Partnership to Increase Access and Reduce the Burden: Extending HIV Services to the Private Sector in Côte d’Ivoire

Jeff Barnes, Abt Associates
Private Sector Advisor

June 16, 2015
Côte d’Ivoire’s HIV epidemic is generalized and focused in urban areas

- Approximately 370,000 PLHIV
- Adult prevalence is 2.7%, and about 19,000 new infections per year
- Number of PLHIV on ART 110,000, total coverage estimated 30 percent
- About 60% of PLHIV do not know their status

Source: UNAIDS 2014, DHS 2012
SHOPS began in 2012 to help leverage the private sector in scaling the HIV response

- Sept 2012 – June 2013: Design and conduct PSA
- October 2013: Setting the stage – ART readiness guide workshop
- March – April 2014: Selection of private clinics, network manager, training
- Sept 2014: Launch of HIV care and treatment services
- Feb – June 2015: Assessment and capacity building of Association of Private Clinics
Private sector assessment

Key findings and recommendations:

• Commercial providers have capacity to invest in medical supplies and training

• Concerns over confidentiality and quality of care in public sector deter many seeking HIV testing and treatment

**SHOPS to develop a network of private providers to expand access to HIV care and treatment in the private sector**
Setting the stage for partnership in Abidjan

- Assessed 26 private clinics, and selected 15 for the network
- Association of Private Clinics of Côte d’Ivoire chosen as the network manager
- Facilitated clinic accreditation and quality assurance in coordination with government agencies

SHOPS facilitated a new government mandate to provide ART commodities for the private sector free of charge
Dr. Anwanzi Ahui’s story

Dr. Anwanzi Ahui manages a clinic in Abidjan.

“Before, I did not offer medical care to people living with HIV and AIDS. I had to let my patients go. But I didn’t know what would happen to them. I dreamed of a day when I could offer a complete range of services.”
Key features of the private providers network

• Network Steering Committee: First true public-private collaboration on HIV/AIDS in Cote d’Ivoire
• Licensing of private facilities for free ART distribution
• Lab and testing support-CD4 testing by reference labs
• Project support for data collection and reporting

Promote healthy behaviors and generate demand for private sector HIV testing and treatment through:

- Health days
- Billboards
- Flyers
- T-shirts
- Counseling hotline
Key results since the September 2014 launch

- 195 providers trained
- 6,947 clients tested, 7.3% of clients (507) were HIV positive
- 131 clients new on ART
- Increased sustainability through leveraging of insurance and use of providers labs and staff
Challenges and opportunities

- On site testing for CD4
- Data collection burden for private providers
- Reaching clients who prefer private clinics and overcoming stigma
jeffrey_barnes@abtassoc.com

www.shopsproject.org