

# HIV Policy Scan and Action Plan

*Webinar Series: Five Ways to Accelerate Progress  
Toward the 95-95-95 Goals*

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# Outline

1. Importance of policy in the HIV response
2. Legal environment assessments
3. HP+ HIV policy scan and action plan
4. Applications: Ghana and Lesotho experiences
5. Questions and discussion





# Importance of Policy in the HIV Response

# Foundations for Achieving HIV Programmatic Outcomes

- ✦ Legal and regulatory framework
  - Acts of Parliament
    - National Health Acts
- ✦ National policies (or state or provincial policies under decentralized systems), including public financing for policies
  - National HIV Strategy
  - National HIV Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy
- ✦ Operational policies
  - ART Guidelines
  - HIV Testing Guidelines

# Policy Barriers

- ✦ Policy barriers are policy issues that negatively influence a country's ability to respond to HIV and can affect decision-makers, service providers, and clients.
- ✦ Policy barriers can include:
  - Absent policies
  - Insufficient policies
  - Contradictory policies
  - Restrictive policies
  - Good policies that aren't being implemented

# Policy Analysis

## + Policy analyses are meant to:

- Ensure international best practices are reflected in a country's response
- Promote sustainability of the HIV response throughout a country
- Strengthen capacity of countries to manage their response

## + Examples:

- HIV policy scan and action planning
- UNDP legal environment assessments
- Political economy analysis



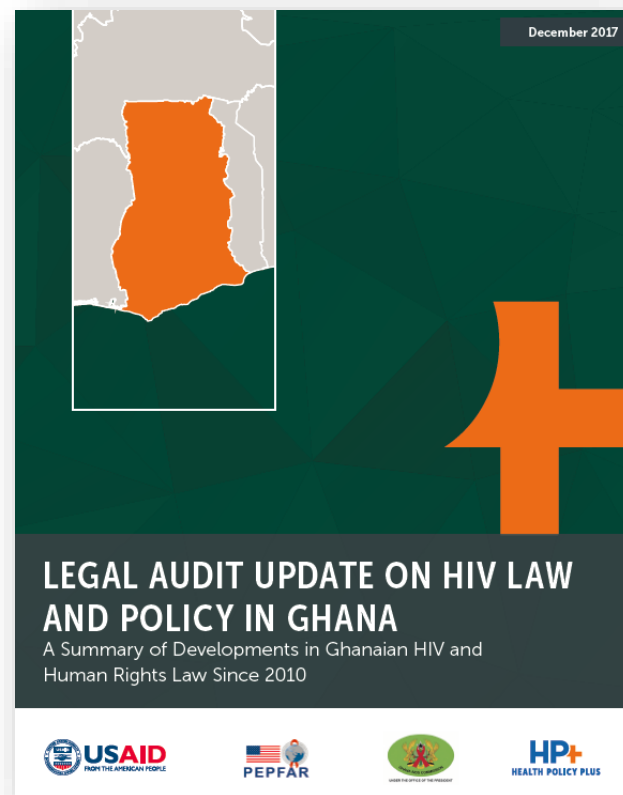
# Legal Environment Assessments (LEAs)

# Example: Ghana Legal Environment Assessment

- + 2010 legal environment assessment conducted on human rights environment
- + In 2017, HP+ conducted a review of policy recommendations from 2010 analysis and qualitative interviews with Ghana AIDS Commission staff on use of data for decision making

## Finding:

- + Ghana AIDS Commission used 2010 recommendations in drafting 2016 Ghana AIDS Commission Act





# Example: Ghana Legal Environment Assessment (cont.)

## + Findings

- Of the 29 policy recommendations in 2010, by 2017 the government of Ghana: fully addressed 16; partially addressed 11; did not address 2

## + Example

- **Recommendation:** The law or policy should mandate that victims of sexual abuse have access to post-exposure prophylaxis nationwide.
- **Addressed:** Fully
- **Explanation:** The *2016 Guidelines for Antiretroviral Therapy in Ghana* include the provision that all victims of sexual abuse, regardless of age or sex, should be offered post-exposure prophylaxis.



