

PEPFAR WATCH

How Civil Society can
win a better AIDS response for
communities in the
PEPFAR COP 2018 Process

November 2017

What are PEPFAR COPs

- Country Operational Plans
- Set out PEPFAR's strategy for the following year (COP 18 will decide what happens during the budget year Sept 2018-Oct 2019)
- Sets targets that country teams & implementers will be tasked with meeting (e.g. New people on treatment, KPs reached)
- Sets budget overall budget allocation
- Sets geographic focus
- Includes policy language on key activities (like how many health workers will be paid, whether PrEP will be part of Dreams, etc.)

What can CSs change?

Civil society has successfully advocated for:

- Increased target #s for proven interventions to reach more people (e.g. higher MSM targets, higher ART targets in some districts)
- Cutting back on programs that are not working
- Changing the geographic focus to include different districts/regions (for example where there are more key populations but lower general epidemic)
- Inclusion of KP components within programs and increased funding for community-led HIV responses (i.e. PreP for MSM, Training Health care Providers on the issues of Stigma and discrimination, etc)
- Questioning KP Size estimate and epidemiology studies
- Increasing or decreasing funding to certain budget lines
- Getting commitments for specific new investments (e.g. number of health workers or investment in civil society monitoring mechanisms)
- Different approaches (e.g. investing more in 'direct service', supporting a different drug regimen, or increasing use of certain testing strategies)

This year's calendar is different...

Last year:

1. PEPFAR had a meeting with USG staff in DC in February called the DC Management Meeting to set the broad targets and goals
2. CS then engaged with PEPFAR and made recommendations
3. The draft COP was written (and took on some recommendations, left out others)
4. CS was invited to the regional COP reviews in Johannesburg for each country.
5. COPS were signed at the end of 4 days.

But some key decisions were already made by the time CS was brought in...

THIS year... What we know

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Civil Society Invited to February meetings & they're in South Africa



COP Approval Meetings in DC in May, smaller # of CS invited



Better opportunity for input but timeline is VERY fast...

1. NOW (November) through December: Getting ready, gathering input, drafting recommendations to PEPFAR
2. January-early Feb: making our input clear...
3. February: Regional Management Meetings Last 2 weeks (tentative Feb 19-Mar 2)
4. March: Drafting the COP
5. April: COP Approval Meetings in DC

So for this year's process:

NOW (November) through December: Getting ready, gathering input, drafting recommendations to PEPFAR

1. Read the 2017 COP and identify things that should change next year, paying attention to:
 - Targets
 - Funding levels
 - Services provided
 - Geographic areas
2. Look at the PEPFAR Data for Quarter 3 online at data.pepfar.net under “quarterly data” to look for evidence of what’s working and what’s not
3. Gather information from communities—especially in geographic areas where the data show targets are not being met!
4. Understanding how GFTAM process and National Strategic plan may align with PEPFAR process
5. Turn that information into specific requests to PEPFAR for 2018
6. Ask for meetings with PEPFAR in country
7. Identify leaders in Civil Society for the PEPFAR work, including your strongest advocates to attend the Regional Management Meetings in Feb

January-early Feb: making our input clear...

(quarter 4 data comes out)

1. Put together a letter to PEPFAR about what you think should change in 2018
 - Consult with communities, especially outside capitals, get their input and their evidence about why changes are needed.
 - Use data from PEPFAR.
 - Be specific about what should change from last year's COP to COP18 What should be added? Who should be covered? Where?
 - Write a blog
 - Letter to the editor
 - Do whatever you can to get your perspective out!
2. Ask for a meeting before the Feb management reviews
3. Make sure multiple people from CS are invited to the Regional Management Review
4. Make a briefing for your representatives on all the key issues... a few people cant know it all... Prepare them well!
Use PEPFAR's data to make your points effective
5. Meet with UNAIDS, Government, other NGOs to get their ideas...
6. Be in communication with PEPFAR Country Coordinators in capital cities and in touch with Country Leads in Washington
7. Ask PEPFAR to share the presentations they will make at the RMM with you ahead of time.
8. **Be in touch with the global network of CSOs engaged with PEPFAR Watch**
9. Have a meeting of CSOs and CS reps before they go in Feb to be clear on what we want!

February: Regional Management Meetings

Last 2 weeks (tentative Feb 19-Mar 2)

Most countries will be in one of 2 groups for week-long meetings that include:

- USG staff from countries
- USG staff from Washington DC
- Civil society from country
- Civil society from global groups
- Government
- UNAIDS & Global Fund

This is the CSO chance to push for changes to improve the AIDS response. Make sure you come ready to discuss

- Specific targets, budgets or language you think should change
- Data to back up your arguments
- Stories & examples from real life!
- What other sources of funding are doing so you can push PEPFAR to fill the gaps

March: Drafting the COP

Country Operational Plan is formally drafted
Strategic Direction Summaries (SDS) are required to be shared with stakeholders.

- You have just a few days! But if you can work quickly then your input on this critical document is required to be considered by the Ambassador and by PEPFAR headquarters in Washington.
 - Read the SDS & suggest changes in writing.
 - 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).

COPS are due to Washington at some point in March (dates TBA)

After COP submission it is not over. You can still influence by:

- Lobbying the PEPFAR team to make changes before the
- review
- Coordinating with US and global advocates to make sure
- PEPFAR Washington knows about further changes you still
- want.

April: COP Approval Meetings in DC

- Send your best, boldest advocates well prepared to push for your priorities.
- Have a pre-meeting with CSOs and consider also meeting with government and IPs

If we are prepared, use data, gather community input, and are bold...

We can improve the AIDS response for communities in 2018...

Onward!