

**UNAIDS confirms that on 1 February, 2025, the U.S. Department of State issued urgent, detailed guidance to PEPFAR Implementing Agencies, specifying the HIV services to be immediately resumed during the 90-day pause. This guidance is already being implemented by PEPFAR implementing partners to immediately resume HIV services covered under the waiver:**

**February 1, 2025**

**Info Memo for the PEPFAR Implementing Agencies and PEPFAR Country Coordinators**

**SUBJECT: Implementation of Limited Waiver to Pause of U.S. Foreign Assistance for Life-Saving HIV Service Provision**

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has been granted a limited waiver to implement urgent life-saving HIV treatment services in alignment with the Secretary of State's January 28 memo "Emergency Humanitarian Waiver to Foreign Assistance Pause".

Per the terms of this limited waiver, only the following activities may be resumed during the 90-day pause or until superseded by new guidance:

1. Life-saving HIV care and treatment services, including HIV testing, counseling, prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections (including TB), laboratory services, and procurement/supply chain management for commodities/medications.
2. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission services, including commodities/test kits, medicines, and PrEP for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
3. Reasonable administrative costs necessary for delivery and oversight of the above assistance, including country-based data activities and portions of PEPFAR's central data platform used for clinical monitoring and program management.

PEPFAR implementing agencies should continue to pause foreign assistance... for all other activities not covered by the Secretary's waiver until completion of the foreign assistance review or further guidance. This waiver does not apply to activities involving abortions, family planning, conferences, additional administrative costs, gender or DEI ideology programs, transgender surgeries, or other non-life-saving assistance. Any other activities not explicitly mentioned require express approval.

Upon receipt of this guidance, all PEPFAR agencies may resume the covered activities. The following implementation actions may only be undertaken as necessary to carry out this guidance:

- Disbursements and incremental obligations on existing awards.
- New obligations only where pre-planned award transitions existed or where paused awards cannot be restarted.

.... Thank you for your immediate attention to implementing this guidance in strict accordance with the terms of the limited waiver. We will update you further if we receive additional guidance from Department of State leadership....

Attachment:

Tab 1: Additional details on approved activities under the waiver

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### **Tab 1: Approved Life-Saving HIV Assistance Activities**

For purposes of this limited waiver, life-saving humanitarian assistance applies only to:

- Delivery of life-saving HIV care and treatment services through **support for health workers** (doctors, nurses, and other clinical and community health workers, etc.) delivering or monitoring HIV care and treatment to ensure continuity of service provision. These workers deliver care at hospitals, primary healthcare clinics, faith-based clinics, and community settings.
  - Provision of HIV **testing** for adults and children in community and facility settings.
  - Provision of HIV **drugs** and support to prevent treatment interruptions for adults and children in community and facility settings.
  - Provision of care for **advanced HIV disease**, including CD4 testing (immune function test), prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections, and HIV treatment adherence support.
  - Provision of **HIV viral load testing**, which allows patient monitoring to ensure that HIV drug treatments are effective.
  - Provision of **tuberculosis preventive therapy (TPT)** and Tuberculosis Treatment, as TB is the largest killer of people living with HIV.
- Support for **transportation, storage, distribution, and management of HIV care and treatment commodity supply chain** to ensure timely provision of medications and tests to patients
- **Procurement of HIV medicines and other commodities** required for provision of HIV care and treatment services to prevent stockouts in national HIV programs (e.g., HIV drugs, HIV test kits, early infant HIV tests, viral load tests and lab equipment for clinical monitoring, TB prevention and treatment drugs, opportunistic infection medicines for advanced HIV disease).
- **Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV**, which consists of testing and re-testing pregnant and breastfeeding women, providing HIV prevention services for [pregnant] women who are HIV negative including Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and HIV treatment drugs for [pregnant] women who are positive, HIV testing for partners, early infant diagnosis tests, and comprehensive care for infants.
- Support for **transportation, storage, distribution and management of HIV commodity supply chain** to ensure timely provision of medications for PMTCT.
- Focused data and systems maintenance activities in support of the above areas.

- Reasonable administrative costs as necessary to deliver such assistance and provide oversight and compliance.

This limited waiver does not apply to activities that involve abortions, family planning, conferences, administrative costs other than those covered by above, gender or DEI ideology programs, transgender surgeries, or other non-life saving assistance.

END