



UNCLASSIFIED

January 14, 2020

INFORMATION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR FITE, Angola

FROM: S/GAC – Ambassador Deborah L. Birx, MD

SUBJECT: FY 2020 PEPFAR Planned Country Allocation and Strategic Direction

Dear Ambassador Fite:

First, I wanted to personally thank you and Deputy Chief of Mission for your dedication to PEPFAR and working every day to achieve the most possible with the United States taxpayers' dollars. The ability to translate these resources into effective and impactful programming has and continues to be core to our collective progress. Last year you embarked on a new strategy in support of the First Lady of Angola to ensure all pregnant women know their HIV status and have immediate access to treatment and support as well as all family members. We know it's early in execution, and we are excited about the opportunity this approach holds to address the HIV epidemic in Angola. Early progress has been demonstrated in:

- Successfully transitioning from a key populations-focused program based in Luanda to one centered on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) in four provinces: Benguela, Cunene, Huambo, and Lunda Sul.
- Conducting a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) that has laid a good foundation upon which to launch COP19.
- DOD's implementing partner Charles Drew University achieving 142.4% of its TX_NEW target.

We did want to highlight both overarching issues we see across PEPFAR and a few specific to Angola. Full details will follow in a more comprehensive letter from your S/GAC Chair and PPM.

Throughout the PEPFAR family of supported countries and communities, five gaps are shared across the globe holding us collectively back from achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 related to controlling the HIV AIDS epidemic:

1. Continued new HIV infections in adolescents and young women
2. Supporting key populations with prevention and treatment services
3. Ensuring men are diagnosed and treated early (testing positive and new on treatment (linkage surrogate))
4. Ensuring 15-35-year-old asymptomatic clients are maintained on treatment and virally suppressed (net new on treatment and treatment current growth, (retention surrogate))
5. Ensuring all children are diagnosed and are on the best treatment regimens and virally suppressed

Moreover, we note the following challenges specific to the PEPFAR Angola program:

- Overspending during COP 18/ FY19 is a concern. Vigilance about keeping programming within the confines of budget limitations will be important going forward. Despite a 23% over-outlay, the program did not find PLHIV at the right levels under COP18, nor were clients linked to treatment at program target levels.
- Supply chain deficiencies, such as stock-outs, remain a barrier that we recognize will impact the program's ability to reach key targets. This barrier is due in part to supply chain and policy issues largely beyond the control and scope of the current program. Nevertheless, technical assistance in this area should be enhanced to help achieve targets.
- The Government of Angola's failure to adopt TLD guidelines and transition to this new WHO-recommended treatment regimen is a challenge encapsulating a larger issue: a disconnect between the government's stated political will and a truly committed HIV response. PEPFAR Angola should, nonetheless, redouble efforts to provide technical assistance to ensure national policies and guidelines align with WHO standards, especially around Test and Start, MMD, and ART regimen optimization. These priorities remain unchanged from last year, but progress has been halting.

In a recent Office of Inspector General audit around PEPFAR coordination, there were four draft preliminary recommendations based on their discussions with PEPFAR staff in the field from four countries; three of their recommendations are relevant to this Country Operational Plan planning cycle related to target setting, tool development, and timelines.

Although we just received the draft report a few days ago we did not want to wait another COP cycle to make substantive changes related to the recommendations. The first was around targets and target-setting and the need for a clear and transparent understanding and dialogue in establishing targets. PEPFAR targets are not PEPFAR's, but flow directly from the UNAIDS Fast Track Strategy of 2016. Since 2016, both the PEPFAR strategy and targets were directly derived from the global communities of UNAIDS, WHO, and specifically Heads of State in their commitment to SDG 3 and are aligned to support the country's specific ambition towards those goals.

The global community in 2015 through their Heads of State committed to achieving SDG 3.3 by 2030 which for HIV is ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a public health threat. This was followed by a United Nations High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in June 2016, whereby these Heads of State committed to the 90/90/90 Fast Track Strategy. Essential to the strategy was 73% community viral load suppression (VLS) by 2020 and 86% community VLS by 2030 combined with increased prevention interventions and zero stigma and discrimination to ensure all ages, genders, and risk groups have access to life saving prevention and treatment services.