# HIV Policy Scan and Action Planning (PSAP)

# Application of HIV Policy Scan and Action Planning

## + Primary focus:

- To identify policy barriers within the HIV continuum of care, treatment, and prevention focusing on priority areas that improve service delivery
- Review policy barrier challenges to differentiated care uptake
- Country teams can also focus the HIV PSAP to address key populations, women and girls, or pediatric or adolescent care
- ***Satisfies the PEPFAR LEA requirement (PEPFAR COP 2018)***

# HIV Policy Scan and Action Planning

- ✦ The HP+ HIV Policy Scan and Action Planning approach allows PEPFAR country teams to:
  - **Analyze** existing HIV-related policies and their implementation
  - **Identify** and prioritize HIV service gaps related to the continuum of HIV prevention, care, and treatment
  - **Engage** stakeholders to develop country-specific policy, regulatory, and legal reform action plans to achieve HIV response targets

# Application

- ✦ The HIV PSAP process has been implemented in concentrated and general epidemics
  - Children's HIV consent and confidentiality
  - Increase HIV testing yield
    - Partner notification
  - Civil society organization (CSO) access to HIV commodities
- ✦ Example areas for further application:
  - Test and treat policy uptake
  - Treatment and retention initiatives
  - Differential models of care (e.g., multi-month scripting and lay counselor HIV testing)
  - HIV testing and ART guidelines (e.g., switch to tenofovir, lamivudine, and dolutegravir regimens)

# HIV Policy Scan and Action Plan

## + Methodology

- Quick
- Effective
- Flexible
- Action-oriented
- Cost-effective

# CSO Enabling Environment Framework Tool

## + Key areas:

- Enabling legal environment
- Partnership and consultation
- Service delivery and accountability
- Strategic information and awareness

CSO Enabling Environment Framework	Policy Findings
<p><b>Enabling Legal Environment</b></p> <p>Extent to which CSOs can register as non-profits, volunteer organization, member organizations, etc.? (CIVICUS Monitor/SID)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including CSOs representing vulnerable or marginalized groups?</li> </ul> <p>Extent of government regulation on the CSO community. (CIVICUS Monitor/SID)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the government regulate CSOs actions or work? Particularly with criminalized populations?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partnership and consultation (UNAIDS Guidance)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which civil society sector representation in HIV efforts inclusive of diverse organizations (NCPI)</li> <li>• Extent to which civil society representatives have been involved in planning and budgeting processes for the NSP on HIV (NCPI)</li> <li>• Has the country ensured "full involvement and participation of civil society in the development of the multi sectoral strategy"? (NCPI)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Service delivery and accountability (UNAIDS Guidance)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability of CSOs to access adequate financial and technical support to implement HIV activities, both domestically and internationally (SID and NCPI)</li> <li>• Mechanisms in place for government, civil society organization and private sector for implementing HIV strategies/programmes (NCPI)</li> <li>• Programmes supported by civil society (NCPI)</li> <li>• Global Fund funding to CSOs (NCPI)</li> <li>• Laws or policies that restrict civil society from playing an oversight role in the HIV/AIDS response (SID)</li> <li>• The legislative and regulatory framework conducive to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) or not-for-profit organizations to engage in HIV service provision or health advocacy? (SID)</li> <li>• Are CSOs enabled through country guidelines to provide differentiated models of HIV care? (Differentiated Care) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ What services are they providing and how?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Government contracting for CSO services?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strategic Information and Awareness (UNAIDS Guidance)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent civil society included in the M&amp;E on the HIV response? (NCPI)</li> <li>• Developing of the national M&amp;E plan? (NCPI)</li> <li>• Participating in the national M&amp;E committee? (NCPI)</li> <li>• Participate in using data for decision making (SID)</li> <li>• Number of organizations involved in joint national programme reviews or evaluations? (NCPI)</li> </ul>	

# HIV Policy Scan and Action Planning Process





# Service Gap Prioritization

+ Identification of area of focus can be done by:

