

PEPFAR's commitment to country ownership and achieving an AIDS-free generation

The Oct 17 Comment by Chris Collins and Chris Beyrer¹ raises several important challenges associated with strengthening country ownership and accelerating progress in the global HIV/AIDS response. Working together with our partners, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is firmly committed to help address these challenges as we take steps to enhance the sustainability of HIV/AIDS programmes.

The goal of creating an AIDS-free generation is a shared responsibility, with partner countries in the lead convening role. At the same time, we absolutely agree that advancing country ownership and sustainability is a process, the pace and nature of which will vary on the basis of the unique circumstances in each country. For example, although some PEPFAR partner countries are already in a position to assume a larger role in funding their national HIV/AIDS response, others might continue to be heavily dependent on external support for the foreseeable future.

Wherever countries stand on the country ownership continuum, PEPFAR remains committed to help advance and sustain the remarkable progress against HIV/AIDS achieved to date. This includes by ensuring that the HIV-related needs of vulnerable populations are met, and that civil society and other non-governmental voices participate energetically as country ownership takes root.

I am the US Global AIDS Coordinator at PEPFAR.

Eric Goosby
goosbye@state.gov

US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Washington, DC 20522, USA

1 Collins C, Beyrer C. Country ownership and the turning point for HIV/AIDS. *Lancet Glob Health* 2013; 1: e319–20.



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