

SDS Addendum for COP23 Y2/FY25

Executive Summary

PEPFAR Angola's COP23 Year 2 plan emphasizes continuity with the strategies outlined in COP23 Year 1, with no major shifts or changes planned. The program remains committed to refining the activities and strategies agreed upon in the COP23 Strategic Direction Summary (SDS) above, and awaits new data to provide further insight into the future direction of the program. At the time of COP23 Midterm Review, FY24 MER data, PEPFAR programmatic data, and the expected Demographic Health Survey (DHS) 2024 data as well as the military Seroprevalence and Behavioral Epidemiology Risk Surveys (SABERS) data were not yet available. Therefore, PEPFAR Angola will continue implementing the same strategy in Year 2, allowing time to thoughtfully monitor and evaluate the impact of Year 1 key changes. The team looks forward to using PEPFAR FY24 MER data, new DHS and SABERS data to inform on-going discussion with partners and stakeholders that will be most appropriate for COP24.

Several key changes in the overall program were agreed upon last year in Johannesburg and they have recently started in COP23 Year 1 (FY24 Q1). These include the expansion of interventions to priority sub-populations beyond Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), a shift towards a family-centered prevention and care approach, enhancement of laboratory services, including the implementation of community-based dried blood spot (DBS) sample collection, advocating for more diverse differentiated service delivery models, including community antiretroviral treatment (ART) distribution, scale up safe and ethical index case testing, and intensifying Tuberculosis (TB) screening and treatment efforts.

In COP23 Year 2, PEPFAR Angola will continue to implement and monitor these key changes that aim to strengthen clients' outcomes, community empowerment and leadership, and health systems, while sustaining progress towards achieving the program's objectives. Furthermore, in Year 2, PEPFAR Angola will prioritize the following additional activities:

- 1) Organization and monitoring effectiveness of both National and Provincial Technical Working Groups (TWGs),
- 2) Partnership and collaboration with INLS (National AIDS Institute) to further align PEPFAR investments with the national strategic vision, especially in health information systems and indicator alignment,
- 3) Reinforce and deepen strategic alignment and partnership with global HIV/AIDS and development partners including Global Fund, WHO, UNAIDS and the World Bank.

- 4) Click here to enter text.Capitalize on multi-national and local private sector core capacities such as WHO Central Funds and ExxonMobil Foundation engagements , investments, and innovations for strengthened public health system capabilities, across regional digital health such as e-Learning platforms (KASSAI) for continuous skills strengthening of facility and community-based health workers , laboratories, and community service delivery (funds through private sector engagement will be used to address food insecurity and transportation issues contributing to high IIT), while ensuring equitable access across population and income groups.
- 5) Investing in science, such as data from the DHS and SABERS, for data-driven decision-making that enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of innovative service delivery across the country's response efforts.
- 6) Fully engage with communities and civil society front including youth-led such as ANASO and ACODeF), women-led, and PLHIV organizations, to drive meaningful people-centered responses and reach sustained impact through community leadership.
- 7) Sustainability Roadmap development process, coordinated by UNAIDS.

1. COP23 Year 2 Strategic Changes & Key Agreements

1.1. Changes in COP23 Year 2

There are no significant geographic or strategic shifts for COP23 Year 2 planned for PEPFAR Angola. **New** decisions and agreements made during the in-country Mid-Term Review meeting in February 2024, that will occur in the rest of Year 1 and continue into Year 2 include:

- 1) Change PEPFAR support from 1 site in Benguela (CS Santa Teresa) to Hospital Municipal de Benguela, adjacente ao Aeroporto de Benguela, Bairro 70, Província de Benguela. The decision aligns with INLS vision and strengthens PEPFAR and Global Fund effectiveness in Benguela, where both donors are currently providing commodities and technical assistance (TA) for community and clinical HIV prevention, care and treatment and laboratory services.
- 2) Supporting the revision of the national care & treatment guidelines to include pALD (pediatric Abacavir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir), which will allow all eligible CLHIV to change this new 3-in-1 regimen
- 3) Aligning INLS definition of loss to follow up (LTFU) to WHO and PEPFAR definition, providing stronger data reporting to improve data quality
- 4) Explore “Sis-comunitario” HIS community tracking system features for drug dispensing register and monitoring to enable ARV community distribution.

