Task Shifting/Sharing for HIV Services in 26 PEPFAR-supported Countries: A Qualitative Assessment

Task shifting and sharing have been employed as strategies for addressing ongoing human resources for health shortages in low- and middle-income countries. Task shifting refers to moving tasks from a higher or more specialized cadre to a lower level cadre. Task sharing refers to team-based service delivery in which different cadres work together but perform different functions. Task shifting has been endorsed and has been long supported by the World Health Organization and PEPFAR and has been shown to be effective in increasing HIV service utilization and programmatic sustainability. Countries have integrated task shifting into their HIV programming in different ways. This assessment sought to explore the current status of task shifting policy development and implementation across PEPFAR priority countries with the aim of informing future PEPFAR investment in human resources and HIV service delivery models.

Methodology

Using an exploratory qualitative design, researchers conducted semi-structured interviews across 26 countries with 67 respondents with key insights into human resources for HIV services. Two countries, Nigeria and Tanzania, were identified by USAID Office of HIV/AIDS for more in-depth examination; two weeks of field work was conducted in each country. This report shares that methodology and results of the study.

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