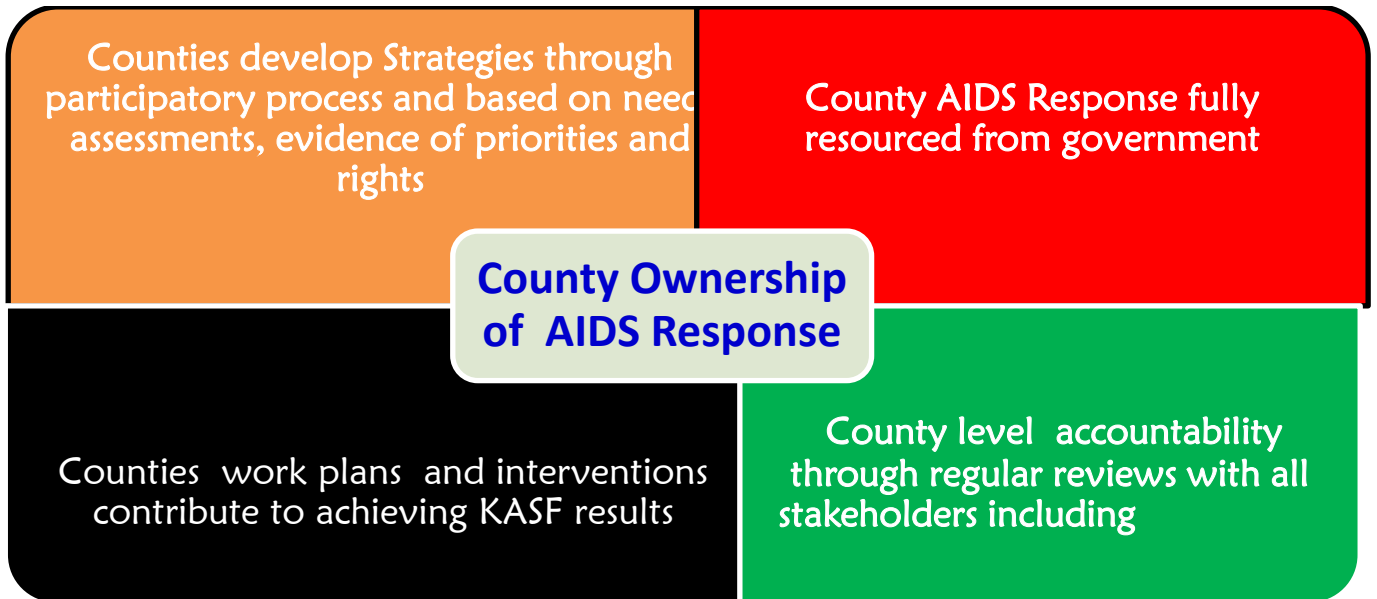




COUNTY OWNERSHIP OF THE AIDS RESPONSE

PRELIMINARY SCORECARD ON COUNTY AIDS STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



Notes and Explanations.

The Scorecard is based on the County Ownership Framework which has 4 arms as illustrated in Figure 1 below: 1) Counties develop Strategies through participatory process and based on needs assessments, evidence of priorities and rights; 2) County AIDS Response fully resourced from government; 3) County level accountability through regular reviews with all stakeholders including PLHIV and affected communities and; 4) Counties work plans and interventions contribute to achieving KASF results. This Scorecard did not include the fourth arm of county Ownership because the County Strategic Plans are still under development. Figure 1 below summarizes the questions used to assess the levels of the County Ownership of the AIDS response.

To facilitate this process, NEPHAK County Focal Persons drawn from NEPHAK affiliate organizations at the county levels were provided with a template with questions based on each of the four arms above and were asked to convene a representative group of between 12 to 15 PLHIV leaders drawn from various sub-counties. The County PLHIV groups were only required to respond to specific questions by selecting an appropriate choice ranging from: Behind; In Progress; Completed. Scores were facilitated by NEPHAK County Focal Points and only recorded after consensus was reached. Responses were received from 18 counties and 15 of them were complete therefore forming the basis of this preliminary report. The analysis and report has used the following colour codes: Red: **Behind**; Orange: **In Progress**; iii) Green: **Completed**.

The discussions during the assessment to produce the scorecard brought to the team the need to include an important crosscutting element of County Ownership which is, timeline. With no County AIDS Strategic Plan, the on-going HIV and AIDS interventions cannot be placed within the right framework. Are counties still using the 3rd Kenya AIDS Strategic Plan (KNASP III) which ended three years ago? Will Counties mount their HIV response initiatives on KASF after its midterm review? Was there a plan for the long transition period? County teams have answers to these questions. There is no vacuum and they are not waiting. They have their development and health policies and plans. This brought in an additional worry which is

beyond the scope of this assessment. How is KASF aligned and harmonized with County Development and Health Plans?

Preliminary Results.

As can be deduced from the Figure 1 below, PLHIV teams in 15 counties have enabled NEPHAK national team to generate a preliminary scorecard for the CASP development process. Clearly, there is consensus that the CASP development process is participatory and based on needs assessments, evidence of priorities and rights of the local populace. The assessment also confirms that the CASP development process is in progress when it comes to accountability through regular reviews with all stakeholders including PLHIV and affected communities. On the other hand, the counties under this assessment are behind when it comes to direct resource allocation to the CASP development process. This is of great concern because resource allocation is a significant aspect of county ownership. We can only hope that these counties will be willing to allocate resources to enable the implementation of the plans once they are developed. The other concern around timeline is dealt with in the above paragraph.

Figure 1: Preliminary Results of the CASP Development Process

In the considered opinion of the County PLHIV team	Response Category		
	Behind	In-Progress	Completed
Is the County AIDS Strategies Plan process participatory and based on needs assessments, evidence of priorities and rights			
Is the CASP development process fully paid for by county government?			
Is the AIDS County work plans and interventions contribute to achieving KASF results [Not assessed]	N/A	N/A	N/A
Does CASP development process based on accountability through regular reviews with all stakeholders including PLHIV and affected communities?			
County PLHIV Group opinion on timelines			

Conclusion and recommendations.

This is preliminary scorecard and focused mainly on the CASP development process. Our desire is to complete the work by ensuring that we eventually produce a scorecard on county ownership of the AIDS response. At NEPHAK, we believe that county ownership of the AIDS response is as a critical factor for ensuring AIDS programmes are prioritised within development agendas. Country ownership of the AIDS response is achieved when citizens’ voices and concerns are central to county and community development plans and processes through legitimate and open mechanisms. In addition it is a key ingredient for ensuring that AIDS responses will be sustainable over the longer term through localised leadership and coordination of all internal and external inputs into strategy development, implementation and monitoring. The active and meaningful involvement in the AIDS response is a key pillar of the county ownership. The preliminary scorecard emerges with the following recommendations:

1. Targeted advocacy and communications is required to promote a shared understanding of the principles and characteristics of that define county ownership of the AIDS response.
2. Stakeholders will need to constantly remind counties about indicators and benchmarks with which to measure progress of their AIDS response to achieve ownership
3. In line with the Kenya 2010 constitution, counties must promote citizen participation to identify political drivers and accountability for enhanced country-owned and led AIDS responses. The principle of greater and meaningful involvement of people living with HIV in the response is a key pillar of county ownership.