



STATEMENT BY THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (ZNNP+) ON THE IMPACT OF THE DISCONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE \$350 MILLION U.S. HEALTH FUNDING AGREEMENT ON PLHIV IN ZIMBABWE

February 24, 2026

HARARE - The Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+), representing the voices, lives, and health interests of over 1.3 million people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Zimbabwe, expresses concern regarding the impact of the recent decision to discontinue negotiations and potentially reject the estimated \$350 million health funding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States on the People living with HIV in Zimbabwe.

While we recognize and respect the importance of national sovereignty and the government's duty to protect our national interests, we are alarmed by the potential consequences of this impasse. For decades, international health partnerships including those with the U.S. government through initiatives like PEPFAR and USAID have been the backbone of Zimbabwe's successful HIV response. These partnerships have ensured a consistent supply of life-saving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), facilitated viral load monitoring, ensure increased Advanced HIV Disease (AHD) coverage and supported the integrated management of opportunistic infections.

The halting of negotiations of this funding comes at a time of incredible progress in science, adaptations and plans for HIV response sustainability. Partnerships are critical and a potential rejection of funding may create a significantly large financing gap that the national treasury may struggle to fill.

Our Concerns:

- 1. Interruption of Treatment:** Any disruption in the funding of the health supply chain may likely put lives at risk of treatment interruption. For PLHIV, consistency is life, any break in ART may lead to drug resistance, opportunistic infections, and increased mortality.
- 2. Erosion of Gains:** Zimbabwe has been a global leader in the 95-95-95 targets. Withdrawing threatens to reverse over thirty years of progress in reducing HIV-related deaths and new infections.
- 3. Vulnerability of the Most Marginalized:** Health funding does not just buy pills; it supports the community health workers, rural clinics, and community support systems that the most vulnerable rely on.
- 4. Chain Reaction:** the rejection of USG funds can break trust with larger funding streams where USG indirectly supports such as the Global Fund, UN and EU, among others and potentially damage future partnership opportunities on non-USG support.

Our Call to Action:

We urgently appeal to the Government of Zimbabwe, through the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, to:

- **Keep your promise to PLHIV:** We urge the government to continue placing the lives of its PLHIV at the center of diplomatic negotiations. Zimbabwe made a global commitment to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and this can be achieved through sustained financial support to the response.
- **Re-engage in Dialogue:** We call for a multi-stakeholder review of the MoU. If there are specific clauses regarding data or resources that are problematic, we urge continued negotiations that promote and protect the gains made to date.
- **Provide a Clear Contingency Plan:** Should the government maintain its stance on rejecting this funding, we request a roadmap detailing how the \$350 million gap will be covered by domestic resources to ensure that no person living with HIV is left without medication and support.

The HIV response and in particular PLHIV cannot afford to let the epidemic become a death sentence. ZNNP+ stands ready to share with all concerned parties the lived realities of PLHIV and support the development of an MOU that protects national interests without sacrificing public health.

About ZNNP+

ZNNP+ is the national network of people living with HIV established in 1992. It is a community entity that advocates for the interests of PLHIV, to ensure they have access to quality care and treatment and are treated with dignity.

For More Information

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