Introduction

This final exercise in the CityMatCH MAPS series is designed to assist urban teams to take an updated look at their community’s challenges and generate strategies for investment and reengagement in their perinatal HIV prevention work. It combines elements from earlier MAPS and other parts of the CityMatCH toolkit with new steps to enable teams to recalibrate and refresh their work.

MAPS X is based on the Collaborative Planning Cycle (presented on the next page). The Collaborative Planning Cycle includes two interrelated cycles. The inner cycle includes an eight-stage process, emphasizing planning, action, and evaluation.

Urban Prevention Collaborative (UPC) teams have used this cycle, incorporating elements of readiness to work together, assessment of barriers and strengths, developing strategies, planning initiatives to seize opportunities for impact, implementing strategic actions, and monitoring progress and evaluation.

The outer cycle assumes that the local UPC team serves as a catalyst and champion as the community undergoes a parallel process, progressing through similar stages that mirror and depend upon those of the inner cycle. For example, a team’s assessment work (MAPS II, III) will foster greater ownership of the problems across both HIV and MCH sectors locally. Additionally, a UPC team’s work to develop prevention strategies based on local strength and weaknesses (IV, V) will foster shared investment and coordination.

To achieve the ultimate goal of eliminating mother-to-baby transmission of HIV, especially following years of hard work, will require re-engagement of essential partners and players for another chapter of even harder work and renewed investment for sustainability. MAPS X focuses on this essential last stage in the cycle—Investing and Reengaging.
MAPS (Mapping AIDS Prevention Strategies) is a series of CityMatCH-developed community tools for action planning.

MAPS X: Investment and Reengagement for Preventing Perinatal HIV Transmission

Figure 1: Collaborative Planning Cycle
MAPS X: Investment and Reengagement for Preventing Perinatal HIV Transmission

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MAPS X Exercise

In the beginning of the MAPS process, the Readiness Tent Tool was used to assess core elements of community readiness to implement strategic interventions identified through the MAPS process. The Readiness Tent facilitated team and community stakeholder conversations about five essential components required for significant change: clear reasoning for making recommended changes; clearly articulated, measurable results from planned interventions; defined and accepted roles of key people and institutions to make it happen; mutually understood risks and rewards from doing the work; and adequate resources to get the job done. This tool is useful to apply around specific interventions and initiatives your community may pursue.

From a systems perspective, prevention and elimination of perinatal HIV may become harder collaborative work to sustain over the long term. Securing commitments from diverse partners requires strategic and pro-active investment and reengagement—the final piece of the cycle. To go back around the circle again over the next five years may require greater “shelter” than a simple “tent” can provide.

MAPS X is about constructing more rigorous support for the next stage of perinatal HIV prevention efforts in your community. In this exercise, we move from tenting to framing a ‘community house’ that is large enough and strong enough to hold under one roof the essential elements for sustainable success.

First we will pour a new foundation for the next five years of work that reaffirms the problem and needed next results. Next, we will raise the five key support beams: leadership, capacity, collaboration, integration and resources. Then we will lay on the roof of reengagement and reinvestment. Here goes.
Step 1: Pour the Foundation:

After many years of collaborative work to address perinatal HIV transmission in your community, its magnitude, dimensions, context, and leading edges likely have changed. It is time for your team to ask again: so what is the problem now? Reengagement requires the ability to articulate a clear statement of the challenge and a redefinition of the measurable results that must be achieved in the next 5 years.

60 Second Snapshot 2010
In your team, develop a brief written statement that can be read aloud in no more than 60 seconds (about 200 words), which sums up the challenge of perinatal HIV in your community as it currently manifests and as you anticipate it to be in the next five years. This statement will become your team’s—and your community’s—common message about the current leading edge of the problem. It will put all partners on the same page about what is most important and what must change. Key elements of your problem statement should try to include who (and where) are the people most affected, what needs to change, by when change will happen, why it is critical to take on, and how change for the better is likely to come about. (Note: Use the worksheet provided on the next page to write out your snapshot. CityMatCH will pick up your snapshot at the end of the exercise for transcription.)

Headline News
Sum up your team statement in the form of a short phrase or headline that captures the most critical message you want to communicate about the challenge of perinatal HIV. This will serve as common language to anchor your communications. (Note: Use the worksheet provided on the next page to write out your snapshot. CityMatCH will pick up your snapshot at the end of the exercise for transcription.)
Investing and Reengaging

Headline

Snapshot
**Step 2: Raise the Support Beams**

Reinvestment over the next five years from key stakeholder institutions and partners requires the strategic alignment of five elements: leadership, capacity, collaboration, integration and resources. In your team, discuss what it will take in each of the domains to sustain progress toward the elimination of perinatal HIV.

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Building Sustainable “Housing”

[TO BE DEVELOPED – FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS TO TRANSLATE TEAM CONSENSUS OF STRENGTHS IN EACH DOMAIN INTO A LIKERT SCALE. EACH SCALE WILL BE DRAWN VERTICALLY FROM 1 AT THE BOTTOM TO 5 AT TOP IN THE ORDER ABOVE. THE CENTER VERTICAL SCALE FOR RESOURCES WILL GO FROM 1 – 7, THUS ADDING A PITCH TO THE ‘ROOF.’ TEAMS WILL THEN CONNECT THEIR SUPPORT BEAMS AT THE LEVEL OF THE SCALE PLOTTED FOR EACH, SHOWING THE OUTLINE OF THEIR SUSTAINABILITY ‘HOUSE.’]