

OUR HIV/AIDS WORK

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is a global leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) – the largest international commitment to a single disease by any individual country – USAID is working in more than 50 countries to provide lifesaving HIV prevention, care, support, and treatment services to millions of people around the world.

A Leader in the Fight against HIV/AIDS

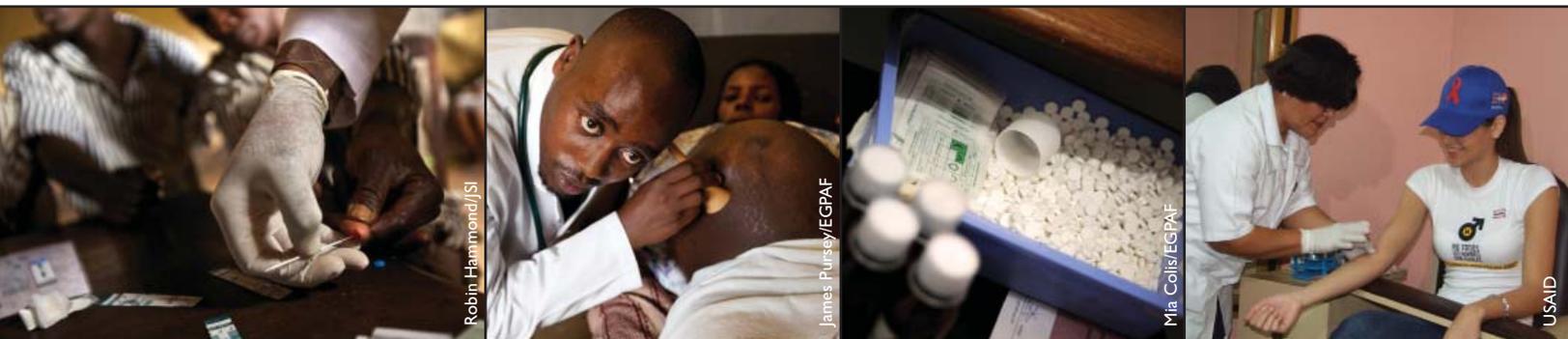
USAID plays a key partner role in PEPFAR, helping to address the needs of more than 35 million people living with HIV worldwide. Since the inception of the HIV/AIDS program in 1986, USAID has been on the forefront of the global AIDS crisis. Over the last 29 years, USAID has pursued public health and human rights objectives through evidence-based interventions that are innovative, comprehensive, and culturally sensitive. U.S. leadership has provided unprecedented support for HIV/AIDS programs worldwide, including:

- Lifesaving AIDS treatment to more than 7.7 million people and HIV counseling and testing to 56.7 million people
- HIV testing and counseling to support 14.2 million pregnant women and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services for more than 749,000 HIV-positive women, resulting in approximately 240,000 infants being born free of HIV
- Training for more than 140,000 new health care workers to deliver HIV and other health services
- Care and support for 5 million orphans and vulnerable children
- 6.2 voluntary male medical circumcisions across 14 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa

In FY 2014, USAID implemented approximately 49.7 percent of PEPFAR's programs, managing \$3.2 billion in HIV/AIDS resources.

USAID Today

With nearly 1,000 staff working on HIV/AIDS issues, including 80 percent in the field, USAID has made remarkable strides in combating HIV and AIDS by focusing on several key areas.





Prevention

USAID combines and tailors its prevention efforts to meet the varying needs and situations of the people it serves. These efforts can include helping people make healthy decisions, such as delaying sexual initiation, limiting the number of sexual partners, and using condoms correctly and consistently. They can also include voluntary medical male circumcision, which can cut the risk of female-to-male HIV transmission by as much as 60 percent. Moreover, USAID recognizes the importance of antiretroviral drugs not only as a means of treatment but also as a means of prevention.

Care and Support

USAID is committed to providing HIV/AIDS care and support to those in need, including orphans and vulnerable children. The Agency supports pain and symptom management as well as psychological, social, and spiritual services. Another important area of assistance is the assessment of nutritional deficiencies followed by appropriate counseling and treatment.

Treatment

USAID is committed to improving access to AIDS treatment and supports a range of programs in this area, including the Supply Chain Management System project, which assists in the delivery of safe and reliable HIV/AIDS medicines and supplies to programs around the world. In addition, USAID is working to train health care providers and establish programs for clinical services, including screening and treatment for opportunistic infections like tuberculosis.

Research

USAID supports research on the development of products to prevent HIV infection and transmission, including vaccines and microbicides. USAID-funded research provided the first proof of concept that a microbicide could be effective in preventing the sexual transmission of HIV to women and USAID continues to support new delivery systems such as vaginal rings to help women protect themselves through the use of microbicides. USAID also conducts implementation research in such areas as HIV prevention among youth, PMTCT, and treatment of pediatric HIV infections.

Sustainability and Health Systems Strengthening

USAID supports the efforts of partner countries to make their health care systems strong and sustainable. Agency support focuses on any or all of the aspects of a health care system, such as the quality of its workforce, its ability to gather and use health information, and its capacity to acquire and deploy equipment, supplies, and drugs. Building strong and sustainable health systems is a crucial step on the path toward universal access to comprehensive HIV programs.

Looking Ahead

While the past three decades have seen tremendous progress in HIV, much of which is a result of U.S. leadership, our work is far from over. USAID recognizes that an AIDS-free generation is within reach and that the science and technology exist to make this once impossible vision a reality.

On World AIDS Day 2014, Secretary Kerry announced new initiatives such as LINKAGES, the first global project targeting key populations most at-risk of infection and DREAMS, a public-private partnership to dramatically reduce new HIV infections in young women and girls. Ambassador Birx, the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, also released PEPFAR 3.0 in 2014, a report that details the importance of impact, efficiency, sustainability, partnership, and human rights in the next phase of the epidemic aimed at sustainable control.

Ambassador Birx writes: "In just eleven years, PEPFAR has moved from an emergency program to one squarely focused on controlling the epidemic. It is our plan for America to continue to play a leadership role in ending this devastating pandemic. And it is our plan to help achieve an AIDS-free generation."

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