

Leveraging American Rescue Plan Act Funding to Support HIV and COVID-19 Responses

JANUARY 2022



Photo: USAID

With \$250 million in ARPA funding, PEPFAR has advanced HIV gains and supported the global COVID-19 response

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) continues to protect and advance HIV gains and support countries and communities to fight COVID-19.

These efforts build on the robust public health foundations forged through nearly two decades of PEPFAR investments in the global AIDS response and partner country health systems. Across 55 countries, through over \$1 billion in annual local health systems investments, PEPFAR currently supports networked programs at more than 70,000 facility and community health clinics linked to 3,000 laboratories, nearly 300,000 health care workers, expansive supply chains for health care commodities, and strong systems for health data collection and use.

With the \$250 million in additional funding that PEPFAR received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, the program has used existing partnerships, systems and processes to efficiently support numerous countries with high-burdened HIV communities to:



Training and deploying thousands of community health care workers to support COVID-19 response as they continue treatment adherence efforts



Utilize surveillance capabilities built for HIV detection to identify and address COVID-19 hot spots



Use health management information systems for HIV programs to collect and use data on COVID-19 cases, deaths, and vaccinations to support national responses



Deliver tens of millions of COVID-19 test kits, personal protective equipment, laboratory reagents, and other essential commodities through HIV health care supply chains



Support countries to administer millions of COVID-19 vaccinations, including by addressing vaccine confidence through existing programs and partnerships

PEPFAR efforts are advancing HIV outcomes while supporting the health systems infrastructure in countries that continue to serve as a backbone of the COVID-19 response. With additional resources, PEPFAR's assets can be further and efficiently leveraged to support the COVID-19 response, while protecting and expanding HIV services.

Examples of Country Success

Zambia: Significant Scale of COVID-19 Vaccination in HIV Treatment Clinics

Assisted by ARPA funding, PEPFAR has supported Zambia to administer nearly two million COVID-19 vaccines as of January 2022.

This remarkable expansion began with an initial pilot in August 2021 in six high volume treatment sites in the capitol of Lusaka, which resulted in more than 1,000 vaccinations in the first week. Now, more than 500 health facilities in all 10 provinces across the country are participating.

Eswatini: Increasing COVID-19 Vaccination Through Faith-Based Partners, PLHIV and Communities

With ARPA funding, PEPFAR has supported the Government of Eswatini to rapidly scale up COVID-19 vaccination in the country. Leveraging the substantial capacity and reach of established PEPFAR-supported HIV partners, including faith-based organizations, networks of people living with HIV, and community-based organizations, PEPFAR enabled thousands of people to receive COVID-19 vaccines in short order.

South Africa: Expanding COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Efforts

With ARPA funding in South Africa, PEPFAR has supported community health workers to do door-to-door, contact-less screening and referral for COVID-19 testing. These efforts occur alongside continued work on ART adherence counseling; supporting additional human resources for health for data capturing, clinical mentoring, and monitoring of adverse events; transportation and logistics support for Ministry of Health staff, equipment, and supplies for community-based vaccine efforts; technical support for data systems, and the procurement of equipment, including laptops, PPE, and other essential commodities.