



**Antiretroviral Treatment Regional Technical Consultation  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
May 3-5, 2010  
Hotel Melía Santo Domingo**

The PEPFAR Adult Treatment Technical Working Group, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Secretaría de Integración Social Centroamericana (SISCA) World Bank Project are partnering with PEPFAR/Dominican Republic and the AIDSTAR-One project to organize a technical consultation on maintaining and increasing access to quality antiretroviral therapy services in Latin America and the Caribbean. This meeting will serve in part as a follow-up to previous World Bank/SISCA “Taller de Equipos Regionales Encargados de Medicamentos Antiretrovirales”, and special focus will be paid to ensuring access to care, improving quality of treatment services and harmonization of regional treatment programs. The consultation will be hosted in the Dominican Republic from May 3-5, 2010, with participants invited from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Belize and Panama.

Specific objectives:

- To provide the latest updates in evidence-based delivery of ART services for children, adolescents and adults
- To examine the implications of the latest WHO/PAHO HIV treatment guideline updates on national programs in regards to access, quality, and sustainability
- To discuss barriers to treatment access from the perspective of both patients and providers
- To explore models of service integration and review the practical implementation of HIV/AIDS service delivery integration in the region
- To discuss regional strategic monitoring and evaluation plans, including harmonization of indicators
- To provide a framework for adaptation and harmonization of guidelines and supply chain logistics to promote regional collaboration and improve cost effectiveness

Expected outcomes:

Enhanced clinical expertise of participants in evidence-based delivery of ART for adults, adolescents, children and infants;  
Clear understanding of the implications of the new guidelines on national programs in regards to access, quality, and sustainability;  
Concrete suggestions for implementation of the latest WHO/PAHO treatment guidelines, including cost modeling to find cost-effective and sustainable approaches to ART services; and  
Action oriented approaches toward regional harmonization and collaboration.

Participants:

Up to 100 attendees from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama (3-4 per country) that are involved in ARV treatment from a clinical, programmatic or policymaking perspective. Illustrative participants per country include representatives of:

- Ministry of Health, Social Security and/or National AIDS Program (including National AIDS Program heads, leading clinicians, procurement specialists, monitoring and evaluation specialists and/or health systems specialists)
- World Bank Representatives
- Global Fund Principal Recipient
- Global Fund Country and Regional Coordinating Mechanism
- PLWHA organizations
- PAHO and other UN agencies
- USG PEPFAR country team staff
- Clinton Foundation representatives

In addition, participants will include HQ representatives from USAID, CDC, and other USG agencies, and AIDSTAR-One project staff.

Time	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator	Comments
<b>Day 1: Access to Care and Treatment</b>			
8:00 - 8:30	<b>Registration</b>		
8:30 – 9:15	Welcome	MOH, PAHO, World Bank, and PEPFAR Representatives	<p><i>Objective:</i> To welcome participants, outline conference goals and objectives, and highlight partner organizations’ strategic objectives, synergies and coordination efforts. Also, highlight connection between this meeting and World Bank’s previous efforts.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Representatives from all sponsoring organizations to speak briefly.</p>
9:15 - 10:30	Adult and Pediatric Antiretroviral Treatment Updates	Dr. Carlos Mejia  Dr. Luis Castaneda	<p><i>Objective:</i> To review evidence-based treatment strategies for adults and children and updated WHO/PAHO guidelines.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Panel of experts to highlight the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timing and choice of first-line antiretroviral therapy</li> <li>• Strategies to prevent initial failure, and important considerations for optimizing first-line regimens</li> <li>• Management of treatment-experienced patients</li> <li>• New antiretrovirals in first-line therapy</li> <li>• Pediatric testing and new guidelines regarding treatment initiation</li> <li>• Barriers and challenges to access to treatment from provider perspective</li> <li>• Outcomes and resistance patterns in several select countries</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45	Q & A Session		
10:45 - 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
11:00 - 11:45	Overcoming Barriers to Care and Treatment Access: PLWHA Advocacy Roundtable	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Karla Zepeda</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p>	<p><i>Objective:</i> To discuss barriers to engaging clients in care earlier and highlight client experiences accessing care and treatment in the region.</p>

