



USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter



April 21, 2004

A monthly update 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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The "USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter" is conducting a brief survey to gather information to better meet your needs and to improve coverage of news, information, and events of USAID and its partners. Please take a moment to complete the online survey. Your comments will help make the newsletter a more valuable communication tool. [Survey](#).

NEWS

President's Emergency Plan to Fund South African Public Health Television Channel

President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is providing nearly \$3 million through USAID to expand a public health education television channel in South Africa, a nation battling HIV/AIDS at epidemic levels. The Health Channel, created through a public-private partnership, delivers free education to patients and health care workers in clinics and hospitals. According to USAID Deputy Administrator Frederick W. Schieck, the satellite broadcast channel is "an innovative South African approach to dealing with AIDS." [More](#).

IMPACT Project Produces Film on Faith-Based Organizations and HIV

USAID's IMPACT Project has produced a 15-minute documentary on the work of faith-based organizations in global HIV prevention, care, and treatment. The film, "Sounding the Call: Faith-Based Organizations and HIV/AIDS," highlights the work of Buddhist monks in Cambodia, efforts to address HIV-related discrimination in India, and features an interview with one of the first patients to receive antiretroviral drugs through a Catholic health facility in Rwanda. Religious leaders and institutions in the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zambia are also presented. [More](#).

Rapid Funding to Fight HIV/AIDS in Tanzania

Management Sciences for Health's USAID-funded Management and Leadership Program has developed a new mechanism for quickly dispersing funds to fill urgent gaps in the delivery of HIV/AIDS services. In just eight months, the Rapid Funding Envelope acquired \$3.6 million from eight bilateral donors, including USAID, and awarded \$3.5 million to 25 civil society organizations to implement short-term HIV/AIDS projects. [More](#).

Collaborative Effort Leads to Increased Understanding of Sexually Transmitted Infections

In Jordan, USAID's IMPACT Project, which is managed by Family Health International, is expanding comprehensive treatment of sexually transmitted infections and reproductive tract infections (STIs/RTIs), in partnership with the National AIDS Program and the Ministry of Health. IMPACT and its partners have developed national STI case management guidelines and have conducted a large STI prevalence study. Results of the 2003 study will help Jordan develop appropriate and effective STI management protocols, improve the national guidelines, and enhance the quality of STI/RTI services. [More](#).

Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia Opens in Kiev, Ukraine

The American International Health Alliance—in conjunction with the World Health Organization and with support from the German government and USAID—opened the Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia on March 10. Located in Kiev, the Knowledge Hub provides a unified, evidence-based, organizational framework for national efforts to build the health system capacity necessary to provide high quality care to HIV-infected individuals. Its activities will focus primarily on designated priority countries of the former Soviet Union, which are currently experiencing some of the fastest growing rates of new HIV infections in the world. [More](#).

USAID-Funded Grant Program Supports Work of Grassroots Community- and Faith-Based Groups

In the first year of operation, the CORE Initiative has awarded 14 large grants, ranging from \$8,000 to \$215,000, to organizations in Africa and Asia to support a wide spectrum of prevention, stigma and discrimination, and care and support activities. The Initiative has also awarded about 40 small empowerment grants, ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000, to help local organizations mobilize and strengthen their response to HIV/AIDS in Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Rwanda. Similar awards are planned in the coming months for Cambodia, Uganda, and Vietnam. [Large Grantees](#). [Small Grantees](#).

RECENT EVENTS

Study Shows Zambian Health Workers Need Information and Support to Cope With Demands of HIV/AIDS

The Zambia Minister of Health and more than 30 health officials, hospital managers, and others attended a workshop in Lusaka on March 31, to discuss baseline data collected for a Horizons study titled "Caring for the Caregivers." The findings reveal that many Zambian health workers are not uniformly informed about HIV transmission and post-exposure prophylaxis, and that many must deal with HIV/AIDS off the job, by caring for family members or others in their communities. [More](#).

Symposium Highlights Horizons' Youth Studies in Africa

"Keeping Youth Safe: Findings from Research and Program Intervention Studies," a symposium held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on March 31, focused on the results of youth-related research in South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia. More than 60 participants from the Ministry of Health and other government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, research organizations, and the donor community discussed issues affecting young people, their use of voluntary counseling and testing and reproductive health services, and program impact on behavior change among youth. [More](#).

