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*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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## XV INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

### **USAID, Partners Participate in Bangkok Conference**

USAID and several of its HIV/AIDS partners served as sponsors of the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, July 11-16. The International AIDS Conference attracts about 18,000 attendees and aims to link community and science to galvanize the world's response to HIV/AIDS through increased commitment, leadership and accountability.

- **USAID Sponsors Satellite Session Series**  
Presentations from the three satellite sessions sponsored by USAID are now online. Topics include "Taking a Closer Look at the 'ABCs' of HIV Prevention," "Models of Strategic Action to Support Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children Affected by HIV/AIDS," and "Reducing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV-Challenges and Successes: Where We Are and Where We Are Going." [More](#).
- **Monitoring the AIDS Pandemic Network Releases Major Report on HIV/AIDS in Asia**  
At the Bangkok conference, the Monitoring the AIDS Pandemic Network released "AIDS in Asia: Face the Facts," a comprehensive analysis of the AIDS epidemic in Asia. Family Health International was one of many organizations that contributed to the report. [More](#).
- **CORE Initiative Organizes Interfaith Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Briefing**  
The CORE Initiative presented a briefing titled "Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation for Faith-Based Organizations" and released a manual prototype at the conference. Participants were encouraged to provide feedback and contribute to the manual's development during the next 12 months. The manual is intended to help community- and faith-based organizations make HIV/AIDS services and activities more effective in their communities. More than 100 participants from around the world representing all faiths and traditions attended the briefing. [More](#).

### **USAID Hosts 'Highlights from Bangkok' Seminar in Washington, D.C.**

USAID held a briefing on August 5 to discuss new developments in HIV/AIDS that came out of Bangkok. More than 25 speakers presented on topics including: HIV/AIDS population estimates, the integration of family planning in HIV/AIDS programs, prevention, preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, orphans and vulnerable children, treatment, and stigma. Dr. E. Anne Peterson, USAID Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health, and Dr. Mark Dybul, Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, spoke and fielded questions. [More](#).

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## NEWS

### **USAID Awards \$20 Million for New Health Project in South Africa**

USAID awarded Management Sciences for Health \$20 million for a four-year project that seeks to improve access to, and use of, child health, reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS services in South

Africa. Building on the successes of the EQUITY Project, Management Sciences for Health will work closely with the department of health and local partners in five provinces to strengthen management systems such as planning, financial management, human capacity development, and quality assurance. [More](#).

#### **U.S. Embassy Promotes HIV Testing to Zimbabwean Staff**

The U.S. Embassy in Harare asked the Population Services International/Zimbabwe New Start network to provide voluntary counseling and testing services for its staff. Almost 43 percent of the 220 employees who attended the initial session sought pretest counseling and 33 percent were tested. [More](#).

#### **Webcast Bridges Distance between Rwanda, United States**

Using technology to foster understanding and awareness among the world's youth, staff members of Population Services International/Rwanda and their Centre Dushishoze youth program participated in a webcast that connected them to students from 20 U.S. schools to discuss HIV/AIDS prevention and family planning. Funded by USAID, Centre Dushishoze provides affordable and youth-friendly information, products and services, and skill-building opportunities in an entertaining and educational setting. [More](#).

#### **IMPACT and Ethiopian Group Inaugurate a Home-Based Care Training Center**

Family Health International and the Hiwot HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support Organization held an inauguration ceremony for the new Home- and Community-Based Care Training Center at the Ras Desta Hospital in Addis Ababa. [More](#).

#### **Peace Corps Operations in Africa Receive HIV/AIDS Funding**

In July, President George W. Bush pledged \$1.1 million to the Peace Corps to extend and deepen its commitment to local communities in battling HIV/AIDS. The funds, part of the \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, will help the agency to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. [More](#).

#### **Workshop Takes Fear Out of Voluntary Counseling and Testing**

Internews Local Voices journalists participated in an AIDS information workshop earlier this month at Wuse General Hospital in Abuja, Nigeria. Participants from radio stations in Kano, Lagos, and Abuja experienced voluntary confidential counseling and testing firsthand, making them better equipped to dispel anxieties and misconceptions about testing. [More](#).

#### **CORE Initiative Awards Two New Grants**

The CORE Initiative announced two new partnerships in East Africa with the Organization of African Instituted Churches and Loma Linda University. These two grants support the scale-up of HIV/AIDS programs to improve care and support, address stigma and discrimination, and integrate prevention services at the community level. The Organization of African Instituted Churches is expanding its HIV/AIDS prevention and stigma reduction efforts in local communities through associated African Independent Churches in Uganda and Kenya. Loma Linda will implement a capacity-building program for HIV/AIDS clinical service providers in Rwanda. [More](#).

#### **Horizons Study Tests Community Approaches for Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission**

Horizons, in partnership with the International Medical Corps and Steadman Research Services, is assessing different strategies, including the use of HIV-positive peer counselors, traditional birth attendants, and a mobile clinic, to improve the uptake of services to women in Kenya to prevent mother-to-child transmission. [More](#).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **The INFO Project Sponsors Second International Photoshare Photo Contest**

The Information & Knowledge for Optimal Health (INFO) Project announces the second international Photoshare Photo Contest. The Photoshare online database, available through Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs, helps nonprofit organizations communicate global health and development issues through photography. Photos illustrating the realities of urban and rural life in developing countries and programs in action, as well as snapshots from personal travel, volunteer service, and work experience, are eligible. The deadline for entries is October 1. [More](#).

