



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# 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 nearly 100 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 34 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 25 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 5.1 million people and HIV counseling and testing to more than 49 million people
- HIV testing and counseling to support 11 million pregnant women and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services for more than 750,000 HIV-positive women, resulting in approximately 230,000 infants being born free of HIV
- Care and support for nearly 15 million people, including more than 4.5 million orphans and vulnerable children

In FY 2012, USAID implemented approximately 53 percent of PEPFAR's programs, managing almost \$3.3 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.



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## 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 has led to the development of a microbicide proven to be effective in preventing the sexual transmission of HIV to women. USAID also conducts 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 2012, President Obama announced that we are on track to meet the ambitious treatment and prevention targets he set last year. And Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced the PEPFAR blueprint, a roadmap that lays out the U.S. strategy for creating an AIDS-free generation.

Clinton remarked: "HIV may well be with us into the future. But the disease that it causes need not be. We can reach a point where virtually no children are born with the virus, and as these children become teenagers and adults, they are at a far lower risk of becoming infected than they are today. And if they do acquire HIV, they have access to treatment that helps prevent them not only from developing AIDS but from passing the virus on to others."

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