



USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter



February 19, 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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NEWS

U.S. President's 2005 Budget Continues Solid Commitment to Combating AIDS

President Bush has budgeted \$2.8 billion in fiscal year 2005 to fight global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The sum is more than any administration has ever devoted to the combat these diseases. Included is \$1.45 billion to carry out the massive, focused program of integrating treatment, care, and prevention to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in 15 countries that are home to about 50 percent of the HIV infections in the world. [More](#).

USAID Top Officials Address the Next Phase in HIV Prevention

Key policy makers addressing the next phase of HIV prevention and care pointed to stigma reduction, behavior change activities, and integration of prevention into care as essential elements in stemming the spread of the virus around the world. Speaking at a January symposium titled "Moving to the Next Phase in HIV Prevention," sponsored by the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C., USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios said, "The urgency of containing and defeating the HIV/AIDS pandemic is one of the defining issues of our era." According to his colleague, Dr. Constance A. Carrino, Director of the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS, "High-risk behavior by high-risk groups is driving the epidemic." [More](#).

Antiretroviral Treatment in Ghana Expanded at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital

In Ghana, Family Health International's Start Program has expanded its care and treatment program for people living with HIV/AIDS from the semirural eastern region in the Manya and Yilo Krobo Districts to Korle Bu, the major teaching hospital of the University of Ghana, in Accra. The program will build on the lessons learned from the Manya sites where, since June 2003, more than 150 patients have begun antiretroviral therapy and more than 780 patients receive care for opportunistic infections. The Korle Bu program's first priority was to provide clinical care for the many patients with AIDS who access care at the hospital. Since antiretroviral therapy was initiated in December 2003, 120 patients have been receiving treatment. Family Health International is supporting the program through funding from USAID. [More](#).

Dignitaries Open New HIV Comprehensive Care Center in Kenya

Kenya's Minister of Health, Charity Ngilu, along with U.S. Ambassador to Kenya William Bellamy and Japanese Ambassador to Kenya Makoto Asami, officially opened the HIV Comprehensive Care Center at the Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital and two satellite centers, Naivasha Sub-District Hospital and Katkures Health Center, all in Nakuru District of Rift Valley Province, on February 12. The network of centers will provide a range of services for people living with HIV/AIDS, including voluntary counseling and testing, antiretroviral therapy, and opportunistic infection management. The USAID-Japan Partnership for Global Health, through the IMPACT Project, provided the funding to build the three facilities, renovate existing structures, purchase furnishings and equipment, and provide training and technical assistance to establish comprehensive services. [More](#).

Home-Based Care Program Trains Burial Society Volunteers to Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS

In Addis Ababa, "idirs," traditional community-based burial societies, have joined forces with the USAID-funded Family Health International/IMPACT Project to help people living with HIV/AIDS. More than 250 volunteers from idirs across Addis Ababa already have received training and are providing support and assistance through this IMPACT/Ethiopia-supported home-based care program. Never before has a home-based care program been able to reach so many people in Addis Ababa. [More](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YouthNet Accepting Applications for Summer Internship Program

YouthNet, a program coordinated by Family Health International, is currently accepting applications for interns for an 11-week program that will take place May through August 2004. The internship is designed to give current or recent undergraduate and graduate university students (under age 25) from developing countries experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating youth reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programs. [More](#).

RECENT EVENTS

Briefing on HIV/AIDS and Absorptive Capacity Considers Constraints and Opportunities

USAID and the Global Health Council sponsored a congressional briefing on HIV/AIDS and absorptive capacity, January 29, in Washington, D.C. The briefing educated participants about the issue of absorptive capacity—the ability of recipient countries to effectively manage aid money and the lack of health infrastructure—by dismantling misperceptions surrounding the term and focusing on how absorptive capacity can serve as a roadmap for the way forward, rather than as a constraint to getting started. [More](#).

