



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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January 19, 2024

ACTION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR RANDY BERRY, NAMIBIA

FROM: GHSD – U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator,
Ambassador Dr. John Nkengasong

THROUGH: Tara Reichenbach, Chair
Elizabeth Baldwin, PEPFAR Program Manager

SUBJECT: COP23 YEAR 2 / Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 PEPFAR Planned Allocation

Dear Ambassador Berry,

To reach the global HIV/AIDS 2030 goals, it is critical that PEPFAR investments and activities are aligned with the unique situation of the partner countries we are supporting. This requires that we continue to work together to operationalize the PEPFAR Five-year Strategy, helping partner countries achieve or exceed the 95/95/95 HIV treatment targets by 2025, as well as provide a strong and sustainable public health infrastructure that can be leveraged to tackle current and emerging disease threats.

Last year, we responded to stakeholder input by launching improvements to the COP process to make it more fit-for-purpose. This year, with the COP23 two-year plan, country teams are to collaboratively perform a Midterm Review to assess progress towards achieving the goals stated in COP23; identify significant programmatic shifts required to achieve COP23 goals in YR2 and reach 95/95/95 by 2025; and review COP23 investments in strengthening and sustaining public health systems to identify priority areas for sustainability roadmap development discussions. We anticipate a reduced level of effort for our country teams through limited revisions to the FAST, PASIT, SRE, Target Setting Tool (TST), and Supply Planning Tools (SPT). Any changes to COP23 should focus on significant strategic shifts, leveraging data and discussions during the FY23 Q4 POART, with intent to maintain an inclusive process, use data for decision making, maximize partnership

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and interagency collaboration, and pursue program and policy priorities efficiently for maximum impact. This year we included OU Chair recommendations for programmatic improvement for COP23 Year 1 implementation (Table 4). Additional resources such as the GHSD performance analysis have been provided to teams to help identify areas for improvement for Namibia to reach 95/95/95.

As our teams conduct the Midterm Review, these six priority considerations should be top of mind: (1) Assess new data and adjust implementation accordingly; (2) address performance gaps through policy actions and policy implementation; (3) lean into systems strengthening to sustain the response; (4) prioritize impact for the 1st 95 and for youth; (5) promote innovation and modernization; and (6) enhance interagency coordination and consistency across partners. I shared details on these priorities in our recent COM call and the COP/ROP All Hands Launch call and all PCOs have these presentations.

Consistent with the approach from years past, PEPFAR teams will be responsible for setting their own targets across PEPFAR program areas in consultation with stakeholders and in consideration of any updated epidemiologic data including surveys and surveillance, PLHIV estimates, program results that require significant adjustment, and any new macro dynamics (e.g., social, political, economic, GF GC7) at the country level. PEPFAR targets are not PEPFAR's but flow directly from the Government of Namibia's commitment to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 target of ending the global AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 while also advancing interdependent SDGs. System gaps that inhibit achieving impact should be identified and addressed with a view to the systems improvements needed to sustain impact in the future.

Convening with our partners to review country programs is our most important collaborative act. I have full confidence in our highly skilled teams and their ability to guide the process for the Midterm Review, with governments, communities, civil society, faith-based organizations, and other partners continuing to assume a more active role. Our shared goal to end HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 should be the overarching motivation for all participants in the Midterm Review. As we proceed with the COP Midterm Review, we must all strive to uphold the PEPFAR Guiding Principles: respect/humility, equity, accountability/transparency, impact, and sustained engagement. We ask that teams engage the same discussants from the country that were invited to join the COP23 co-planning

meetings, ensuring that both the technical needs (health, finance) and political needs (foreign affairs, private sector) are well represented.

Creating a safe and healthy space for community/civil society engagement will continue to be an integral part of this process. In alignment with efforts by the U.S. government to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as well as to advance equity for underserved communities and prevent and combat discrimination or exploitation based on race, religion, age, gender identity, or sexual orientation, PEPFAR will work to ensure that these principles are upheld, promoted, and advanced in all PEPFAR programs and in the manner we conduct business.

As a reminder, we established notional levels for this year’s COP23 Year 2 process at the beginning of the last COP cycle, anticipating minimal changes assuming a relatively steady availability of resources for PEPFAR. However, upon compiling, finalizing, and reviewing our overall financial outlook for COP23 Year 2, we find it necessary to adjust those notional levels. These adjustments, primarily in the form of reductions totaling approximately \$120 million across the COPs, are essential due to continued decreases in available pipeline and prudent risk management amidst uncertainties in the appropriations process.

The PEPFAR COP23 **Year 2 budget for Namibia is \$76,000,000**, inclusive of all new funding accounts and applied pipeline.

