

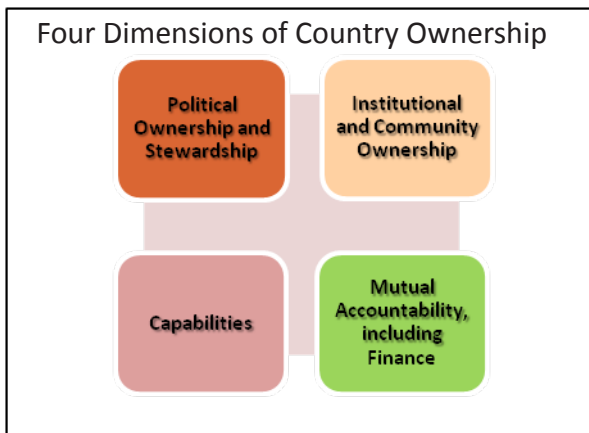


PEPFAR Supporting Country Ownership, Key to a Sustainable Response

“To us, country ownership in health is the end state where a nation’s efforts are led, implemented, and eventually paid for by its government, communities, civil society and private sector. To get there, a country’s political leaders must set priorities and develop national plans to accomplish them in concert with their citizens, which means including women as well as men in the planning process. And these plans must be effectively carried out primarily by the country’s own institutions, and then these groups must be able to hold each other accountable.”

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, June 1, 2012

In its second phase, PEPFAR has transitioned from an emergency response to a focus on supporting country ownership in the AIDS response – a key to long-term sustainability. PEPFAR fosters country ownership by investing in high-impact and evidence-based country-led priorities, plans and systems. Through U.S. investments in AIDS, systems of care have been established that countries are further leveraging to improve their citizens’ overall health. As PEPFAR prioritizes country ownership, it works to advance programs based on science, support the development of capable leadership, and promote good governance, accountability and supportive economic and social policies.



To date, PEPFAR has signed over 20 Partnership Frameworks, and developed accompanying implementation plans with in-country stakeholders led by government. Partnership Frameworks provide a five-year joint strategic framework for objectives, contributions, targets and cooperation on AIDS among the U.S., the partner government, and other partners. They are a key tool for ensuring that PEPFAR activities support country ownership.

In evolving the Partnership Framework process to achieve sustainable HIV/AIDS programs, PEPFAR defines country ownership through 4 dimensions, promoted along with the necessary organizational change within PEPFAR to support success. This approach prioritizes joint planning; a facilitation role for the U.S.; building technical and managerial capacity in country; country stewardship; and responsible partnerships, including a shared responsibility for co-financing the national response in countries.



Putting Country Ownership into Action

In **South Africa**, as the South African Government (SAG) has demonstrated commitment to mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS by funding the national AIDS response at rapidly increasing levels, the U.S. has taken steps to integrate the vast network of prevention, treatment, care, and health systems strengthening activities it supports into the broader strategic vision of the SAG. The SAG and civil society, along with the PEPFAR team and other external partners, have addressed challenges and priorities together, and agree that the way forward must strengthen coordination, planning, information management, human resources capacity, and financial management and sustainability. Recently, the U.S. collaborated with the SAG in the development of a framework for the U.S. Global Health Initiative Strategy and PEPFAR Partnership Framework Implementation Plan that lays out a plan for transitioning treatment and care programs currently implemented by PEPFAR to the leadership of the SAG.

In **Uganda**, the PEPFAR-supported Health Initiatives for the Private Sector (HIPS) project leverages the role of the private sector in improving and expanding access and utilization of health services. HIPS recently demonstrated that the provision of antiretroviral treatment drawn from government and donor stocks to accredited private providers resulted in treatment reaching additional patients at little or no cost to the government. In exchange for these drugs, employer clinics assume the non-drug costs of treating patients, spending \$80-\$100 per person/year for the necessary staff, tests and other services, resulting in savings to the government.

Tanzania's national HIV/AIDS response leverages PEPFAR technical assistance to support grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. These government-implemented grants are responsible for funding the majority of HIV/AIDS commodities, with the Ministries of Health and Finance in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar serving as Principal Recipients. At the point of delivery site- and community-level, Global Fund grants support the purchase of antiretroviral drugs, while PEPFAR's bilateral programs support test kits, training, and the delivery of treatment to patients. Joint planning to meet the treatment needs of Tanzanians is helping to ensure sustainability.

In **Namibia**, the government, PEPFAR, and the Global Fund established the Human Resources for Health Task Force, culminating in a joint request to the Ministry of Finance for a phased approach to reallocating health worker positions from Global Fund and PEPFAR payrolls to the public system. These investments set the stage for an eventual transition to country-led and financed HIV/AIDS efforts supported by U.S. technical collaboration.

In the **Greater Mekong sub-region (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and two provinces in China)**, the USG helped establish the Purple Sky Network (PSN) in 2006 as a network of HIV/AIDS organizations, experts, professionals and volunteers for men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and transgender populations. As a network of Technical Working Groups, it primarily focuses on information-sharing to strengthen the response to HIV through capacity-strengthening activities with MSM communities. A Regional Coordinating Secretariat based in Bangkok supports the overall network. Through Purple Sky, civil society is able to put MSM-related health issues on national agendas, by advocating for the development of appropriate and effective programs, services, and policies for reducing HIV and STI transmission.

