



## Developing the HIV Care Continuum

### Goal and Proposed Outcomes

NASTAD has been providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Guyana since 2012 to strengthen HIV surveillance in order to effectively characterize the HIV epidemic and influence needs-based program planning and decision making.

The MoH sought a more robust method for demonstrating the movement of patients through the HIV Continuum of Care. NASTAD provided TA, leveraging domestic experience where NASTAD is helping health departments demonstrate HIV service needs, and measure progress toward increased access to and retention in medical care and ART, by using the HIV Continuum.

NASTAD partnered with the MoH and the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS) to design and implement a workshop, Profiling the HIV Care Continuum, that would:

1. Foster cross-programmatic understanding of existing HIV data in Guyana
2. Expand and develop knowledge of and skills required for triangulation of existing data
3. Build capacity of participants to develop a HIV Continuum to better profile the HIV epidemic in Guyana.

### Strategy and Approach Used

NASTAD guided 19 participants through a series of exercises over a four-day period related to data triangulation and HIV Continuum development, including:

- A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of the current HIV data triangulation practices;

## Guyana

- A group brainstorm on the plausibility of linking HIV data in Guyana, with particular attention paid to the numerous personal unique identifiers (PUIDs) used in different programs across the system; and
- The identification of data sources that could be used for the development of each bar in the HIV Continuum, and the limitations of these data sources.

### Results

On the final day of the workshop, Program Directors from the MoH Surveillance Unit, NAPS, the National Public Health Reference Laboratory, and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) were invited to receive an Action Plan that the participants developed for the successful profiling of an HIV Care Continuum in Guyana, which included items listed in the figure, below.

### Summary of Outcomes and Impact from NASTAD's Technical Assistance

The conversations NASTAD facilitated, and the Action Plan that the participants developed and have begun to execute, have built capacity across HIV programs in Guyana to collect, link, triangulate, and use HIV program data. This action will help drive the public health response, including patient linkage and outcome tracking, program and system improvement, targeted resource allocation, and policy change.

This work was supported by the cooperative agreement #U2GPS001617 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the CDC.