

USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter
January 16, 2004

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.

NEWS

Antiretroviral Site Established in Rural Rwanda

The Ruli District Hospital launched the first rural antiretroviral program in Rwanda on December 15. Ruli is the fourth antiretroviral program in Rwanda supported by USAID and Family Health International's IMPACT Project. [More.](#)

Haitian Documentary Combats HIV Stigma

Population Services International premiered a documentary "Lavi Ka Bel" (Life Can Be Beautiful) to commemorate World AIDS Day 2003 in Haiti. Funded by USAID, the film aims to shatter myths, dispel stigmatization, and serve as an educational tool to be used by people living with HIV/AIDS and by other groups involved in HIV-prevention efforts. [More.](#)

IMPACT Project's Voluntary Counseling and Testing Program A Success in Ethiopia

Though still in its early stages, the IMPACT Project's new voluntary counseling and testing program in Ethiopia has already served more than 5,500 people since it was launched in January 2003. [More.](#)

Family Health International Boosts HIV/AIDS Services in Nigeria

Family Health International (FHI) plans to rapidly scale up voluntary counseling and testing services in Nigeria—from 2 to 33 sites by the end of January. The sites will also offer prevention of mother-to-child transmission services. In December 2003, FHI began training counselors for these sites, provided training on supply logistics for rapid-test kits, and started a pilot project in Kano State that integrates HIV and tuberculosis services. [More.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Abstracts for International AIDS Conference Due in January

The deadline for online abstract submission to the XV International AIDS Conference is January 21. Scheduled for Bangkok, Thailand, July 11–16, 2004, this milestone in the global fight against AIDS will attract leading scientists and clinicians, health care workers, and people living with HIV/AIDS. The conference theme is "Access for All." [More.](#)

RECENT EVENTS

2004 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Launched

The Global Health Council launched the 2004 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial campaign, "Turning Remembrance into Action" on December 1, World AIDS Day, in Miami, Florida. Dr. Nils Dauilaire, president and CEO of the Global Health Council, and Candlelight spokesperson Amelia Vega, Miss Universe 2003, joined the Miami-Dade County Department of Health at World AIDS Day events around the city to launch the 2004 campaign, promote AIDS awareness, educate individuals about various methods of HIV testing, and highlight the Miami community's work on various HIV/AIDS issues. [More.](#)

Meeting Discusses Effective Programs for Preventing Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission

Comprehensive services for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission are feasible and effective in resource-poor settings, yet implementation challenges remain, according to recent research by the Horizons Program. Researchers from Kenya and Zambia reported the results at a symposium attended by health care experts and government officials, in Washington, D.C., in December. Horizons, which conducts operations research to improve HIV/AIDS service delivery in developing countries, is funded by the USAID. [More](#).

Proceedings of HIV/AIDS Workshop on Faith Partnerships Now Online

The proceedings from the forum entitled “Faith, Action, and Partnerships: Confronting Global HIV/AIDS,” held in New York City in November, are now accessible online. [More](#).

Workshop Participants Learn the Latest HIV/AIDS Health Communication Strategies

Participants from ten countries explored the elements of effective behavior change communication and advocacy programs for HIV/AIDS at a workshop held by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs in October. After the success of this first French training workshop, plans are underway for another French language workshop in HIV/AIDS health communication strategies. At the end of the workshop, the participants were able to design innovative and effective communication and advocacy strategies for HIV/AIDS using SCOPE, an interactive software interface, as a tool. [More](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Reproductive Health Services Contribute to HIV Prevention and Treatment

The Frontiers in Reproductive Health Program (FRONTIERS) has published “The Contribution of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services to the Fight Against HIV/AIDS: A Review.” The paper contends that reproductive health programs—traditionally offered separately from HIV services—can provide vital information and counseling to prevent sexual and perinatal HIV transmission. [More](#).

Health Communication Partnership Updates P-Process for Designing Health Communication Strategies

The Health Communication Partnership has revised the P-Process, a useful tool for developing communication programs that address a wide range of health topics, such as encouraging safer sexual behavior to prevent HIV transmission, promoting childhood immunization efforts, and advocating for policy changes that will improve health care delivery. [More](#).

Global AIDSLink Focuses on Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Thematically dedicated to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) affected by HIV/AIDS, the December 2003/January 2004 issue of “Global AIDSLink” contains stories on a range of topics, including: how voluntary counseling and testing and prevention of mother-to-child transmission programs protect children; the impact of AIDS on children’s lives; an analysis of moving OVC policies into practice; the personal story of a young Zambian AIDS orphan who received community-based support; how community workers assist AIDS orphans in Africa’s largest slum; and how USAID partners are addressing the links between HIV/AIDS, human rights, and the special needs of orphans. [More](#).

Report Discusses Readiness of Voluntary Counseling Centers in Kenya to Provide Family Planning

“Assessment of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers in Kenya: Potential Demand, Acceptability, Readiness, and Feasibility of Integrating Family Planning Services into VCT,” the culmination of a study by Family Health International, is now available. [More](#).

Horizons Summaries Describe Challenges and Accomplishments of Implementing Programs to Prevent Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission

Based on recently completed operations research, three new Horizons summaries focus on key program and policy issues surrounding programs to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission:

- “Family Planning and PMTCT Services: Examining Interrelationships, Strengthening Linkages.” [Full text](#).
- “HIV Voluntary Counseling and Testing: An Essential Component in Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV.” [Full text](#).
- “Infant Feeding and Counseling Within Kenyan and Zambian PMTCT Services: How Well Does It Promote Good Feeding Practices?” [Full text](#).

Review of Men and Reproductive Health Programs

The Synergy Project released “Men and Reproductive Health Programs: Influencing Gender Norms,” which highlights programs designed to change social norms related to entrenched gender roles. It explains the methodologies each program used to achieve this goal and presents findings from evaluations conducted to assess their efficacy. [More.](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

Quantification Software for HIV Tests Now Available

The DELIVER Project has released ProQ, a software tool that quantifies HIV test requirements based on realistic forecast demand, assessment of existing supply chain capacity, and availability of resources for procurement. [More.](#)

Synergy Resource Center Highlights What’s New

The Synergy Resource Center contains 3,145 searchable online documents relevant to HIV/AIDS project management, research, and reproductive health issues. New publications in the collection are highlighted each month. [More.](#)

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 [USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter subscription](#). For those without Web access, to subscribe or unsubscribe, send an e-mail to: listserv@list.s-3.com with “subscribe subscribe” or “unsubscribe subscribe” in the body of the e-mail.

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