



Capturing People Living with HIV Voices in COP22 Processes

Every year, the United States government through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) allocates resources to support the delivery of critical HIV services in Zimbabwe. This is part of the global programme to ensure sustainable control of the HIV epidemic. The allocation is decided through a rigorous planning process known as the Country Operational Plan (COP). This year, key stakeholders including the Ministry of Health and Child Care, local PEPFAR representatives, implementing partners, civil society organizations, community and key populations representatives are currently engaged in planning for the allocation of resources through the COP process (COP22). The exercise is

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expected to be concluded in April 2022. In last year's planning process (COP21), there were key wins for communities including people living with HIV increased allocation of resources towards critical HIV interventions such as PrEP, DREAMs and key populations.

Following the issuance of the PEPFAR guidance letter to Zimbabwe and extensive data driven technical discussions, the Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+) is currently (March 2022) engaging communities of people living with HIV in all the 10 provinces to discuss their priorities and expectations for COP22. These priorities will feed into the broader community priorities and position on COP22. According to ZNNP+ Executive Director and PLHIV Representative to the COP22 Process, "The consultations with people living with HIV on their priorities and expectations during the COP22 planning period are key as this will enable the provision of focused and appropriate interventions for key populations including people living with HIV in Zimbabwe. This is the only way we can achieve the global and national targets on ending AIDS by 2020 or even sooner." The voices of people living with HIV are essential in ensuring that the country attains the desired outcomes through PEPFAR support.