Time	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator	Comments
		Ms. Felipa García Mr. Sergio Montealegre Mr. Carlos Batzín	<i>Format:</i> PLWHA advocacy panel to discuss patient perspective on barriers to accessing treatment, and interventions to overcome these barriers. Particular attention will be paid to stigma and discrimination against MARPs.
11:45 – 12:00	Q & A Session		
<b>12:00 - 1:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
1:00 - 1:45	Summary of Country Challenges and Barriers to Treatment Scale Up	Dr. Rolando Cedillos	<i>Objective:</i> To discuss treatment guidelines within the region and explore barriers to treatment scale up in LAC countries.  <i>Format:</i> Dr. Cedillos will present a review of the status of guidelines and treatment regimens in use in the different countries. In addition, he will moderate a discussion with country representatives regarding challenges to treatment scale up.
1:45 – 2:00	Q & A Session		
2:00 – 4:00	Small Group Sessions: Overcoming Treatment Barriers		<i>Objective:</i> For country representatives to work together to identify national challenges and barriers to treatment, and to strategize next steps for overcoming them.  <i>Format:</i> Small group brainstorming sessions (2 groups of country teams in each of 3 groups, grouped by results of survey) facilitated by AIDSTAR-One Team and technical experts.
4:00-4:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
4:15-5:00	Small Group Report-Outs: Overcoming Treatment Barriers	Country Representatives	<i>Objective:</i> For country representatives to report-out on the next steps identified for overcoming challenges and barriers in small group sessions.  <i>Format:</i> Each country selects one person to present their next steps to the larger forum.

Time	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator	Comments
<b>Day 2: Promoting Integration and Ensuring Quality</b>			
8:30 – 8:45	Review of Day 1 and Overview of Day 2	AIDSTAR-One	<p><i>Objective:</i> To refresh participants' recall of previous day's discussion and a preview of Day 2.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> AIDSTAR-One Team member to speak briefly.</p>
8:45 - 9:10	Critical Issues in HIV Service Integration	Dr. Elliot Raizes	<p><i>Objective:</i> To review critical issues in the integration of HIV testing, treatment and primary health care services.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Presentation on models of HIV care and treatment integration, benefits of integrated approaches for patient care, challenges of integrated approaches, costing considerations and future directions.</p>
9:10 - 9:35	Practical Implementation of HIV Service Integration	Dr. Jorge Saavedra	<p><i>Objective:</i> To discuss the practical implementation of integrated HIV programming within the region.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Presentation on integration of health services in the region. Discussion may be extended to include representatives from the region to discuss models of integration that have been successful in their own countries.</p>
9:35 - 9:45	Q & A Session		
9:45 - 10:00	Patient Data Management and Monitoring and Evaluation in El Salvador	Dr. Rafael Baltrons	<p><i>Objective:</i> To build upon findings of World Bank's 2009 regional meeting on integrated ART and discuss the current status of ART monitoring &amp; evaluation and methods to harmonize indicators across countries.</p> <p><i>Format:</i></p>

