

**USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter**  
**December 15, 2003**

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*This newsletter provides regular updates on activities of the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of HIV/AIDS and its partners to prevent and mitigate HIV/AIDS across the developing world. We encourage you to circulate this publication to colleagues.*  
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**WORLD AIDS DAY 2003**

**World AIDS Day: A Time for Action and Remembrance**

Organizations and individuals worldwide commemorated the 15th annual World AIDS Day on December 1. This year UNAIDS continued its campaign "Live and Let Live," intended to combat the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease. Among the events to commemorate World AIDS Day 2003 were:

- USAID/Uganda signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health to build capacity for antiretroviral therapy services in 22 sites across Uganda for the next three years. For details, see: [http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.irinnews.org/AIDSreport.asp?ReportID=2819&SelectRegion=East\\_Africa&SelectCountry=UGANDA](http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.irinnews.org/AIDSreport.asp?ReportID=2819&SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=UGANDA).
- Kichukiro Health Center, a Catholic health facility in Kigali, Rwanda, held a ceremony to officially launch President Bush's International Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative. In Rwanda, the initiative will provide antiretroviral therapy to 400 mothers and their families. Through USAID's IMPACT Project, 250 of these treatments will be prescribed to Kichukiro Health Center patients. For further information, go to: [http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/CountryPages/Rwanda\\_HIV.htm](http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/CountryPages/Rwanda_HIV.htm).
- Faced with an HIV prevalence of 12 percent, Zambia started an HIV/AIDS telephone hotline, with support from USAID and technical assistance from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs. For more information, visit: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.jhuccp.org/pressroom/2003/12-03.shtml>.
- The IMPACT Project in Ethiopia, together with the Addis Ababa HAPCO, launched an anti-stigma campaign for World AIDS Day 2003 called "Compassion, Tolerance, and Sensitivity." For details, see: [http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/CountryPages/Ethiopia\\_HIV.htm](http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/CountryPages/Ethiopia_HIV.htm).
- Family Health International made available brief, narrated video vignettes that focus on the USAID-supported IMPACT Project's work with antiretroviral therapy in Rwanda; Buddhist monks in Cambodia; St. Paul's Trust of India; Dr. E. Anne Peterson, of USAID, on the involvement of faith-based organizations; Nigeria; the Dominican Republic; and HIV testing in Kenya. View the videos at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/Video/worldaidsday2003.htm>.

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**NEWS**

**Renovation of Mombassa Health Center Attracts New Patients with HIV/AIDS**

The comprehensive care center at Coast Provincial General Hospital in Mombassa, Kenya, is experiencing an influx of new patients with HIV/AIDS seeking care and support after a two-month renovation of the facilities managed by Family Health International. More than 100 new patients visited the center the first week after the renovation was completed in November. The comprehensive care center is the flagship of the USAID-supported antiretroviral therapy program launched in Kenya in May 2003. Read more at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/CountryPages/Kenya.htm>.

**Peace Corps Reopens Programs in Africa to Address AIDS Prevention**

The Peace Corps has reactivated programs in Botswana and Swaziland so volunteers can help communities combat the spread of HIV/AIDS. Volunteers in Botswana are training teachers and community members in how to prevent infection and are working with in-school and out-of-school youth to raise their awareness of the disease. All Peace Corps volunteers now receive training in HIV/AIDS education regardless of their primary assignment. For more information, go to: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2003/Nov/14-116383.html>.

**USAID Awards Phase II of MEASURE Evaluation Project**

USAID has awarded Phase II of the MEASURE Evaluation Project (2003–2008) to the consortium led by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc., Tulane University, the Futures Group International, and ORC Macro. Funded by USAID, this \$70 million project seeks to improve the collection and analysis of data for monitoring and evaluating population, health, and nutrition programs in developing countries. JSI’s work focuses primarily on the development of appropriate and affordable routine health information systems, and on the monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. For more information, see: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.jsi.com>.

**USAID Recounts Successes in the Fight Against AIDS**

USAID describes its fight against HIV/AIDS in “Success Stories,” reports on the real-life achievements of USAID partners. Topics range from food assistance, to the force of radio to engage communities in AIDS awareness, to the use of barbers, monks, and Miss Universe as prevention educators. Exotic and commonplace venues frame these testaments to invaluable partner interventions that touch the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. View 20 new success stories at: [http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.usaid.gov/pop\\_health/aids/News/success.html](http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/News/success.html).

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Community REACH Accepting Proposals on Orphans and Vulnerable Children**

Pact’s Community REACH Project is currently accepting applications from nongovernmental organizations interested in conducting focused studies to improve programs for orphans and vulnerable children in Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The USAID-funded project encourages proposals from national and local organizations that implement HIV/AIDS activities in these ten countries. The application deadline is January 5, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.pactworld.org/reach>.

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**RECENT EVENTS**

**Photo of Orphan Family Takes a Top Prize at Photoshare Contest Supported by USAID**

A photo of a child-headed family in Zambia, orphaned by AIDS, was one of nine winners at the 1st Annual Photoshare Photo Contest. The INFO Project of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs sponsored the competition. Supported by USAID, the Information and Knowledge for Optimal Health Project, or INFO, is a resource for nonprofits to share photos and communicate health and development issues through photography. To view the winning photos and the Photoshare archive, see: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.jhuccp.org/pressroom/2003/10-10.shtml>.

