

“Our nation pledged \$15 billion over five years for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in many of the poorest nations on Earth... This investment has yielded the best possible return – saved lives.”

–President George W. Bush



Just five years ago, many wondered whether prevention, treatment and care could ever successfully be provided in resource-limited settings where HIV was a death sentence. Only 50,000 people living with HIV in all of sub-Saharan Africa were receiving antiretroviral treatment.

Recognizing that HIV/AIDS was and is a global health emergency requiring emergency action, President George W. Bush and a bipartisan Congress led the United States to lead the world in restoring hope by combating the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The success of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (Emergency Plan/PEPFAR) is firmly rooted in partnerships. The American people are working hand-in-hand with the people of the world – including governments, nongovernmental organizations including faith- and community-based organizations, and the private sector – to build systems and to empower individuals, communities and nations to tackle HIV/AIDS. And, in just three and a half years, it is working.

RESULTS

PEPFAR is well on the way to achieving its ambitious five-year targets of supporting treatment for 2 million people, prevention of 7 million new infections, and care for 10 million people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, including orphans and vulnerable children.

Through September 2006, PEPFAR-supported programs reached 61 million people with prevention messages. PEPFAR has supported antiretroviral prophylaxis during more than half a million pregnancies, preventing an estimated 101,000 infant HIV infections. PEPFAR has supported HIV counseling and testing for 18.6 million people and supported care for 2.4 million adults and 2 million orphans and vulnerable children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. And through March 2007, PEPFAR supported antiretroviral treatment for more than 1.1 million men, women, and children – more than 1 million in sub-Saharan Africa.

PREVENTION

Prevention is the bedrock of an effective global response to HIV/AIDS. Today, the Emergency Plan supports the most comprehensive, evidence-based prevention program in the world, targeting interventions based on the epidemiology of HIV infection in each country. PEPFAR supports prevention activities that focus on sexual transmission, mother-to-child transmission, the transmission of HIV through unsafe blood and medical injections, and HIV counseling and testing.

In addition to earlier dramatic declines in HIV prevalence in Uganda, there is growing evidence of similar trends in other African nations, including Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. There is also evidence for stabilization or declines in the Caribbean, including Haiti. The best hope for generalized epidemics – the most common type of epidemic in Africa – is ABC behavior change: Abstain, Be faithful, and correct and consistent use of Condoms. The ABC strategy is an African solution, developed in Africa, and reflects respect for local culture.

GENDER

Addressing the distinctive needs of women and girls is critical for effective prevention, as well as for treatment and care. For this reason, many ABC prevention programs also address issues related to gender. Key strategies from PEPFAR's authorizing legislation include: increasing gender equity in HIV/AIDS programs and services; reducing violence and coercion; addressing male norms and behaviors; increasing women's legal protection; and increasing women's access to income and productive resources.

HIV COUNSELING & TESTING

The United States, in partnership with the people of many nations, is supporting national efforts to massively scale up the number of people receiving HIV/AIDS counseling and testing. When people learn their status, they can begin treatment or take the appropriate steps to avoid spreading the infection to others or becoming infected in the future.



TREATMENT

Support for antiretroviral treatment is more than drugs – it is a sign of hope. To people who have understood their HIV infection to be a death sentence, treatment promises a second chance at life. The Emergency Plan coordinates with host nations and other partners under national strategies to provide the full spectrum of treatment services. Quality treatment includes: trained clinical and laboratory personnel; counselors for adherence, prevention and healthy living; physical infrastructure, including laboratory equipment, as well as systems for distribution, logistics and management for drugs and other commodities; treatment for opportunistic infections and other basic care; and much more.

CARE

The Emergency Plan is committed to supporting host countries in developing comprehensive responses that address the many impacts of HIV/AIDS. Working under national strategies, the Emergency Plan supports a wide range of activities aimed at improving the lives of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. These include interventions to help families, communities and governments care for orphans and vulnerable children. Care efforts include: caregiver training; access to education; economic support; food and nutrition support; legal aid; medical, psychological and emotional care; and other social and material support activities. Only responses that address the full range of HIV/AIDS-related challenges will fully enable nations to move from despair to hope.

SUSTAINABILITY

While HIV/AIDS remains a global emergency, PEPFAR also is focused on building capacity for a sustainable response. As President Bush has said, the people of host nations are the leaders in this fight, and the role of the American people is to support them. Eighty-five percent of PEPFAR's partners are local organizations. Building health systems and workforce is fundamental to the Emergency Plan's work, and the program will remain focused on it.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The United States is a founding member of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, with President Bush making its founding contribution in 2001. To date, the United States has contributed more than \$2.5 billion to the Global Fund. As the Fund's first and largest contributor, the United States will continue to play a leading role in ensuring the success of this international effort. PEPFAR also works at both the headquarters and field level with other international organizations, like UNAIDS and WHO, as well as bilateral development programs from other international partners, to coordinate our response.

CONNECTING THE DOTS OF DEVELOPMENT

PEPFAR is an important part of President Bush's expansive development agenda. Since 2000, the U.S. Government has doubled support for development, quadrupled resources for Africa, supported innovative programs like the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the President's Malaria Initiative, the Women's Empowerment and Justice Initiative, and the African Education Initiative. The United States has also more than doubled trade with Africa and provided 100 percent debt relief to the poorest countries.

REAUTHORIZING PEPFAR

On May 30, 2007, President Bush announced his intention to work with Congress to reauthorize the Emergency Plan. The five-year, \$30 billion proposal would be in addition to the United States' initial \$15 billion commitment made in 2003. Assuming Congress meets the President's request for fiscal year 2008, and with the new \$30 billion proposal, the American people will have committed \$48.3 billion across 10 years to fight HIV/AIDS.