

Draft Concept note for Elimination Initiative meeting for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean

Background:

Caribbean countries have committed to the Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis by 2015. Many Caribbean countries including the Eastern Caribbean States may have reached the targets for the achievement of Elimination and the Caribbean has the potential to be the first sub-region to achieve this status. Remaining gaps including the scaling up of HIV testing among pregnant women, strengthening of surveillance systems to report national data (both public and private sector) to document the achievement of Elimination targets, earlier infant diagnosis and to enhance integration into maternal and child health and sexual and reproductive health.

At this meeting participants will be introduced to the global, regional and national validation processes, plan for adoption of the national processes for validation with timelines and technical supports required. In addition, participants will be updated on the status of the Elimination Initiative in the Caribbean, and the recent global guidance. Participants will be from Barbados and the nine Eastern Caribbean states.

Objectives:

1. To update participants on the latest global guidance on the Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis
2. To present information on the status of the Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis in the Caribbean
3. To present the global, regional and national validation process for the certification of the achievement of the Elimination initiative targets and develop country work plans implementation
4. To develop draft country reports as the first step in the validation process
5. To identify technical support required by each country to enable documentation of achievement of the Elimination target.

Expected outcomes:

- Participants updated on the latest global guidance for the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis
- Participants aware of the achievements, gaps, challenges and opportunities for achievement of the Elimination targets
- Increase understanding of the process at global, regional and national level for the validation of the achievement of Elimination process and a workplan with technical support required by each country
- First draft of country reports towards the national validation process

Countries: Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat

Participants: 2-3 per country -National AIDS Programme, MCH Manager, National Epidemiologist

Venue: Barbados

Collaborators: PAHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, PANCAP

Dates: November 12-15, 2013

Funding: MAC-AIDS, European Commission/OCT grant and Spain

Methodology: Workshop with presentations and work group sessions