

TOWARDS AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION

HEALTH POLICY PLUS Supports PEPFAR's Drive to Reach HIV Treatment, Care, Support Targets

Health Policy Plus (HP+) is a USAID- and PEPFAR-funded five-year cooperative agreement (2015–2020) with a ceiling of \$185 million, awarded to Palladium (formerly Futures Group) and partners in August 2015. HP+ builds on extensive experience, tools, approaches, and policy advances garnered through the consortium's nearly 40 years of leadership on global health projects, most recently the Health Policy Project (HPP).

HP+ helps countries achieve their goals. The project develops sustainable solutions to support achievement of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 90-90-90 targets, sustained HIV epidemic control, and realization of the 2015 World Health Organization (WHO) Treatment Guidelines. Reaching these goals and implementing the detailed guidelines will require not only adequate and predictable financing, but also policies that protect human rights, eliminate stigma and discrimination (S&D), strengthen supply chains and service delivery, and engender accountable and transparent health systems.

HP+ helps USAID realize PEPFAR 3.0's five action agendas.

Impact HP+ partners have a long history of expertise producing and using data to influence policy and programmatic decisions focused on impact. With tested tools and approaches for impact modeling, geo-targeting, service optimization, evidence dissemination, and advocacy, HP+ helps countries target and tailor their responses to reach specific populations (such as female adolescents) and geographic areas, ensuring that PEPFAR's investments yield maximum impact.

Human Rights Using comprehensive assessment techniques and policy advocacy approaches, such as the Decision Model and S&D Reduction Package, HP+ helps countries address human rights challenges faced by people living with HIV (PLHIV) and key populations, improving access, uptake, and long-term retention within comprehensive HIV services.

HP+ strengthens civil society competencies, social capital, and access to resources to address discriminatory laws and policies that threaten to erase gains made in

HP+ Focus Areas

Policy. *Promote policies that are country-led, inclusive of all voices, based on evidence of priority needs and best practices, and supported through adequate financing.* HP+ builds on experience assisting governments to formulate policies for antiretroviral therapy (ART) scale-up, such as the Kenya AIDS Strategic Framework 2014/15–2018/19, Tanzania National Multisectoral Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS, and Kenya's Key Populations Policy. These policies remove structural barriers and provide financing to reach scale and achieve country and PEPFAR goals.

Financing. *Maximize resources through domestic resource mobilization, efficiency gains, and private sector engagement for priority services and commodities.* HP+ is analyzing the additional cost of "test and offer" shifts in several countries, and is working with the PEPFAR Mozambique team to analyze the cost of moving toward implementation of 2015 WHO guidelines.

Governance. *Operationalize effective government stewardship and principles of accountability, transparency, participation, and inclusion.* HP+ builds on HPP experience to increase access to services and enhance efficiency through improved health governance. In Mombasa, Kenya, HPP's county-led facilitation approach enabled county health staff to identify human resource management deficiencies and reallocate resources, which increased access to treatment by improving the availability of health workers and reducing wait times.

Advocacy. *Advance evidence-informed leadership, advocacy, and decision making at global, national, subnational, and local levels.* The Jamaican Network of Seropositives created a Positive Health, Dignity, and Prevention curriculum, which promotes community leadership at the country level and includes a treatment literacy module that enables participants to practice and share steps for maximizing the benefits of ART.

<http://www.healthpolicyplus.com>



Stigma and Discrimination

HP+ uses its S&D Reduction Package to reduce barriers to access and increase uptake of services. Drawing on experience in nine countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and South and Southeast Asia, the package includes a globally validated and standardized measurement questionnaire; training “menus” and materials; and action planning, codes of conduct development, and a facility checklist.

controlling the epidemic. By strengthening the capacity of PLHIV, key populations, and communities, and through its support to PEPFAR teams, HP+ ensures deeper engagement of those most affected by the epidemic in the design of policies and programs that are responsive to communities’ needs. HP+ builds upon the Gender and Sexual Diversity (GSD) training curriculum to reduce workplace discrimination while strengthening PEPFAR programming to meet the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Gender and Sexual Diversity

HPP conducted the GSD training in 38 countries for more than 2,800 participants representing PEPFAR, implementing partners, and the United Nations.

Efficiency PEPFAR has a renewed focus on site-level efficiency, increasing service quality without increasing cost. Through costing and financial analyses linked to the ART cascade, HP+ helps countries understand resource requirements to effectively achieve 90-90-90 and epidemic control targets. PEPFAR suggests further rationalization of resource spending by geographically targeting investments for scale-up. Building on previous work on geo-mapping HIV service delivery and prevention interventions (conducted with PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), HP+ assists local teams with implementing PEPFAR’s strategic pivot to high-

burden locations. HP+’s experience measuring and linking expenditures to site- and above-site-level results and health outcomes improves program-level efficiencies.

Sustainability Unlocking domestic financing for HIV is key to achieving long-term sustainability in the response to HIV and AIDS. Working from a systems perspective, HP+ partners with and strengthens the capacity of civil society to build the business case and advocate effectively. The project supports the Sustainable Financing Initiative (SFI) through evidence-based advocacy efforts with parliamentarians, ministries of finance, and senior government officials to secure and utilize enhanced domestic funding for the scale-up of HIV programming, including budget provisions for essential commodities and innovative financing tools such as HIV and AIDS trust funds.

Engaging the private sector and improving coordination among government, implementers, the private sector, and civil society is also essential to sustainability. HP+ unlocks the potential of these linkages through systems-oriented capacity development approaches, which include citizen forums, service charters, complaint-handling mechanisms, and citizen mechanisms to monitor ART supply. HP+ also creates a platform for countries to share experiences with public-private partnership models such as land grants, tax benefits, and incentives to offer subsidized or free care to lower income quintiles.

Partnership HP+ convenes and facilitates collaboration among multiple sectors and partners to fulfill their shared responsibility to PLHIV. Through initiatives such as HPP’s GeoHealth Mapping, Blueprint for the Provision of Comprehensive Care for Trans People and Trans Communities in Asia and the Pacific, and the Local Capacity Initiative, HP+ provides a platform for continued partnership among PEPFAR, UN agencies, the Global Fund, and national governments. HP+ will continue to advance evidence-informed advocacy and decision making by serving as a convening partner—bringing together international organizations; the public, private, and nonprofit sectors; and civil society to jointly plan and pursue policy reforms.

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