

## **Summary of the HIV/AIDS Partnership Framework with the Government of Rwanda**

The Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act (P.L. 110-293) provides support for the U.S. Government (USG) to enter into Partnership Frameworks (PFs) with partner governments as a means of promoting national ownership of sustainable HIV programs under the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Partnership Frameworks seek to more closely align USG-funded HIV/AIDS efforts with national programs and the efforts of other international partners and civil society at the country level. Partnership Frameworks provide 5-year joint strategic frameworks focused on service delivery, HIV/AIDS policy reform, and shared financial and/or in-kind contributions. After each PF is signed, a more detailed 5-year PF Implementation Plan follows, with annual benchmarks for progress against the Framework and a matrix detailing partner inputs to the PF objectives.

On June 19, 2010 the USG signed a Partnership Framework with the Government of Rwanda (GOR). Recognizing the importance of country ownership and sustainability, the hallmark of the new partnership is promoting sustainability of HIV/AIDS activities to enable a strong Rwandan health system.

### **Rwanda's Partnership Framework**

This PF will enhance collaboration to contribute positively to the achievement of the GOR's national HIV/AIDS goals and objectives for greater country ownership through joint decision-making. The GOR and the USG intend to work together to sustain and strengthen the national response to Rwanda's HIV/AIDS epidemic. The USG intends to continue to support the GOR's commitment to national ownership, data-driven approaches, quality service delivery, implementation of evidence-based policies, institutional capacity-building, and a coordinated financial response.

The activities prioritized for support from the USG under this PF are intended to invest in key areas that will enhance sustainability of programs in the medium and long term. In addition, it addresses other critical infrastructure needs at the central level to improve institutional functioning. The PF was developed with multiple sectors of the GOR, civil society,

private sector, bilateral and multilateral donors, and international organizations. In addition, the PEPFAR country team led extensive and ongoing PF individual and group discussions with the GOR, the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), and other key stakeholders.

The PF is presented in seven sections: purpose, guiding principles, strategic overview, goals, roles and contributions of partners, expected contributions to the PF, and management and communication. During collaborations with the GOR, other donors and Rwandan stakeholders, the PF was developed with the guiding principles of country ownership, alignment and harmonization of GOR priorities, USG interagency collaboration, engagement and participation of partners and stakeholders, progress towards policy development and implementation, increased financial accountability, joint accountability for results, and a collaborative and not contractual process.

The PF is focused on achieving Rwanda's goals, with an emphasis on health systems strengthening and national ownership. It has four overall strategic goals in alignment with the 2008-2012 Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2009–2012 (HSSP II), and the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2009–2012 (NSP). These goals have been taken directly from the NSP and HSSP II:

1. The incidence of HIV in the general population is halved by 2012;
2. Morbidity and mortality among people living with HIV/AIDS are significantly reduced;
3. People infected and affected by HIV/AIDS have the same opportunities as the general population; and
4. The human and institutional capacity of the public health system to plan, manage, and implement sustainable health programs is strengthened at all levels.

Extensive consultations and discussions have occurred over the past year to define the priorities of this document. The PEPFAR country team plans to strengthen its collaboration with the GOR and key stakeholders to oversee the management of the PF by using existing coordinating and technical working structures as a way to strengthen country ownership and sustainability. In future years, PEPFAR Country Operational Plan (COP) development should use the PF as a guiding document. Annual reviews of the PF are intended to be incorporated into national reviews. In addition, the USG and the GOR anticipate conducting regular joint field visits.