**Conference Explores Techniques to Assess Effects of Microbicides**

Clinicians and researchers from 13 countries attended a conference in the Dominican Republic in November to review the role of colposcopy and other methods in assessing genital irritation in research for vaginal microbicides and contraceptives. With funding from USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CONRAD co-sponsored

the conference with the World Health Organization. This conference was a follow-up to one held in 1999, a major outcome of which was an updated version of a colposcopy manual used for training investigators. An updated colposcopy manual and proceedings from this year's conference will be published in 2004. Proceedings from the 1999 conference and the colposcopy manual are available at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.conrad.org/workshops.html#vag>.

#### **Presentations Addressing Stigma in Africa Available Online**

Presentations from "Understanding and Addressing HIV/AIDS Stigma in Africa," a meeting held by USAID's CHANGE Project in Washington, D.C., in October 2003, can be downloaded at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.changeproject.org/technical/hivaids/index.htm#Presentations>.

#### **Population Services International's YouthAIDS Gala Attracts Celebrities to Rally Against AIDS**

Entertainers, business leaders, and activists turned out for the second annual YouthAIDS Benefit Gala in New York City on October 27. YouthAIDS is the cause-related marketing arm of Population Services International (PSI) that seeks to increase awareness and raise funds to benefit PSI's AIDS prevention programs targeted at young people. YouthAIDS global ambassador and actress Ashley Judd hosted the benefit dinner. For more information, visit: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.psi.org/news/1003f.html>.

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### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Population Services International's AIDSMark Project Publishes Brochure on Faith-Based Approach**

The AIDSMark Project recently published "Social Marketing and the Role of Faith-Based Organizations," which profiles how years of collaboration between Population Services International and faith-based organizations are helping curb the spread of HIV/AIDS. The brochure also outlines how AIDSMark, with support from USAID, has developed a training program for religious leaders to increase their capability to implement HIV/AIDS prevention activities. This new initiative will enable churches and faith-based groups to educate their congregations on HIV/AIDS prevention, correct misconceptions, and fight stigma. For more information, visit: [http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.psi.org/resources/pubs/fbo\\_br.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.psi.org/resources/pubs/fbo_br.pdf).

#### **Horizons Highlights Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission**

The December 2003 "Horizons Report" describes recent operations research in Kenya, Zambia, and elsewhere on implementation of programs to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT). Issues discussed include infant feeding counseling, integrating PMTCT into existing reproductive health services, and increasing male involvement. "Horizons Report" is accessible at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/horizons/hrptdec03.pdf>.

#### **Report Analyzes Costs of Antiretroviral Therapy in Zambia**

"The Costs of Antiretroviral Treatment in Zambia," a new cost and resource analysis by Partners for Health Reformplus, USAID's project for strengthening health policy and health system in developing and transitional countries, is available electronically at: [http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.phrplus.org/Pubs/Tech029\\_fin.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.phrplus.org/Pubs/Tech029_fin.pdf).

#### **Two YouthNet Research Briefs Available in Spanish and French**

Two new YouthLens research briefs are now available in Spanish and French: "Information and Communications Technology" and "Abstinence and Delayed Sexual Initiation." The publications are accessible at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/Publications/index.htm>.

#### **CHANGE Project Publishes HIV Stigma Toolkit**

"Understanding and Challenging HIV Stigma: Toolkit for Action," is a resource collection of participatory educational exercises designed for HIV educators, nongovernmental organizations, and community groups. Based on research in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Zambia, the toolkit is accessible at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.changeproject.org/technical/hivaids/stigma.html>.

**YouthNet Introduces a Monthly Resource for Youth Information**

YouthNet, coordinated by Family Health International, has announced the launch of “Youth InfoNet,” a monthly source for new publications and information on youth reproductive health and HIV prevention. The initial issue of “Youth InfoNet” is accessible at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/index.htm>.

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**ONLINE RESOURCES**

**Foundation and Website Offer New Approach for Tackling Russia’s Health Problems**

“Healthy Russia 2020,” a Moscow-based health promotion project supported by USAID, has created the Healthy Russia Foundation and a new Website to improve the health of all Russians. The Website features new and previously unpublished statistical data on the health issues affecting Russians. The initial focus of the foundation will be reproductive health, maternal health and early childhood, adolescent health, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis. The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs leads “Healthy Russia 2020,” in partnership with the Futures Group International, Constella Group, and several collaborators. For more information, visit: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.jhuccp.org/pressroom/2003/09-25.shtml>.

**Website Highlights USAID-Funded Health Programs and Other Services in Nigeria**

In an effort to provide a comprehensive look at public health programs in Nigeria, USAID and its partners have launched a new Website to centralize information and resources about ongoing activities in the African nation. The Website documents specific programs related to reproductive health, child survival, HIV/AIDS, and family planning. For more about the site, see: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.jhuccp.org/pressroom/2003/08-06.shtml>.

**Kaiser Family Foundation Website Has a New Design**

The new and improved Kaiser Family Foundation Website makes it easier to access research and analysis of critical health policy issues, including HIV/AIDS. View the Website at: <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.kff.org>.

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*The Synergy Project publishes this newsletter on behalf of USAID’S Office of HIV/AIDS. To subscribe, click on <mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=SUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE>. To unsubscribe, click on <mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=UNSUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE>, or go to <http://www.usaid.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.synergyaids.com/newsletter.asp>. For those without Web access, to subscribe or unsubscribe, send an e-mail to: [listserv@list.s-3.com](mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com) with “subscribe subscribe” or “unsubscribe subscribe” in the body of the e-mail.*

*USAID’s Office of HIV/AIDS welcomes newsletter submissions from USAID Missions and partner agencies. Send information to [enews@s-3.com](mailto:enews@s-3.com) by the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month.*