Also, in 2016, 22 PEPFAR-supported high HIV burden countries committed to the three Frees of Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free with 2020 targets of a decrease in new infections in children to 20,000, 85% of pregnant women on ART, AGYW new infections to < 100,000, 90% of children on ART, and 25 million VMMC's. Since 2016 PEPFAR and the GF resources have been focused on achieving these global goals that have been translated to each country by UNAIDS and subsequently supported financially and technically by the PEPFAR family.

Since 2016, PEPFAR has utilized these global commitment targets as PEPFAR targets with the commensurate increased funding to countries in 2016, 2017, and 2018 to achieve the goals set out by the Heads of State. Many countries have made tremendous progress towards these targets and others need to accelerate. Angola is a country that needs to accelerate, and we are hopeful that this new strategy will move Angola forward towards achievement of the SDG 3.3. Over the past 4 years, PEPFAR resources were allocated based on need, performance, and specifically on the country's and communities' desire to achieve the SDG, Fast Track Strategy, and Three Free goals and country specific targets.

Based on the OIG recommendation, S/GAC will take a different approach this year to target-setting. Our collective hope is that together we use this moment of reflection on progress and challenges along with the realization that the end of 2020 is only 11 months away to address these overarching challenges this year through COP 2019 implementation, and use COP 2020 to maintain our progress, address any ongoing challenges, and finally fund ambition for greater impact. Thus, S/GAC will not assign targets to countries but only provide notional budget levels. After the PEPFAR country team submits their targets the notional budget will then be adjusted to the presented level of ambition. Additional funding is available as ambition funding for treatment and VMMC.

The PEPFAR Country Operational Plan (COP 2020) notional budget is **\$12,710,000** inclusive of all new funding accounts and applied pipeline and reflects the following:

1. Sustaining the gains in treatment services based on your projected COP 2019 treatment result (FY 2020 treatment current funded in COP 2019) \$10,850,000
 - a. The care and treatment budget is determined by your new strategy including all aspects of the health system inclusive of human resources, laboratory and systems, commodities (exclusive of RTKs) as applicable, and an upward adjustment from FY19 treatment current to the FY2020 treatment current fully burdened cost of treatment services and commodities, and 100% of program management costs and data needs
 - b. This budget is broken down by
 - i. Care and Treatment services including partner program management costs, FY2020 upward adjustment, EMR and data with surveillance, recency \$9,000,000
 - ii. TB preventive treatment \$200,000
 - iii. For earmark purposes 50% of M/O costs \$1,650,000
2. PrEP delivery and commodities/RTKs for PrEP clients \$160,000
3. RTK and service support to ANC HIV testing \$50,000
4. Remaining 50% M/O based on COP19 \$1,650,000

Total COP2020 notional budget of \$12,710,000 (comprised of \$12,261,316 new and \$448,684 pipeline).

Teams will develop their own targets across PEPFAR program areas described above, with the treatment current target no less than the result that was to be achieved in COP 2019.

Again, the team has received a notional budget as noted above and a final budget approval will be contingent on the team's desired targets. As always funding is associated with a performance target that will be achieved with those resources. Targets and the subsequent approved budget should reflect the level of ambition the PEPFAR team in collaboration with the Government of Angola and civil society of Angola believes is critical for the country's progress towards controlling the pandemic and maintaining controlling.

Additionally, country teams and specifically agencies independently can request additive ambition funds in the OU FAST to be submitted, based on their stated increased ambition in Treatment with commensurate increased partner level targets. This funding is available to agency partners with the highest performance with evidence that they are addressing one of the critical gaps outlined above. These requests should be discussed with the S/GAC Chair and PPM during the January strategy retreat and tentatively approved and be submitted with the DataPack and FAST tool. The final budget and associated country level targets will be discussed and approved during the Johannesburg meeting.

We are hoping this new approach to target-setting and budget will establish an open dialogue on target-setting and empower teams to work with all stakeholders to plan a strategic and impactful COP. The expectation is for country teams and agencies to propose to S/GAC the targets they believe are achievable and feasible and hold their partner's accountable to that achievement. In addition, this new approach to target-setting gives high performing partners and agencies with additional aspirations the opportunity to do more to achieve even greater impact with additional ambition resources.

In the next 48 hours, more detailed descriptions of the OU's programmatic successes and challenges will be conveyed to your wider PEPFAR team by the S/GAC Chair and PPM in a phone call, after which the detailed planning level letter will be immediately released.

Again, thank you for your work and we are looking forward to working with you to achieve your Fast Track Strategy and ultimately the SDG 3 goal.

Together we can.

Deborah Birx