Nursing Education Partnership Initiative (NEPI)
The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

In support of PEPFAR’s goal to train at least 140,000 new health care professionals and paraprofessionals, NEPI intends to strengthen the quality and capacity of nursing and midwifery education institutions, increase the number of highly skilled nurses and midwives, and support innovative nursing retention strategies in African countries. NEPI is a five year project and is led, in partnership with Ministries of Health and in-country stakeholders, by the following PEPFAR agencies: the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and PEPFAR In-Country Teams.

Objectives of NEPI:

- Conduct countrywide assessments of nurse training capacity in selected countries.
- Support Ministries of Health and Education to: (1) identify 3-6 nursing schools in each of the countries to receive funding; (2) prioritize interventions that strengthen nursing and midwifery programs; and (3) scale up innovative approaches in nursing and midwifery education.
- Provide training and continuous quality improvement support; disseminate results; design and implement an evaluation strategy in collaboration with the partner educational institutions; provide methodological consultation and technical support across countries and institutions; and subcontract with nursing schools. These activities are carried out by PEPFAR/HRSA-funded Columbia University/ICAP [International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs] Nurse Capacity Initiative (INCI), the NEPI Coordinating Center.
- In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), build an evidence base to inform the development of policy guidelines, review and analyze existing evidence and gain consensus on areas of intervention, and develop evidence-informed global policy guidance on transformative scale up of nursing and midwifery education.
- Conduct costing studies to gather information about the cost of nursing education in sub-Saharan Africa. These activities will be funded by PEPFAR/USAID and performed by IntraHealth/CapacityPlus, its global health workforce project.
- Implement NEPI in Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho and Ethiopia, and expand to one or two additional countries.

Nursing Schools Selected:

Zambia: University of Zambia/Department of Nursing Sciences; Lusaka School of Nursing and Midwifery; and Monze School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Malawi: Kamuzu College of Nursing; Malawi College of Health Sciences/Blantyre; and Mzuzu University.

Lesotho: Maluti, Scott, Paray, and Roma Schools of Nursing; National University of Lesotho; National Health Training College.

Ethiopia: No schools selected at this time.

Democratic Republic of Congo: No schools selected at this time.