- PEPFAR country team priorities
- Review of service delivery data to identify services that aren't meeting targets
- Facilitated stakeholder review of data and prioritization of policy focus

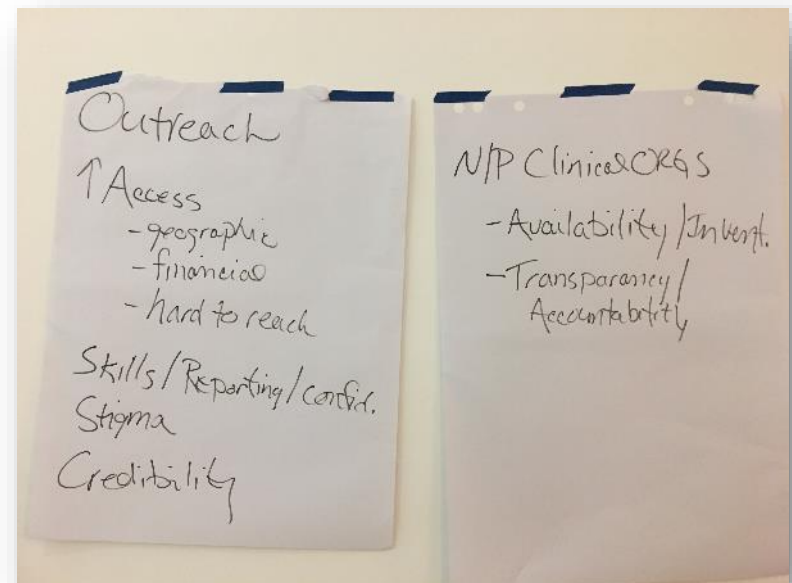
# Identify Policy Barriers

## + Identify policy standards

- Key international/regional guiding documents for selected service area
- Identify policy issues in place but not being implemented
- Identify gender, discrimination, and human rights implementation issues
- Collect available policy documents

## + Identify policy advocacy recommendations

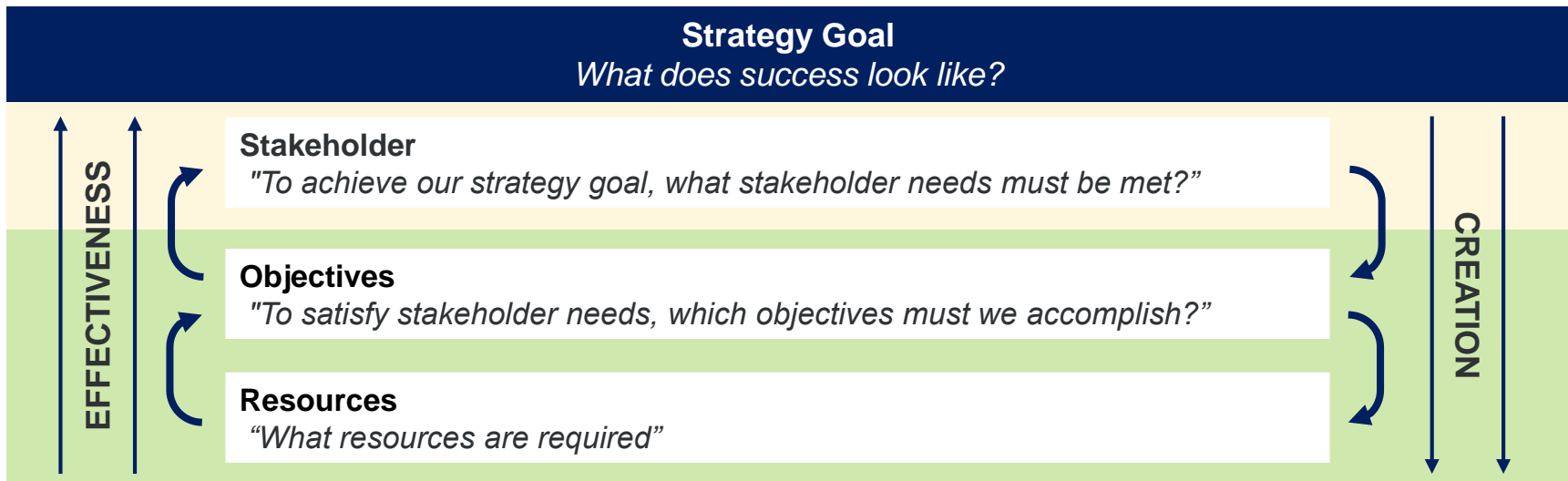
- Advocacy to add, change, or repeal a law, policy, or guideline
- Advocacy to improve uptake and implementation of an existing policy