- 5) Strengthened collaboration with the private sector to invest in HIV/AIDS community service delivery aimed at improving HIV/AIDS outcomes and promoting a resilient and healthy workforce.
- 6) Leverage digital technology to support workforce training, data collection and analysis, and health communication and messaging.
- 7) Revitalize technical working groups (TWGs), led by INLS, to align perspectives, strategies, and end-goals of in-country global HIV/AIDS and development partners and other key stakeholders.

1.2. Community & Civil Society Organization (CSO) Agreements

PEPFAR Angola will continue prioritizing community and CSO empowerment and collaboration in Year 2. This includes supporting community-led monitoring (CLM) through a TBD mechanism to provide funding to a local CSO to build off and expand what has been started in the previous funding cycle. PEPFAR Angola will also prioritize the results of CLM and Stigma Index 2.0 to be widely disseminated across all stakeholders to guide actionable quality improvement measures. Furthermore, PEPFAR Angola will continue to coordinate technical, organizational and institutional capacity strengthening of CSOs. The support will strengthen their ability to lead programming and absorb funds from PEPFAR, governments, and other donors.

1.3. Delayed or Ending Activities

PEPFAR Angola does not foresee any delayed or ending activities in COP23 Year 2.

2. Updated Tables (*FINAL TABLES FORTHCOMING WHEN TOOLS ARE FINALIZED*)

2.1. Updated Target Table:

PEPFAR Angola Targets

Indicator	2023 Results	2024 Targets	2025 Targets
HTS_TST	193,709	194,637	176,521
HTS_TST_POS	7,704	9,467	8,684
PMTCT_STAT	40,507	34,612	34,612
PMTCT_STAT_POS	1,739	1,393	1,566
PMTCT_ART	1,687	1,388	1,560
PMTCT_EID	1,770	1,470	1,969
TX_NEW	5,886	6,839	8,070
TX_CURR	24,955	31,722	34,169
TX_PVLS_D	9,487	17,172	18,740
TX_PVLS_N	8,722	16,317	17,805
TB_ART	368	473	338
TB_STAT	2,870	3,774	3,625

*2025 targets are still being finalized

- 2.2. For budget updates, add an updated version of tables B.1.1-B.1.4
- 2.3. For above site updates, add an updated version of table C. 1

3. USG Staffing Updates

PEPFAR Coordinator: The PEPFAR Angola team started COP23 Year 1 without a PCO, and relied on the support from HQ backstops from all agencies and GHSD to conduct the in-person Midterm Review meetings held in Luanda from February 5-9, 2024. The team is working tirelessly to fill the vacancy and a new PCO will be hired and join the team before the start of Year 2.

SI Specialist: Despite the committed efforts of PEPFAR Angola to recruit for the Strategic Information (SI) Specialist position, no qualified candidate was identified. In light of the \$1 million budget decrease in Year 2 and challenges in identifying qualified locally employed candidates, the interagency had agreed to cancel the position. The team will continue to leverage the SI support from agencies' HQ SMEs.

4. Priority Areas for Sustainability Roadmap *(Brief summary of priority areas for sustainability roadmap development discussions, based upon the review of COP23 investments in strengthening and sustaining public health systems)*

In contrast to other PEPFAR-supported countries, Angola holds a distinctive position in the development of the Sustainability Roadmap. While other OUs near or exceed 95-95-95 targets,

Angola will need to integrate and prioritize more sustainable solutions to reach these targets. In Angola's case, the roadmap can truly guide the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic going forward.

