

# 2019 PEPFAR Watch Timeline

## PEPFAR Countries

### Group 1:

Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

### Group 2:

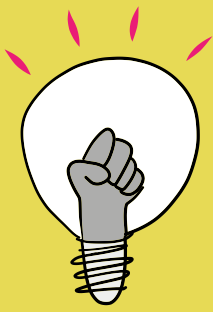
Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Angola, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia, Zimbabwe

### Group 3:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Ukraine, Vietnam, West Central Africa

When?	What happens?	What can activists do?
<b>Dec 2018</b>	Country Operational Planning (COP) advocacy calendar starts now. Start building a list of priorities for what civil society organizations suggest PEPFAR should fund differently in 2019 than in 2018.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Start meeting to review <a href="#">last year's COP</a> and begin building a list of recommendations and demands you can submit to PEPFAR by the end of January 2019.</li><li>2. Take a look at the PEPFAR data for 2018 as a tool for advocacy—it tells an important story of what is working and what is not. All <a href="#">PEPFAR data is now online!</a>  Need help with the data? Email us at <a href="mailto:data@pepfarwatch.org">data@pepfarwatch.org</a></li><li>3. Start identifying who your strongest advocates are to attend the PEPFAR COP reviews in Johannesburg in March 2019.</li><li>4. Get in touch with your PEPFAR coordinator to ask them for a calendar of important meetings and deadlines for your country.</li></ol>
<b>Dec 2018</b>	Quarter 4 PEPFAR Oversight Accountability Response Team (POART) meetings.	PEPFAR will hold conference calls with each country. Ask to see the data, briefings, slides, and outcomes of that meeting to help you prepare your input.
<b>Dec 1 - 21, 2018</b>	Draft COP guidelines are published for public comment.	Get in touch with us at <a href="mailto:info@pepfarwatch.org">info@pepfarwatch.org</a> for the draft guidelines.
<b>Jan 2019</b>	The formal PEPFAR process begins—This is the time to identify your priorities for change.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Build a written priority list so you send it along with your representative to the strategic retreat at the end of January. We've provided a template you can use to do this, below.</li><li>2. Ask the PEPFAR coordinator for the materials you need to be engaged. They should provide:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Country-specific guidance that sets the priorities of PEPFAR headquarters</li><li>• A calendar for the next few months</li><li>• Quarter 4 POART slides</li><li>• Access to the data (but you don't have to wait, see above)</li><li>• Initial invitation for community to choose a representative to be invited for the Regional Management Review</li></ul></li></ol>

<p><b>Jan 28 — Feb 1, 2019</b></p>	<p>PEPFAR teams in each country have a “strategic retreat.”</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact your <a href="#">PEPFAR Country team</a> and ask to be invited.</li> <li>2. Come with a clear set of initial demands/priorities.</li> <li>3. Start work on a formal submission from your groups about what you want to see in PEPFAR’s 2019 plan for your country.</li> <li>4. Ask for Quarter 4 POART slides.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Feb 2019</b></p>	<p>Preparation for in-person planning meetings.</p>	<p>Prepare a written submission regarding what you think should change and send it to them as soon as you can. To do this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with communities, especially those outside capitals, get their input and their evidence about why changes are needed.</li> <li>• Use data from PEPFAR, gather other evidence, stories, and experiences.</li> <li>• Be specific about what should change from last year’s Country Operational Plan. What should be added? Who should be covered? Where?</li> <li>• Make sure to share your priorities with global civil society networks who can make sure staff in PEPFAR headquarters in Washington are aware (send your submission to: <a href="mailto:info@pepfar-watch.org">info@pepfar-watch.org</a>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mar 4—8, 2019</b> (Group 1)</p>	<p>2019 COP Regional Planning Meetings: PEPFAR country and Washington</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Send your best, boldest advocates well prepared to push for your priorities; please email <a href="mailto:info@pepfarwatch.org">info@pepfarwatch.org</a> to share the names of those who will be going!</li> </ol>
<p><b>Mar 11—15, 2019</b> (Group 2)</p>	<p>D.C. teams, local and international civil society groups, representatives from recipient</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Ask the PEPFAR team to send you the data and presentations for the planning meetings at least a week in advance.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Mar 18—22, 2019</b> (Group 3)</p>	<p>country governments, UNAIDS and Global Fund gather in Johannesburg for five-day meetings where they will lay out the priorities for the PEPFAR program in your country for FY 2019.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Have a pre-meeting with all civil society organizations to make sure your representatives are well prepared to represent all of your priorities.</li> </ol>
	<p>This is a key advocacy moment where civil society can influence what PEPFAR funds.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Consider also doing a pre-meeting with government and implementers to gather information.</li> </ol>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Before the planning meetings make sure PEPFAR knows your major priorities, ask that they be included in the agenda for the meeting.</li> </ol>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Consider inviting the PEPFAR team to a meeting hosted by civil society to discuss priorities.</li> </ol>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Get in touch with global civil society groups who can support you at the reviews. Email <a href="mailto:info@pepfarwatch.org">info@pepfarwatch.org</a> to find out who is going from the international civil society community.</li> </ol>



## TIP: We will host a civil society pre-meeting in Johannesburg the day before each Regional Planning Meeting. Tentative dates are below.

Group 1  
**March 3**

Group 2  
**March 10**

Group 3  
**March 17**

Make sure to email [info@pepfarwatch.org](mailto:info@pepfarwatch.org) to let us know who the civil society organization representative is from your country and to get more information about these meetings.

**Mar 2019**

Country Operational Plan is drafted

What was decided in Johannesburg in March is only the first step and many details still have to be worked out including the exact activities, budgets, and areas of geographic focus.

1. Stay in touch with PEPFAR country teams, keep pushing for community priorities as they write the COP.
2. Ask your PEPFAR country team for written feedback on the recommendations you have submitted.
3. Make it clear you want to review the narrative of the COP (known as the Strategic Direction Summary) as soon as a draft is ready.

**Mar 2019**

Strategic Direction Summaries (SDS) are shared for feedback before the COP goes to the U.S. Ambassador in your country for sign off (which means these will come a few days before the due dates below)

Your input on this critical document is still required to be considered by the Ambassador and by PEPFAR headquarters in Washington.

- Read the Strategic Direction Summary and suggest changes and additions by sending these in writing to your PEPFAR Country team.
- If you have done a formal submission, you can just update this to note what has not been taken on board fully in the SDS (maybe in red ink).

**Mar 29, 2019**  
(Group 1)

**Apr 5, 2019**  
(Group 2)

**Apr 12, 2019**  
(Group 3)

COPs due to the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (PEPFAR's Headquarters) in Washington, D.C.

After COP submission, the work is not over. You can still influence by:

- Lobbying the PEPFAR team to make changes before the virtual COP approval.
- Coordinating with U.S.-based and global advocates to make sure PEPFAR Washington knows about further changes you still want. Remember OGAC is now reviewing the COP and changes may still be made.

**April 15-25, 2019** (all groups)

Virtual COP approval

Ambassador Birx will officially decide whether to sign and approve the COP or not.

**Oct 1, 2019**

Implementation of the 2019 COPs begin.

Write to your Country Chair and Country Coordinator reminding them of your priorities and that activists will be watching PEPFAR progress and holding them accountable throughout the year.

## How can I get involved in advocacy to influence what PEPFAR is doing in my country?

If you're interested in working to hold PEPFAR accountable in your country or region, email us at [info@pepfarwatch.org](mailto:info@pepfarwatch.org)