Table 1: Total OU Funding

Op Div	Bilateral GHP-State	Central GHP-State	Bilateral GHP-USAID	Central GHP-USAID	GAP	Total New	Applied Pipeline	Year 2 TOTAL
HHS/CDC	\$39,144,408	\$-			\$1,487,500	\$40,631,908	\$1,526,878	\$42,158,786
PC	\$598,948	\$-				\$598,948	\$617,052	\$1,216,000
USAID	\$21,066,546	\$403,000	\$-	\$-		\$21,469,546	\$7,018,873	\$28,488,419
USAID/WCF	\$2,943,287	\$-		\$400,000		\$3,343,287	\$196,713	\$3,540,000
State	\$117,504	\$-				\$117,504	\$-	\$117,504
State/AF	\$479,291	\$-				\$479,291	\$-	\$479,291
TOTAL FUNDING	\$64,349,984	\$403,000	\$-	\$400,000	\$1,487,500	\$66,640,484	\$9,359,516	\$76,000,000

Table 2: Congressional Directive Controls

	FY24	TOTAL
C&T	\$35,466,964	\$35,466,964
OVC	\$17,050,873	\$17,050,873
GBV	\$2,757,210	\$2,757,210
Water	\$50,000	\$50,000

**Only GHP-State and GHP-USAID will count towards the Care and Treatment and OVC earmarks*

***Only GHP-State will count towards the GBV and Water earmarks*

Table 3: Programmatic/Initiative Controls

	Bilateral	Central	TOTAL
Total Funding	\$75,197,000	\$803,000	\$76,000,000
Core Program	\$74,239,664	\$-	\$74,239,664
Cervical Cancer	\$957,336	\$-	\$957,336
Condoms (GHP-USAID Central Funding)	\$-	\$400,000	\$400,000
USAID Southern Africa Regional Platform	\$-	\$403,000	\$403,000

As in previous years, OUs may request limited changes to these controls working with their Chair/PPM and Management and Budget Liaison, who will work with GHSD leadership. Details of the control change request parameters and process will be distributed prior to the co-planning meetings. GHSD does not set a formal control for Community Led Monitoring (CLM); however, OUs must continue to program appropriately for CLM and discuss shifts in CLM-funded levels during the Midpoint Review.

Table 4: Chair Recommendations for Programmatic Improvement in COP23-YR1

- **Optimize human resources for health** to ensure a well-trained, strategically deployed and maintained health workforce, which underpins the success and sustainability of all other health and HIV investments. In FY 2023 human resources for health (HRH) represented nearly 40% of PEPFAR Namibia’s bilateral funding and almost 18% of the Government of Namibia’s established health positions. Although year after year there has been little change in PEPFAR’s investment in HRH, great strides have been made by the MoHSS to lay the groundwork for a sustainable workforce including the development of a national HRH strategy, the ongoing reform of the national community health workforce program, and the roll-out of the iHRIS database to ensure a fit-for-purpose workforce. PEPFAR Namibia should continue to support the Government of Namibia to increase sustainable

investments in HRH, utilize accurate and timely data, and support the GRN in developing a transition plan for critical donor-funded HRH in line with the sustainability roadmap.

-Strengthen health information systems to ensure a sustainable HIV response and to improve client outcomes. For the last 18 years, PEPFAR Namibia has provided support to the MoHSS to strengthen health information systems; however key challenges persist. These include a lack of interoperability between multiple data systems, a need for digitization, limited access to existing systems for program staff at all levels, and the absence of client level data tracked through a unique identifier. PEPFAR Namibia should continue to support the MoHSS to urgently address these remaining gaps, building from and utilizing data from the health information systems assessment and ensuring alignment with the e-Health strategy.

-Support sustainability and roadmap planning. The Government of Namibia has set ambitious targets within the National Strategic Framework to attain 97-97-97 by 2028, beyond the UNAIDS 95-95-95 by 2025 target. Government of Namibia's leadership has been at the forefront of planning for a sustainable, integrated, and multisectoral HIV response and has led a series of stakeholder meetings to lay the groundwork for the sustainability roadmap planned for completion in 2024. PEPFAR Namibia should continue to support the Government of Namibia to launch the sustainable HIV program roadmap plan, which should be government-led, technically sound, people-centered, transformative, and upholds the right to health for all.

Please note that within the next few days our GHSD Chairs and PEPFAR Program Managers (PPMs), working closely with our headquarters support teams, will review this planning letter and details contained herein, with your wider PEPFAR country team.

We look forward to engaging with you throughout the Midterm Review process and working with all partners to identify any significant strategic shifts needed to address the barriers that prohibit reaching 95/95/95 by 2025 through a lens of PEPFAR's 5x3 strategic direction, aligned with your country's national program.

Thank you for your continued leadership and engagement during the COP23 Midterm Review.

Sincerely,

John Nkengasong

CC: GHSD – Rebecca Bunnell, Principal Deputy Coordinator (A)
GHSD – Irum Zaidi, Deputy Coordinator
GHSD – Tara Reichenbach, Chair
GHSD – Elizabeth Baldwin, PEPFAR Program Manager
Namibia PCO – Cheryl Amoroso, PEPFAR Coordinator