Progress in Developing Vaccines for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Pneumonia Explored at Meeting

The Global Health Council sponsored a meeting in January to update efforts to develop vaccines against three of the leading killers in developing countries: AIDS, tuberculosis, and pneumonia. The briefing also included a discussion regarding access to vaccines as part of the global health and international development agenda. [More](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Case Study Published on Campaign in India

Population Services International (PSI) has published a case study of its HIV/AIDS prevention campaign called "Balbir Pasha." PSI/India's Operation Lighthouse Project, with funding from USAID, implemented the campaign. The study describes the creation of the Balbir Pasha icon, the evolution of a behavioral role model, the communication challenges, the praise and criticism the campaign received, and the lessons learned. The Balbir Pasha campaign targeted urban men aged 18-34 in the lower socioeconomic groups and sought to dispel HIV/AIDS myths, increase risk perception, generate discussion, and motivate people to use HIV/AIDS hotlines, and voluntary counseling and testing services. [More](#).

EQUITY Project's Final Report Focuses on the Importance of Building Local Capacity to Sustain Health System Improvements

EQUITY, a project of South Africa's Department of Health funded by USAID and implemented through Management Sciences for Health, closed after seven years of helping to ensure equitable health services for all South Africans. The project's final report describes the challenges and successes in the project's focus areas—from drug management and information systems to management and clinical training. Offering both qualitative and quantitative data, the report focuses on the importance of building local capacity to sustain health system improvements. [More](#).

Global AIDSLink Highlights Access to Treatment

The February/March 2004 issue of "Global AIDSLink" is thematically dedicated to the topic of scaling up access to treatment in resource-constrained settings. Articles explore the importance of commodity logistics, patent rights vs. human rights, China's barriers to treatment access, the positive role treatment can have on prevention, and the role of communities in antiretroviral treatment. [More](#).

Meeting Report on HIV Prevention for Youth Now Available

A report of the technical meeting "HIV Prevention for Young People in Developing Countries," sponsored by the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS, the Institute for Youth Development, and Family Health International/YouthNet, is now available. This meeting examined patterns of HIV prevalence and high-risk behaviors among youth, discussed what is known about preventing high-risk behaviors, shared strategies for HIV prevention among young people, and described case studies of efforts to reduce HIV prevalence. [More](#).

Youth InfoNet Features Presentations from Annual Public Health Meeting

Youth InfoNet No. 3, an electronic newsletter published by YouthNet/Family Health International, is now available. This issue features abstracts of new scientific information pertaining to reproductive health and HIV issues for youth that were presented at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in November 2003. [More.](#)

POLICY's Siyam'kela Project Produces Anti-Stigma and Anti-Discrimination Resources

POLICY's Siyam'kela project has produced two new publications: "Examining HIV/AIDS Stigma in Selected South African Media: January–March 2003: A Summary," and "HIV/AIDS Stigma Indicators: A Tool for Measuring the Progress of HIV/AIDS Stigma Mitigation." [More.](#)

POLICY Project Develops HIV/AIDS-Related Materials for African Growth and Opportunities Act Forum

The POLICY Project has published the following papers, which were developed for the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) Forum, 2003:

- "Trade, Development, and HIV/AIDS Prevention." [More.](#)
- "Achieving AGOA Objectives and Strengthening HIV/AIDS Programs." [More.](#)
- "Background Materials." [More.](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

AIDSMARK Launches Website with Communications Catalogue

The AIDSMARK Project, managed by Population Services International (PSI) and funded by USAID, has launched a Website that offers an extensive behavior change communications catalogue that is searchable by theme and country, research resources, and country program profiles. The catalog offers print and video resources from PSI's AIDSMARK campaigns, as well as creative briefs, research summaries, and posttest results. The Website also highlights current AIDSMARK news, such as the work with faith-based organizations initiative, the launch of voluntary counseling and testing centers, and a growing program in prevention of mother-to-child transmission. [More.](#)

New AIDS Program Effort Index Release

UNAIDS, USAID, and the POLICY Project developed the AIDS Program Effort Index (API), which provides a current profile of national program effort and measures change over time. The API was applied to 40 countries in 2000; a revised index was applied in 54 countries in early 2003. The 2003 round of the API is now available. [More.](#)

Synergy Resource Center Highlights What's New

The Synergy Resource Center contains 3,149 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.

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