



To: President-Elect Obama  
Cc: John Podesta, Valerie Jarrett, and Pete Rouse, Transition Team co-chairs  
Gayle Smith and Aaron Williams, Foreign Assistance Transition Team leads  
Natasha Bilimoria, Department of State Transition Team member

From: Nandini Oomman, Director, HIV/AIDS Monitor, Center for Global Development

RE: **Releasing PEPFAR data to improve effectiveness of HIV/AIDS spending**

**The Opportunity:** U.S. efforts to combat the global HIV/AIDS epidemic stand out as a success story, but allocation of future spending, including the \$48 billion PEPFAR reauthorization, remains a major challenge. Critical decisions, such as balancing prevention and treatment, or how to best allocate grants between international and local recipients, will impact program effectiveness. Yet, at present there is little access to expenditure data to help make or justify such decisions.

U.S. spending for HIV/AIDS is potentially a highly effective tool for meeting the objectives of the Obama-Biden Plan for Foreign Policy—provided that it meets high standards of transparency and effectiveness. Further, the Obama-Biden Agenda on Ethics prioritizes spending taxpayer money wisely and bringing “Americans back in to their government.”

**The Action:** The next administration should publish existing PEPFAR official data on obligations to prime partners, sub-partners, and program areas to improve transparency and accountability.

**Option 1:** Release funding and program data for the last five fiscal years from the Country Operational Plan and Reporting System (COPRS) database on the PEPFAR.gov website in January and share data on an ongoing basis.

- Pro: Permits immediate analysis of program cost-effectiveness and impact
- Pro: Allows lessons to be quickly applied to next phase of PEPFAR
- Pro: Early feedback from informed stakeholders can speed data cleaning
- Con: Less time to organize data before public release

**Option 2:** Publicly commit to release data within six months of inauguration.

- Pro: Allows time for data preparation and plan for future data release
- Con: Delays the start of urgently needed analysis of program effectiveness
- Con: Missed opportunity to show commitment or signal new direction

Annex: List of useful references

## **Annex: For more information**

**PEPFAR Reauthorization: Improving Transparency in U.S. Funding for HIV/AIDS,**  
<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/14814>

**The Numbers Behind the Stories: PEPFAR Funding for Fiscal Years 2004 to 2006,**  
<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/15799>

**Following the Funding for HIV/AIDS: A Comparative Analysis of the Funding Practices of PEPFAR, the Global Fund and World Bank MAP in Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia,**  
<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/14569>

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