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## RECENT EVENTS

### **MEASURE Evaluation Sponsors Workshop in Mexico**

MEASURE Evaluation and the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (Mexico) co-sponsored a workshop titled "Impact Evaluation of Population, Health, and Nutrition Programs" for Spanish-speaking professionals. The three-week course took place July 19-August 6, 2004, in Cuernavaca, Mexico. [More.](#)

### **CORE Initiative Hosts Workshop in Sierra Leone**

The CORE Initiative and Right To Play conducted a joint meeting in Sierra Leone to coordinate planning and partnership with local stakeholders. The partnership and design workshop was held in Freetown July 27-30, 2004. The project in Sierra Leone will focus on the youth in post-conflict communities in Makeni and Freetown and will use the SportWorks and Sport Health programs to enhance child and community development and to foster healthy, HIV-preventive behaviors. [More.](#)

### **Community- and Faith-Based Small Grants Program Design Workshop Held in Uganda**

The CORE Initiative sponsored the "Small Grants Program Design Workshop" in Kabale, Uganda, in June. Participants included 15 community- and faith-based organizations selected to receive small grants of up to \$5,000 to implement projects promoting voluntary counseling and testing for adolescents in and around Kabale. The five-day workshop focused on project planning, design and management, monitoring and evaluation, and networking for the community- and faith-based organizations to better implement and coordinate their community-based interventions. [More.](#)

### **Workshop Held on Economic Strengthening for Orphans and Vulnerable Children**

The USAID Bureau for Africa, working with the Academy for Educational Development in the Support for Analysis and Research in Africa (SARA) project, Enterprising Solutions Global Consulting, and the USAID Office of Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF), organized a workshop on microeconomic strengthening to benefit orphans and vulnerable children in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, June 14-16, 2004. The workshop brought together a diverse group of specialists to determine how appropriate interventions can be developed and implemented on a scale that matches that of the impacts of AIDS. [More.](#)

### **IMPACT Co-Hosts AIDS Conference for Namibia's Traditional and Religious Leaders**

On July 29, more than 500 people attended a one-day AIDS education conference in Namibia for traditional and religious leaders, co-hosted by IMPACT, ELCIN AIDS Action/Western Diocese, and King Josia S. Taapopi, traditional leader of the Uukwaluudhi Constituency in northwest Namibia. Funded by The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the gathering aimed to educate the leaders about AIDS and engage them in community-based responses to the epidemic. Speakers included King Taapopi and USAID Mission Director Gary Newton. [More.](#)

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## PUBLICATIONS

### **USAID HIV/AIDS Publications Now Available Online**

USAID recently released the second edition of the "Directory of Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS." The directory, also available on CD-ROM, contains contact, membership, leadership, and activity information for more than 350 associations throughout the developing world. "Children on the Brink 2004: A Joint Report of New Orphan Estimates and a Framework for Action" is now available in English, Spanish, and French. [More.](#)

### **Population Services International Report Emphasizes Measurable Health Impact**

Population Services International presents in its 2003-2004 biennial report the measurable health impact it has achieved in more than 60 countries. PSI measures its impact on low-income and vulnerable people through indicators such as the number of HIV infections, unintended pregnancies, and malaria cases prevented. PSI activities in five health areas are covered: safe water/oral rehydration, malaria, nutrition/micronutrients, HIV/AIDS, and family planning. [More.](#)

### **IGWG Publication on Integrating Gender into HIV/AIDS Programs**

The USAID Interagency Gender Working Group released "How to Integrate Gender into HIV/AIDS

Programs: Using Lessons Learned from USAID and Partner Organizations." Produced by the Gender and HIV/AIDS Task Force, the document provides program planners with practical, field-based insights on integrating gender into HIV/AIDS programs. [More](#).

#### **Country Report on Expanding Access to Antiretroviral Drugs in Uganda**

In November 2002, the AIDS Control Program within the Ugandan Ministry of Health established the multisectoral and cross-disciplinary Antiretroviral Task Force to guide the Government of Uganda on introduction and expansion of antiretroviral therapy in the public and private sectors. DELIVER provides technical assistance to the Antiretroviral Task Force on logistics issues. This report covers current practices in provision, procurement, and supply chain management of antiretroviral drugs; makes recommendations for change; and defines topics for further consideration. [More](#).

#### **MEASURE Evaluation Conducts PLACE Assessments in East London, South Africa**

MEASURE Evaluation has released "PLACE in South Africa: Evaluation of a Successful Community-Based AIDS Prevention Program, East London, 2000-2003." The Priorities for Local AIDS Control Efforts (PLACE) method is used to identify those areas likely to have a higher incidence of HIV infection, and specific sites within these areas where AIDS prevention programs should be focused. Another of its many new documents is "AIDS in Africa During the Nineties: Tanzania Youth Report," a review and analysis of surveys and research studies. [More](#).

#### **Horizons Publishes Training Manual on Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy**

"Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy in Adults: A Guide for Trainers" was developed by the Horizons Program, International Centre for Reproductive Health, and the Coast Province General Hospital for health providers working with clients of an antiretroviral therapy program in Mombasa, Kenya. [More](#).

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### **ONLINE RESOURCES**

#### **Synergy Resource Center Highlights What's New**

The Synergy HIV/AIDS Resource Center contains nearly 3,400 searchable online documents relevant to HIV/AIDS project management, 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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