



SOUTH AFRICANS AND AMERICANS  
IN PARTNERSHIP TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS

## Focusing Resources for Epidemic Control

### What is the PEPFAR Focusing for Impact?

The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is committed to investing resources where the HIV virus is. Focusing for impact involves working with the South African Government, and other stakeholders, as we take strategic action to focus PEPFAR resources geographically and programmatically to support HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs in high-burden areas.

South Africa is at a critical moment, when the course of the epidemic can be changed if we work together to scale up high-impact interventions in the communities that are hardest-hit by HIV/AIDS, to save more lives and prevent HIV transmission. This move is consistent with the UNAIDS Fast-Track strategy and 90-90-90 targets for 2020, which the South African Government has embraced, in which 90 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS know their status, 90 percent of people with diagnosed HIV infection receive antiretroviral treatment, and 90 percent of people on antiretroviral treatment are virally suppressed by 2020. Focusing on high-burden areas allows us to achieve the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets in the most effective and impactful manner.

### Why is PEPFAR Adopting This New Focus of Its Resources?

PEPFAR is prioritizing smart investments by supporting programs that are effective and efficient and collaborating with the South African Government, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, civil society, the private sector, and other vital stakeholders to optimize synergies.

PEPFAR's effort to align resources to save lives and sustainably control the HIV/AIDS epidemic requires using quality data to guide programmatic decisions, as well as working with the South African Government as domestic resources are mobilized.

To control the epidemic and achieve an AIDS-free generation, it is critical to strategically focus resources in areas with a high burden of HIV/AIDS, where we can reach the most people living with and at risk for the disease.

### How will PEPFAR Identify High-burden Areas?

Resource allocation is determined by PEPFAR and the South African Government and informed by the micro-epidemic data analysis conducted by the National Department of Health. These data allow us to understand the sub-national and local differences in the epidemic to ensure the needed HIV services are available in the hardest-hit areas. Previously, PEPFAR implementing partners operated in all 52 districts in South Africa. With the use of evidence-based data, we have been able to determine and agree that we need to concentrate more of our HIV response efforts in 27 districts which have been identified as high-burden areas. Special focus is also being given to two additional districts with mining and industrial activities, to prevent these areas from becoming high-burden areas.

### What High-impact Interventions will PEPFAR Prioritize?

Combination Prevention interventions include: HIV counseling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, antiretroviral treatment [ART], condoms, voluntary medical male circumcision [VMMC], and targeted socio-behavioral and biomedical prevention interventions. Focus will be placed on:

- Ensuring implementation of the South African Government's guidelines for HIV treatment and Option B+ or lifelong treatment for pregnant women.
- Focusing VMMC in the age groups with the greatest impact (ages 15-29).
- Earlier testing for HIV-exposed infants with immediate linkage to care and treatment services.
- Preventing new infections in young women and ensuring adolescents impacted by HIV/AIDS are served in our orphans and vulnerable children and ART programs.

The goal is to accelerate implementation of high-impact interventions to achieve sustainable epidemic control as rapidly as possible. South Africa, with support from PEPFAR, provides life-saving antiretroviral treatment to 3 million South Africans living with HIV. Building on 11-year collaboration, PEPFAR will continue to support South Africa's leadership in doing the right things, in the right places, right now.

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