PUBLICATIONS

New HIV Clinical Training Resource Available from IMPACT

The IMPACT Project has produced a new facilitator's guide for training physicians, nurses, and other health care workers to treat people with HIV/AIDS in developing countries. "HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment: A Clinical Course for People Caring for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS" features facilitator's notes to guide the training process and a CD-ROM containing PowerPoint slides and notes for course participants. The guide covers the most important elements of care and treatment, including antiretroviral therapy, and addresses special issues related to women, young children, and people coinfecting with tuberculosis. [More](#).

Health Magazine Highlights Links Between Sexually Transmitted Infections, Infertility, and HIV Prevention

Addressing the primary preventable cause of infertility—untreated sexually transmitted infections (STIs)—could also enhance HIV prevention, reports the current issue of "Network," Family Health International's quarterly health bulletin. With increased awareness that untreated or improperly treated STIs are a major cause of infertility, couples' concerns about their inability to conceive could provide powerful motivation to adopt safer sexual behaviors and seek appropriate STI treatment. Other articles in the issue explore STI diagnosis and treatment in low-resource settings, the impact of infertility on people's lives, and abstinence promotion among young people in developing countries. [More](#).

POLICY Reports Analyze Family Planning in the Context of HIV/AIDS

The POLICY project has released two reports that examine family planning and HIV/AIDS. The first study analyzes how international guidelines and national policies on HIV/AIDS, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and voluntary counseling and testing have addressed family planning in 16 countries with high HIV prevalence. The second study assesses the provision and use of family planning services in the context of HIV/AIDS in Zambia. [First Study](#). [Second Study](#).

USAID's Synergy Project Releases Publications on Orphans and Vulnerable Children

The Synergy Project has published "A Family Is for a Lifetime: A Discussion of the Need for Family Care for Children Impacted by AIDS and Annotated Bibliography" and "Orphans and Vulnerable Children in India: Report on Town Hall Meeting." "A Family Is for a Lifetime" features a review of approximately 80 documents related to the provision of care for children lacking family care in countries most affected by HIV/AIDS. The town meeting report shares examples of successful programming approaches, and the challenges, with a view toward defining a holistic approach to orphans and vulnerable children issues in India. [More](#).

Research Addresses Stigma and Discrimination in Vietnam

Urban Vietnamese women and men living with HIV and AIDS often endure multiple stigmas, according to new research report, "Understanding HIV and AIDS-Related Stigma and Discrimination in Vietnam." The two-year study was conducted jointly by the International Center for Research on Women and the Hanoi-based Institute for Social Development Studies, and was funded by USAID through the CHANGE Project. [More](#).

Study Finds Community Approaches and Government Policy Reduce HIV Risk

In the Dominican Republic, Horizons and partners, including two nongovernmental organizations and the National AIDS Control Program, found that community mobilization to build a collective commitment to HIV prevention and a government-sponsored 100 percent condom-use policy reduced the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and increased condom use among female sex workers. Full report: [Full Report](#). [Summary \(English\)](#). [Summary \(Spanish\)](#).

YouthNet Publishes Research Briefs

YouthNet has added three new research briefs in the YouthLens series: "Nonconsensual Sex among Youth," "Maternal Care among Adolescents," and "Expanding Contraceptive Options and Access for Youth." The series summarizes the latest information on key reproductive health and HIV-prevention issues among young people. [More](#).

Youth InfoNet No. 5 Now Available

Youth InfoNet No. 5 includes summaries and links to 13 programs that focus on peer education, orphans and vulnerable children, youth involvement, media projects, and more. Research summaries from Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tunisia, Uganda, and other countries highlight findings on factors that affect youth behaviors and innovative interventions. [More](#).

ONLINE RESOURCES

New Web Site Will Help Improve HIV/AIDS-Related Care in Eurasia

A new Web site, which is part of the Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia, provides health care professionals, policymakers, patients, and others in the region with access to HIV/AIDS-related training modules, treatment protocols, networking tools, and other relevant materials in both English and Russian. This Internet resource is funded by the American International Health Alliance through USAID. [More](#).

Spanish Language Publications Now Available

Several DELIVER publications on HIV/AIDS topics are now available in Spanish:

- Briefing Papers on the Importance of Logistics in HIV/AIDS Programs. [More](#).
- ProQ: Software for Quantifying HIV Test Procurement Requirements. [More](#).
- Tool to Assess Site Program Readiness for Initiating Antiretroviral Therapy. [More](#).

Synergy Resource Center Highlights What's New

The Synergy Resource Center now features advanced search functions and issues monthly e-alerts about new materials in the collection. The Synergy Resource Center contains more than 3,200 searchable online documents relevant to HIV/AIDS project management and research, and reproductive health issues. [More](#).



The Synergy Project publishes this newsletter on behalf of USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS.

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