# Develop Action Plans

## + Stakeholders develop a strategy map

- A one-page tool that shows a causally linked, complete view of how to accomplish the Strategy Goal





# Questions

# HIV PSAP Applications



# HIV Policy Scan and Action Planning Process



# Strategy Goal: Partner notification services are incorporated in the revised HTS Policy

Stakeholder needs to be addressed by partner notification

## MOH and Development Partners

Achieve 90-90-90 targets by 2020

## Health Service Providers

Improve the health of the individual and community

## Clients and Partners

Maintain confidentiality and stay healthy

Meeting the needs of stakeholders facilitates support for policy and effective implementation

Design, approval and implementation outcomes

## Design

1. Partner notification policy aligns with international standards
2. Partner notification integrated into comprehensive HIV services
3. Partner notification policy addresses the needs of stakeholders

## Approve

4. Support obtained from representatives of people living with HIV
5. Support obtained from representatives of health service providers
6. Approval obtained from government of Lesotho

## Implement

7. Partner notification rolled out nationally
8. Health service providers implement partner notification effectively
9. Communities support partner notification services

Resources

People

Technology and Tools

Resources

# Lesotho—HIV PSAP Highlights

1. HIV testing yield prioritized by stakeholders
2. Policy analysis provided several policy recommendations
  - Self-testing, social contracting for CSO service delivery, PrEP, lay counselor job description and salary policy, and partner notification under consideration
  - *Partner notification identified by PEPFAR and the Ministry of Health as a priority for action planning*
3. Partner notification action plan developed
  - Partner notification services being incorporated into revised HIV testing strategy



# Ghana—HIV PSAP Highlights

1. Policy issue identified by stakeholders was access to HIV testing commodities by CSOs and faith-based organizations (FBOs)

2. Policy analysis provided several policy recommendations

- **Test kit stock-outs**

- Increasing role of CSOs
- Significant funding constraints
- Parallel donor and GHS/NACP systems
- No written protocols

3. Action plan developed for clear standard operating procedure on reporting HIV/TB commodity requisition to CSOs, FBOs, and private providers

# Application of HIV PSAP—CSO Module

## + Ghana CSO process:

- Need for guidelines on multi-month scripting
- Private sector providers engaging in such services
- Government interviews, guidelines, and other documents noted policies developed



# Road Map

Destination: Clear and consistent written standard operating procedures (SOPs) exist and are implemented to facilitate HIV/TB commodity requisition and reporting between FBO/CSO/private providers and Ghana Health Service.

## Ghana Health Service, for-profit providers, non-profit providers, outreach organizations

S1: Improve access to HIV/TB services  
S2. Increase accountability  
S3. Consistent inventory

S4. Competitive business component  
S5. Contribute to community health  
S6. Credibility as a provider

### SOP Development

P1. Reflects needs of stakeholders

P2. Aligns with national response

P3. Ensures standardized storage and distribution

### Advocacy

P4. Understanding of SOP content

P5. Agreement with SOP

P6. Approval of SOP

### SOP Implementation

P7. Implementation capacity

P8. Standardized implementation

P9. Effective implementation

People/Skills

Funding

Tools/Technology

Stakeholder

Process

Resources

# Conclusion

- The HIV PSAP process can provide focused analysis on barriers to prioritized service areas and action plans in a short timeframe.
- The HIV PSAP process can be adapted to the needs of in-country stakeholders.
- Action plans facilitate policy change, create wins, and support long-term sustainability of a country's response.

# Thank You

## + Ghana

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# Questions