working with Saint Lucia's Ministry of Health (MOH) to prepare a "roadmap" for collecting these data. As in Antigua, the MOH has organized a local technical working group to conduct the cost analyses. The HS20/20 team drafted a concept note that outlined priority costing questions that MOH may wish to answer, and organized an in-country workshop with the working group to facilitate development of the roadmap.