

The Government of the Republic of South Africa

President Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa

Deputy President Mr. Paul Mashatile

Minister of Health Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi

Minister of Finance Mr. Enoch Godongwana

Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

Ms. Thoko Didiza: Speaker of the National Assembly

Ms. Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane: Chairperson National Council of Provinces

Dr. Sibongiseni Dhlomo: Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Health

Ms. Desery Wellin Fienies – Chairperson Select Committee on Social Services

Provincial Governments

Premier Oscar Mabuyane (Eastern Cape) and Ms. Ntandokazi Capa: Health MEC

Premier Maqueen Letsosa–Mathae (Free State) and Mr. Monyatso Mahlatsi: Health MEC

Premier Panyaza Lesufi (Gauteng) and Ms. Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko: Health MEC

Premier Thami Ntuli (KwaZulu-Natal) and Ms. Nomagugu Simelane: Health MEC

Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba (Limpopo) and Ms. Dieketseng Mashego: Health MEC

Premier Mandla Ndlovu (Mpumalanga) and Ms. Sasekani Manzini: Health MEC

Premier Lazarus Mokgosi (North-West) and Mr. Sello Lehari: Health MEC

Premier Zamani Saul (Northern Cape) Mr. Maruping Lekwene: Health MEC

Premier Alan Winde (Western Cape) Mireille Wenger: Minister of Health

23 June 2025

Dear President, Deputy-President, Minister of Health, Minister of Finance, Speaker of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Chairperson Select Committee on Social Services, Premiers and Health MinMEC members

RE: A FULLY-COSTED, EMERGENCY PLAN TO AMELIORATE THE U.S. FUNDING CUTS

We are a group of civil society organisations and individuals who, together with the Global HIV Treatment Coalition, are eager to engage urgently on the Government's Plans for Emergency HIV Funding. We are determined not to let people die, and many of us are veterans of the Treatment Action Campaign.

The United States has placed the more than [20 million people living healthily with HIV on ARVs](#) supported by PEPFAR on death row through its funding cuts and the resulting interruption to access to ARV treatment. This is having a catastrophic effect on individual health as well as public and global health.

Since January 2025, South Africa has lost approximately \$261 million (R5.2 billion) in public health and research funding from PEPFAR/USAID and the National Institutes for Health for our HIV/TB programmes. We also know that [“due to the ongoing challenging funding landscape”](#), by the end of June 2025 South Africa will receive a “reduced allocation and revised indicative budgets” for the Global Fund's Grant Cycle 7 (GCT7).

These funding cuts are devastating.

Recent modeling studies suggest that:

“Over 2025-2028, discontinuing PEPFAR funding in South Africa without replacement by SAG would result in 150,000-296,000 additional new HIV infections (29-56% increase) and 56,000-65,000 additional AIDS-related deaths (33-38%). Permanent discontinuation of currently PEPFAR-supported services over the next 20 years increases this to 1.1-2.1 million additional new HIV infections and 519,000-712,000 additional AIDS deaths” - [Meyer-Rath et al.](#)

These figures exclude the impact of funding cuts of NIH and Global Fund budgets.

Instead of relying on the energy, knowledge, expertise and power of civil society and movements in South Africa on how to ameliorate these cuts and draft an urgent Plan to do so, our country's political leaders have argued while box-ticking its “consultations with civil society and donors”. The Health Ministry has not taken concerted action as evidenced by occasional comments to the press and [one public briefing](#) to Parliament by Minister Motsoaledi on 6 Feb 2025. Deputy-President Mashatile, who is also the Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council, claims to be seeking funding from the national lottery. Parliament, the National and Provincial AIDS Councils, and everyone else in the country are in the dark regarding the emergency plan and action required.

It is clear that South Africa urgently needs a fully-costed, emergency HIV plan.

We believe this Plan should include the following components:

- a. Fully-costed provincial and national plans that focus on key programmes that will prevent infection, reduce illness and save lives through the economic and efficient use of the emergency funds from Treasury;
- b. Support for those currently on anti-retroviral and TB treatment, including adherence programmes and interventions to support bringing people back into the system;
- c. Focus and resources for HIV testing and prevention including active case-finding and sustained access to PrEP and PEP;
- d. Reinstatement of services for “key populations” while at the same time continuing education on equality, dignity and privacy in the health services;
- e. Strengthened data collection, management and oversight including continued support for community-led monitoring.

Against this background, our urgent requests are as follows:

1. The Minister of Health provides information on the current impact of the US funding cuts from, among others, health districts, the National Health Laboratory Services and the National Department of Health;
2. The Minister of Health provides the details of National Government's emergency plan to address the HIV funding crisis;
3. The Provincial Health MECs provide the details of the Provincial Governments' emergency plans to address the HIV funding crisis; and
4. National Government agrees to meet with civil society and Health sector leaders to review the emergency plan to address the HIV funding crisis.

We look forward to receiving the plans and request for these to be forwarded by 07 July 2025 (2 weeks from now). After reviewing the plans we would appreciate a meeting at your soonest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Zackie Achmat and Anneke Meerkotter
(on behalf of the Global HIV Treatment Coalition)

Undersigned by the following individuals:

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Bishop David Nhlapo
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**Africa Creative Art Foundation
Africa Unite
African Indigenous Churches Association
Afrique Rehabilitation and Research Consultants
Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC)
Amnesty International South Africa
Article One NPC
Ashdown community development
Assembly of the Unemployed
Bertha Foundation
Centre for Faith and Community, UP
Circle of Compassion
Claremont Main Road Masjid
Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa
Consultant C Pty Ltd
D'Health Projects
Disabled Migrants Rights Networking Organisation
Disability Revolution
EHIOHLORE MOSWA Organisation
Free Basotho Movement Social and Civil Rights Organization
Guardian Angels Care and Support Center
Healing Nation Forum
Health, Law and Human Rights Center-SA**

Health Justice Initiative
Institute for Economic Justice
Kopanang Africa Against Xenophobia
Khulumani Support Group
Lawyers for Human Rights
Legally You
Lopes Attorneys Inc
Makause Community Development Forum (MACODEFO)
MambaOnline
Masibuyisane
MCSA Central Methodist Mission
Movement for Change and Social Justice
Nhlokomele ngwana Mosadi CBO
Overstrand Unite
People's Legal Centre
Phoenix Foundation of Zimbabwe/ Vukuzakhe Academy
Positive Woman Network
Positively Alive
PSB Consulting
PWUD sub-sector
Reclaim the City
Red Ribbon Foundation
Refugee Social Services
Remmoho Womens' Forum
Rent Control
SAHARA - Smoking & Alcohol Harms Alleviation & Rehabilitation Association
Samkeni Development Foundation
#sharp ecosocialist collective
South African National AIDS Council CSF PWUD SUB SECTOR
South African National AIDS Council FAITH BASED SECTOR
SANIR (Southern Africa Network for Immigrants and Refugees)
Serapeng sa dithlare and environment NPC
Sisonke Sex Workers Movement
Sizanani Drop In Centre
Social, Health & Empowerment Feminist Collective of Transgender Women
Sophiatown Community Psychological Services
South African Positive Women Ambassadors
Southern Africa Litigation Centre
Sun of Joy Foundation
Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Taskforce
The Health Law and Human Rights Centre-SA
Transformation Office Wits University
Triangle Project
Ubuhlebethu 1203 Organisation NPO
#Unitebehind
United Front (Greater Johannesburg)
Uplifting Lives Foundation NPC
Witzenberg Justice Coalition

Zamukwakha Independent Counselling and Advisory Services