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What is PHRplus?

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**Summary of HIV/AIDS Activities**

**Costing HIV/AIDS Treatment Services**

As countries begin to seriously explore introducing antiretroviral (ARV) treatment programs through the public sector, PHRplus is helping policymakers plan and cost comprehensive, country-specific ARV treatment programs through an easy-to-use AIDS TREAT COST (ATC) software tool.

In addition, PHRplus is working to help estimate the cost of scaling up ongoing ARV treatment programs. In Mexico, ARV treatment has been provided to people with social security insurance and to a small number of uninsured people since 1996. Recently, the Ministry of Health approved a strategic plan to expand access to ARV treatment to all uninsured people living with HIV/AIDS by 2006. PHRplus, together with Mexico’s National Institute of Public Health, is conducting a study to estimate the incremental costs of scaling up these services.

**Monitoring and Evaluating HIV/AIDS Programs: What Will It Cost?**

As countries expand their HIV/AIDS efforts, effective national-level monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems play a vital role in tracking the epidemic, evaluating progress made to control it, and prioritizing key activities to fund in resource-constrained environments. However, the M&E systems have costs too.

**Exploring the Potential of Community-Based Health Financing for HIV/AIDS**

PHRplus works with communities in sub-Saharan Africa to develop alternative financing mechanisms, such as community-based health financing schemes, to help more community members access critical health services. A number of schemes already 1) either offer limited coverage for HIV/AIDS services or provide referral services, 2) encourage HIV testing, and 3) promote HIV/AIDS prevention through health education and outreach.

PHRplus is continuing to explore how and to what extent these schemes can include HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care and support services as part of the basic benefits package offered to members.

**National Health Accounts, HIV/AIDS, and TB**

For national HIV/AIDS programs, an important part of effective management is keeping track of scarce resources. PHRplus has been working with more than 50 countries on National Health Accounts (NHA), a tool that helps program managers and policymakers track the sources and uses of health resources. In Rwanda, PHRplus adapted the NHA methodology to estimate expenditures for HIV/AIDS and TB.

As a next step, PHRplus is holding a series of regional workshops and conducting in-country surveys to build government capacity to assess HIV/AIDS and TB expenditures. By disaggregating these disease-specific expenditures from other health services, hospital administrators, program managers, and policymakers can review spending patterns and target scarce resources to areas where they are needed most.

**Southern Africa: A Regional Response to HIV/AIDS**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) nations have some of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world. Member countries face similar HIV/AIDS challenges and can benefit from a regional response to HIV/AIDS. By working together, they can take advantage of the comparative strengths of individual countries and reduce duplication in planning, management, and implementation of regional HIV/AIDS responses.

PHRplus, in collaboration with WHO, will provide SADC countries with tools to help them determine HIV/AIDS resource needs, improve resource allocation, and assist in long-term strategic planning for meeting increasing demand for services.
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PHRplus is working with several sub-Saharan African countries to estimate the costs of operating existing M&E systems and the additional costs of implementing expanded systems. These results can help policymakers design relevant, workable, and affordable M&E systems.

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