Following the insightful discussions on Sustainability led by UNAIDS at the COP23 Midterm Review, PEPFAR Angola identified crucial ongoing conversations essential for shaping a robust and practical Sustainability Roadmap in the coming year. Priority areas include:

- 1) Political Commitment: There is a demonstrated commitment from the Government of Republic of Angola (GRA) to prioritize health, as evidenced by discussions at high levels and the inclusion of health as a top priority in the national and health development plans. Despite past challenges, INLS is committed to working with PEPFAR Angola to continue to address challenges. There is opportunity for further engagement at all levels, especially at the Provincial level, and PEPFAR Angola will leverage the support and leadership from the Embassy Front Office as well as GHSD to continue strengthening the political commitment in Angola.
- 2) Primary Healthcare and HRH Investment: PEPFAR Angola must continue to invest in strengthening and sustaining public health systems beyond HIV and this must align with the GRA's overall vision and INLS' National Strategy, (PEN VII or Plano Estratégico Nacional de Resposta às ITS/VIH-SIDA e Hepatites Virais). Angola is investing significantly in human capital development, particularly in healthcare professionals. The government's plan to train 38,000 healthcare professionals over the next five years highlights a long-term commitment to strengthening the health workforce. There is a clear emphasis on strengthening primary healthcare systems, which is fundamental to achieving sustainable health outcomes. This includes efforts to expand access to healthcare services at the community level and need further discussion to guarantee alignment of investments from all donors, including PEPFAR.
- 3) Community Engagement: At the Midterm Review, there was recognition from all stakeholders of the importance of community engagement and empowerment in sustaining health interventions. Further discussions are needed to ensure efforts to mobilize communities and ensure community health initiatives are integrated into the roadmap and that the need for grassroots involvement is prioritized.
- 4) Quality Data to Drive Decision Making: Angola faces challenges with availability of high-quality inputs to be used to inform the Sustainability Roadmap development. While comprehensive data analysis is critical, stakeholders must continue discussions and strategize how to create a roadmap that accounts for the gaps in high-quality data available in Angola. The approach taken to conduct these analyses that will feed into the roadmap must be responsive to Angola's unique needs and challenges.

- 5) International Collaboration: Angola benefits from international support, namely PEPFAR and Global Fund, in the HIV/AIDS space. Additionally, there is also a focus on increasing domestic contributions and ownership. PEPFAR Angola and Global Fund must continue to collaborate and support the GRA and INLS in a balanced and aligned approach. This will ensure Angola retains control over its health agenda while leveraging external resources and expertise.
- 6) Private Sector Collaboration: Angola has a strong local and international private sector, such as oil companies, that relies on the health and wellbeing of their workforce. An opportunity exists to leverage the core capacities, investments, and innovations of both multinational and local private sectors to enhance the capabilities of the public health system and the implementation of the Sustainability Roadmap.

5. **Brief summary of PEPFAR resource commitments to the Sustainability Roadmap**
Development process vis a vis UNAIDS and country commitments to the process
(convening, consultants, or other resource commitments)

PEPFAR Angola actively contributes to the Sustainability Roadmap process through technical support, guidance, coordination and partnership, while also promoting community and CSO involvement and participation.

PEPFAR Angola is working closely with UNAIDS, INLS and stakeholders by sharing expertise, data and best practices, and will use the roadmap as the guide for transforming the response in future COP plannings. The forthcoming appointment of a new PCO will enhance PEPFAR's coordination with UNAIDS and other stakeholders, promoting a collaborative approach to roadmap development by aligning efforts, sharing information, and facilitating dialogue among partners. PEPFAR Angola will play an active role in the Sustainability TWG that UNAIDS is planning to put in place.

To support the roadmaps use of data, PEPFAR Angola has committed funds and technical support to a number of surveillance, research and evaluation surveys being planned by the INLS, including a national Interruption in Treatment (IIT) survey, Integrated biological & behavioral surveillance (IBBS) and ARV Resistance Study. This is in addition to the DHS and SABERS that are already ongoing. The gathered information will strengthen the foundation for the roadmap's informed decision-making and design process.