

PHOTO & CAPTION

Making the Right Decision



Photo: Leah Mwainyekule, Embassy PA

Tanzanian drummers welcomed guests to the celebration of Angaza's 2005 outreach campaign, which calls on Tanzanians to "make the right decision — learn your HIV status," and uses TV, radio, billboards and road shows to reach as many people as possible.

In May 2005, dances, songs, drumming and skits were performed to welcome a new campaign to encourage Tanzanians to be tested for HIV in Dar es Salaam. The artists' pieces expressed the highs and lows of confronting one's HIV status — feelings all too common in a country where 7 percent of the people have tested HIV positive.

The new campaign is being conducted by Angaza, a program established by USAID in 2002 to promote quality HIV/AIDS counseling and testing services in Tanzania. A Kiswahili word meaning "shed light on," throughout Tanzania Angaza is now synonymous with counseling and testing services. The 2005 campaign, which is also supported by

President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, calls on Tanzanians to "make the right decision — learn your HIV status," and uses TV, radio, billboards and road shows to reach as many people as possible.

So far, Angaza has established voluntary counseling and testing services at 45 sites in all of Tanzania's 21 regions, and more than 200,000 first-time clients have been tested. Those who test positive have the option of joining post-test clubs offered at the sites to receive support and life-planning skills. Additionally, six Angaza sites now offer services that help prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission.