

Linkages Across the Continuum of HIV Services for Key Populations Affected by HIV (LINKAGES) Project

Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-14-00045

DJIBOUTI
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

OCTOBER 31, 2017



LINKAGES Djibouti Quarterly Progress Report July 1 to September 30, 2017

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

As part of the initial steps toward developing a LINKAGES work plan for Djibouti, and upon USAID Djibouti mission request, a team of LINKAGES global staff and a consultant conducted an initial scoping visit from July 16 to August 5, 2017. The LINKAGES team met the main stakeholders in prevention and care for Key Population in Djibouti. The team started working with implementing partners (IPs) to develop a draft work plan given the existing constraints and opportunities. The work plan was submitted to the USAID mission on September 28, 2017. The transition between former USAID FHI 360 ROADS II project to the LINKAGES project was completed on September 1, 2017. During this quarter LINKAGES also completed recruitment of staff, with the exception of the Finance Manager. Staff started to join the project in September including the Project Director. All programmatic and operational startup activities are underway.

1. Summary of Key Results

- Conducted scoping visit and presented recommendations to USAID
- Developed and submitted project workplan and budget for FY18 to USAID
- Ensured smooth transition between ROADS II and LINKAGES projects
- Concluded major steps in recruitment process
- Selected implementing partners, conducted pre-awards assessments started subaward packages

2. Result Areas

LINKAGES developed work plan includes activities to increase availability of, and demand for, comprehensive HIV services, and to strengthen systems for planning, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and ensuring the quality of programs for key populations (LINKAGES 3 result areas).

As the LINKAGES developed the workplan for the project we focused on:

- Understanding the current state of key population programming in Djibouti and how activities fit into the national framework for epidemic control.
- Collaborating closely with the *Executive Secretariat* and the *Program Lutte contre le Sida de la Santé* to ensure the that the project efficiently supports the national program and efforts to fight HIV/AIDS.
- Consulting with local partner's representatives, other local implementers and beneficiaries including MSM, truck drivers and FSWs met during the scoping visit.
- Consulting with other international partners working on HIV/AIDS, particularly the United National Development program (UNDP) as principal recipient for the Global Fund activities in Djibouti.
- Designed a program focused on a strong peer outreach model to ensure individualized KPs identification, tailored services and follow-up along the cascade of services.

Prior to submission of the workplan, LINKAGES presented its findings and recommendations to USAID Djibouti team and USAID Washington DC in August. The feedback from USAID was incorporated into the workplan submitted on September 28, 2017. LINKAGES also hosted a visit from USAID Addis Ababa Mission's representative in September.

As part of work planning, the LINKAGES team planned a robust technical assistance support plan for quarter 1 of fiscal year 2018 to ensure a strong programmatic and technical start to the project when field implementation begins. Details are provided in Section 6. Major activities next three months.

3. Cross-cutting Issues

The work plan developed includes activities to address human rights, stigma and discrimination, gender-based violence, and capacity-building, particularly:

- Integration of violence prevention and response mechanism (VPR) into regular LINKAGES activities and coordination between relevant partners to ensure referrals and follow-up in case of violence.
- Planned training to reduce stigmatization and discrimination against KPs amongst health care providers using LINKAGES curriculum.

4. Management and Operations

- **Human Resources:**
 - *Recruitment:* The following staff have been selected through a competitive process: Project Director, Technical Advisor, M&E Advisor, Accountant, Administrative Assistant, Driver and Cleaner. The Project Director started mid-September. The M&E Advisor and Accountant started on September 1 under consulting agreements. All other staff selected will be in place during Q2. The Finance Manager position remains open as no strong local candidate has been identified.
 - *Local contracts:* FHI 360 has been working with Djibouti legal counsel to finalize staff contract templates and employee terms and conditions to ensure compliance with local labor laws. Contract templates will be ready at the beginning of Q1 and all local staff will be hired under full-time employee contracts.
- **Subaward development:** As per the workplan, local implementing partners Masaba, Réseau National Djiboutiens pour les personnes Positives (RNDP+) and Autre Regards were identified for service delivery activities and the Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes (UNDF) for cross-cutting activities, particularly VPR. Except Autre Regards all the other partners were previously partners under the ROADS II project. During this quarter LINKAGES consulted with local partners to develop the workplan. We also conducted new pre-award assessments as per FHI 360 sub-awards process and supported the partners on the development of their scope and budget.
- **Operations:**
 - *Coordination between ROADS II and LINKAGES:* FHI 360 coordinated operations transitions between the two projects to ensure continuity of operations, office and finance management and handover on equipment. The former ROADS II chief of party was hired as a consultant in September to lead the country office before the arrival of LINKAGES Project Director.
 - *Office space and equipment:* LINKAGES is actively looking for a new office space that will better comply with security requirements including having a larger parking space and adequate exits. Equipment from ROADS II are being transferred to LINKAGES as per the disposition plan. FHI 360 also hosts a container with equipment from the previous USAID Education project which were to be returned to USAID as per the disposition plan. During

this quarter, certain items were collected by a new USAID education project managed by the Education Development Center (EDC) as per USAID guidance. LINKAGES is interested in some of the remaining equipment and will submit a request to USAID accordingly.

5. Quarterly Financial Summary

Obligation	Expenditures this Quarter	Total Expenditures	Obligation Remaining
\$ 1,330,619	\$ 122,694	\$ 128,512	\$ 1,202,107

6. Major Activities Next Three Months (October to December 2017)

During the next three months in Djibouti, LINKAGES will:

- Train partners in monitoring and evaluation to ensure that partners can collect and report data as per LINKAGES cascade reporting requirements (November 2017)
- Conduct a training on LINKAGES methodology for community programmatic mapping through outreach work (November 2017 – costs covered by LINKAGES Core budget)
- Provide in-country technical assistance on peer navigation to address potential gaps in linkage to care and adherence (December 2017 – costs covered by LINKAGES Core budget)
- Conduct a violence prevention and response workshop in partnership with UNFD and the *Secrétariat Exécutif* (December 2017 – costs covered by LINKAGES Core budget)
- Finalize subawards with community partners and develop subawards with government partners *Secrétariat Exécutif* and *Program de Lutte contre le Sida de la Santé*.

7. Visuals

	
<p>PK 12 Resource Center (Public Private Partnership)</p>	<p>PK 12 near truck driver parking outside a restaurant (hotspot)</p>