



Dear ART Implementing Partners,

Since 2003, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief has successfully provided chronic life-saving treatment to more than 100,000 HIV-infected Ugandans. The US Government recognizes that in the coming years, the number of patients in need of antiretroviral treatment will increase dramatically. While the US Government is committed to continuing treatment for those individuals already enrolled on antiretroviral treatment, funding for HIV programs is not expected to increase in the near future. As a result, PEPFAR Uganda cannot continue to support scale up of antiretroviral treatment without a plan from the Government of Uganda on how the patients will be sustained. We encourage the Government of Uganda to identify additional funding to meet this need. The US Government will continue to do what it can to partner with the Government of Uganda in support of these efforts.

In FY2010 and FY2011, each Partner should expect to have a set flat-lined budget for ARV procurement that should not be exceeded without discussion and written approval from their funding agencies. PEPFAR Implementing Partners who directly provide antiretroviral treatment should only enroll new ART patients if they are sure that these new patients can continue to be supported without a future increase in funding. All adult and pediatric patients currently being treated with drugs donated by Clinton Foundation should also be fully covered within the set partner budget.

In filling treatment slots that are made empty through attrition – i.e. deaths and loss to follow-up estimated at 12-30% annually - priority should be given to the sickest patients, eligible pregnant women, children, TB/HIV patients, and family members of persons on ART. Partners should provide support as needed to ensure that patient information records are up to date and accurate and an equitable system of triage for total ART slots is worked out within their sites before enrolling any new patients.

Yours sincerely,

c.c. Dr. Zainab Akol
Program Manager AIDS Control Program
Ministry of Health