



## ***Open public-private health sector forums in Cote d'Ivoire advance collaboration and improve HIV service provision in Côte d'Ivoire***

Private Sector Health Project (PSHP) Poster Session

22<sup>nd</sup> International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam (July 26, 2018)

In Cote d'Ivoire, the private health sector provides 40% of total health-care services (EU 2008). Yet there has been limited public-private collaboration to develop a national HIV policy or coordinate health activities. Abt Associates started [working to support public-sector](#) stewardship of the private sector in 2013 by building on its private-sector assessment under the Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) project. Abt has continued this work since late 2015 under the Private Sector Health Project (PSHP). At the recent AIDS conference in Amsterdam, PSHP featured its poster "Creating open public-private forums can ensure the success of private-sector HIV and AIDS service delivery in Côte d'Ivoire." The poster received excellent feedback from participants and particular interest because of the private-sector engagement angle.

SHOPS and PSHP have worked with a broad range of public and private partners to advance multi-sectoral collaboration in [Côte d'Ivoire's HIV response](#). Nationally SHOPS worked with government and private-sector umbrella bodies to agree on and formalize the legal and regulatory permissions for the private sector to offer HIV care and treatment consistent with national policy. At the district level, PSHP established 12 public-private HIV and AIDS forums involving 150 private clinics in 16 health districts. The forums meet quarterly to discuss challenges and issues in HIV service provision and to facilitate the involvement of private providers in all district activities, including HIV service provision.

Open stakeholder forums enabled Abt to establish a strong legal, regulatory, and operational platform for private health-sector provision of HIV and AIDS services. The private sector now can offer government-provided antiretroviral therapy (ART) drugs free to clients. To date<sup>1</sup> 3,402 patients have been newly enrolled on ART. For the first time, private providers are reporting service statistics to the district and national health authorities through the Health Management Information System. As a result, the public sector has up-to-date and comprehensive information to improve coordination of HIV interventions across the public and private sectors and take ownership of responses at the national and local levels.

PSHP is now working to scale the public-private forum approach to additional high-prevalence districts by the end of September 2018. PSHP is helping ensure sustainability of these efforts beyond the project's life through a "district-led" approach. This means that PSHP private clinics will be able to continue implementing HIV and AIDS programs according to national policies and guidelines while benefiting from district-led supervision. The project is also empowering health officials to continue to advocate, organize and facilitate across public and private sectors.

### ***RESULTS: INCREASED REACH OF HIV PROGRAMS THROUGH PSHP***

- **1,309 private providers trained and integrated in all district activities, including HIV services**
- **70,264 people screened and counseled on HIV**
- **4,756 people identified as HIV positive**
- **Achieved 7.3% average yield (overall detection rate) compared with national average of 1%**

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<sup>1</sup> Results are from December 2015-March 2018.