

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

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 a five-year joint strategic framework focused on service delivery, HIV/AIDS policy reform, and shared financial and/or in-kind contributions. After each PF is signed, a more detailed five-year PF Implementation Plan follows, with annual benchmarks for progress against the Framework and a matrix detailing expected partner inputs into the PF objectives.

On August 25th, the United States signed the Partnership Framework on HIV/AIDS between the Government of Nigeria (GON) and the Government of the United States (USG). The HIV epidemic in Nigeria is a mixed epidemic in a country of 152 million people. Generalized prevalence among 15-49 year olds is approximately 3.6 percent but there are significantly higher rates among most-at-risk populations (MARPs), including commercial sex workers, injecting drug users, and men who have sex with men. Nigeria's 2.98 million HIV+ individuals constitute the second greatest burden of HIV/AIDS care and treatment worldwide; adding to this burden are the estimated 2.18 million children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The Framework was developed under the leadership of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) and Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and the USG interagency Nigeria team with broad stakeholder involvement including civil society organizations, People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) networks, other development partners and GON line ministries.

The overarching goals of the partnership framework include:

- Repositioning the prevention of new HIV infections as the major focus of the national HIV/AIDS response;
- Ensuring that at least 50 percent of PLHIV have access to quality care and support services;

- Increasing access to anti-retroviral treatment (ART) for PLHIV from 32 to 80 percent;
- Ensuring that at least 80 percent of HIV/AIDS programs have adequate numbers of appropriately skilled and gender-responsive professional and community health workers.

## **Nigeria's Partnership Framework**

The Partnership Framework provides a five-year joint strategic plan for cooperation between the Government of Nigeria, the U.S. Government, and other stakeholders to support a collaborative response to HIV. The Framework specifies the expected roles of the governments of Nigeria and the United States in this response over the five-year period. The Government of Nigeria is responsible for investing in its people and takes ownership of the multisectoral HIV/AIDS response. The GON is the lead on planning, overseeing, managing, implementing, and ultimately financing an annually increasing portion of HIV/AIDS programs. The Government of Nigeria expected contributions are focused on achieving Universal Access goals and should lead the national HIV/AIDS response with the aim of closing the services gap for those in need of treatment, care and prevention services. The USG role is dedicated to ensuring that the response to HIV/AIDS is sustainable and that the Government of Nigeria has the capacity to plan, oversee, manage, implement, and ultimately finance annually increasing percentages of HIV/AIDS programs. USG expected contributions are focused on supporting the GON to achieve Universal Access goals, and help the GON close the gap for those in need of treatment, care and prevention services. The USG intends to support building local capacity in the critical health systems strengthening areas of governance, service delivery, human resources and health financing.

The Partnership Framework is presented in five sections: participants, purpose and principles, five-year strategic overview, roles and expected contributions, plans for developing the Partnership Framework Implementation Plan, and management and communications.

To achieve the overarching goals of the partnership, the GON expects to provide effective leadership at all levels of government according to the Paris Declaration on country ownership. Activities are expected to include investing in procurement and supply chain management systems to ensure the consistent availability of quality HIV/AIDS commodities at all levels of care, and developing

a national surveillance system to track incidence rates for new infections. The GON further expects to adopt, implement and enforce anti-discrimination legislation and lead the development of a national Human Resource for Health (HRH) strategy. The GON will lead and coordinate the multisectoral implementation of the National Strategic Framework and Plan for HIV/AIDS 2010-2015, including providing clear, coordinated policy and technical guidance to international donors and implementing partners. The GON plans to increase financing (federal, state and local) from 7 percent (NASA, 2009) of the national HIV/AIDS response in 2008 to 50 percent of the cost of Universal Access by 2015.

A Partnership Framework Implementation Plan (PFIP) is intended to be complete by the end of September 2010. Teams organized around the thematic areas will develop the more detailed PFIP for consideration by the GON and USG. The more detailed PFIP is intended to operationalize the contributions of the Participants outlined in the Partnership Framework. Civil society and PLHIV networks are also expected to be involved in the PFIP development process.