Time	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Baltrons to present patient-based data management including electronic medical records</li> <li>• Clinical monitoring and evaluation efforts</li> </ul>
10:00 - 10:15	Monitoring and Evaluation: the Guatemalan Program	Ms. Blanca Samayoa	<p><i>Objective:</i> To present Guatemala's national monitoring and evaluation efforts, including emphasis on national level indicators.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Presentation on Guatemala's national M&amp;E program.</p>
10:15 - 10:30	Regional Monitoring and Evaluation	MCR Representative	<p><i>Objective:</i> To present MCR regional strategic M&amp;E plan and harmonized indicators.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Presentation with a brief overview of regional M&amp;E strategy and harmonized indicators.</p>
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Coffee Break and Q &amp; A Session</b>		
11:00 - 11:20	Overview of Operational Research	Ms. Jennifer Campbell Mr. Alberto Necco	<p><i>Objective:</i> To outline basic operational research goals, strategies and needs in the region.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Presentation with a brief overview of basic Operational Research (OR) practices that will highlight areas in need of OR in the region.</p>
11:20 - 11:45	Quality Improvement Skills Building Introduction	Mr. Andrew Fullem	<p><i>Objective:</i> To provide an overview of QI for treatment programs.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Brief presentation with introductory overview of QI concepts and tools.</p>
11:45-12:10	Local Efforts at Quality Improvement	Mr. Sergio Montealegre	<p><i>Objective:</i> To review Mr. Montealegre's study/survey on Latin American countries' quality improvement efforts.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Mr. Montealegre to present his study findings.</p>

Time	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator	Comments
12:10 - 12:30	Q & A Session		
12:30 - 1:30	<b>Lunch</b>		
1:30– 5:00	Small Group Sessions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quality Improvement</li> <li>2. Monitoring and Evaluation and Operational Research</li> <li>3. Integration of HIV Service Delivery</li> </ol>		<p><i>Objective:</i> To provide an opportunity to work hands-on with QI and M&amp;E tools, and to discuss and identify actionable next steps for assessing and improving national QI and M&amp;E efforts.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Small group sessions organized by country and technical expertise, and facilitated by JSI QI expert team, M&amp;E and regional experts from earlier presentations. Participants rotate through each of the 3 small group sessions.</p>

Time	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator	Comments
<b>Day 3: Harmonization and Efficiencies</b>			
8:30 - 9:00	Review of Day 2 and Overview of Day 3	AIDSTAR-One	<i>Objective:</i> To refresh participants' recall of previous day's discussion and provide an overview of Day 3.  <i>Format:</i> AIDSTAR-One Team member to speak briefly.
9:00 - 9:45	Procurement and Supply Chain Logistics	Ms. Heidi Mihm Dr. Dalia Castillo Mr. Alberto Necco	<i>Objective:</i> To provide guidance for forecasting, quantification, ordering, delivery, storage and distribution logistics. Discuss strategies for using the Strategic Fund, and mechanisms, challenges, potential efficiencies and price reductions related to regionally harmonized supply chain logistics and pooled procurement.  <i>Format:</i> Short presentations from each speaker on his/her area of expertise within procurement and supply chain logistics.
9:45 – 10:00	Q & A Session		
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
10:30 - 10:50	Costing and Resource Planning for ART Programs	Ms. Lucia Merino	<i>Objective:</i> To provide an overview of efforts to improve cost effectiveness and efficiencies in the region.  <i>Format:</i> Presentation on the USAID-funded PASCA project which provides technical assistance to partners in Central America, and supports countries' efforts to refine and implement M&E plans, estimate costs of their plans, prioritize interventions, and identify budget gaps.
10:50 – 11:00	Q & A Session		

Time	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator	Comments
11:00 - 12:00	Small Group Sessions: Discussion of Take home Points and Post-Conference Action Plans		<p><i>Objective:</i> To discuss and identify actionable next steps for improving treatment efficiencies, including harmonization with neighboring countries for drug protocols and procurement, SCMS, etc.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Small groups with integrated country teams, facilitated by regional experts from earlier presentations.</p>
12:00 – 1:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
1:00 - 2:00	Small Group Report-Back	Country Representatives	<p><i>Objective:</i> For country representatives to report-out on the next steps identified for improving treatment efficiencies, including harmonization with neighboring countries for drug protocols and procurement, SCMS, etc.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Each country selects one person to present their next steps to the larger forum.</p>
2:00 - 2:30	Meeting Wrap-Up	MOH, PAHO, World Bank, and PEPFAR Representatives	<p><i>Objective:</i> To establish action items/plan that culminated from the meeting.</p> <p><i>Format:</i> Short presentation with overview of meeting action items.</p>