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The United States Response to the Global Epidemic

This week's factsheet provides an overview of the U.S. response to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic over the past five years.

THE LAW

On May 27, 2003, the United States Leadership Against Global HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act was signed into law.ⁱ The Act authorized the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or "PEPFAR," announced in the 2003 State of the Union Address. It expanded existing U.S. global HIV/AIDS work by authorizing a five-year, \$15 billion dollar program to fight the epidemic.ⁱⁱ

The Act designated fourteen severely-impacted "focus countries" that would receive particular funding and attention: Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.ⁱⁱⁱ Vietnam was added to the list in 2004.^{iv}

Multiple U.S. agencies cooperate in the global AIDS response. The primary programming agency is the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which cooperates with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The government-wide effort is coordinated by the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, within the Department of State.^v

STRATEGY

The U.S. plan works with national responses in host nations. In each focus country and in several other countries receiving large amounts of funding, country teams develop annual "country operating plans" that describe goals, activities, and partners for the coming year. These countries also report annually on a detailed set of program indicators.^{vi}

In each country, the U.S. works with national and local leaders to support the integration of prevention, treatment, and care programs.^{vii} The U.S. also works with other international and bilateral donors.

Since 2004, the U.S. has committed \$18.8 billion to global AIDS. This includes funding for focus countries and bilateral U.S. programs in other countries, as well as U.S. contributions to the multilateral Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.^{viii}

TREATMENT

In 2003, approximately 400,000 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) to treat HIV/AIDS in low and middle income countries.^{ix} Since that time, 1,445,500 men, women, and children have received antiretroviral treatment as a result of U.S. support. The U.S. funds purchases of drugs as well as support services such as lab work and training for treatment providers.

PREVENTION

The U.S. funds multiple categories of HIV prevention programs. Interventions to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission have provided HIV testing for more than 10 million pregnancies and provided treatment that prevented infection for an estimated 152,000 infants.^x

The U.S. plan has also supported community outreach activities to prevent sexual transmission through multiple types of programs.^{xi} Other components of prevention include efforts to protect national blood supplies from HIV and interventions to prevent the transmission of HIV in medical settings.

CARE

The care component of the U.S. initiative includes services for people living with HIV/AIDS; voluntary counseling and testing for people at risk; and support services for children orphaned by HIV. The U.S. has funded care for approximately 6.7 million people, including more than 2.7 million orphans and vulnerable children. Counseling and testing sessions were provided for over 30 million men, women and children.^{xii}



ENDNOTES

- ⁱ Pub.L. No. 108-25.
- ⁱⁱ Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, *About PEPFAR* (online at <http://www.pepfar.gov/about>).
- ⁱⁱⁱ The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, *Focus Countries* (online at <http://www.pepfar.gov/countries/c19418.htm>).
- ^{iv} The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, *Countries* (online at <http://www.pepfar.gov/contries>).
- ^v The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, *Implementing Agencies* (online at <http://www.pepfar.gov/agencies>).
- ^{vi} The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, *Operational Plans* (online at <http://www.pepfar.gov/about/c19388.htm>).
- ^{vii} The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, *About PEPFAR* (online at <http://www.pepfar.gov/about>).
- ^{viii} The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, *Making a Difference: Funding* (online at <http://www.pepfar.gov/press/80064.htm>).
- ^{ix} World Health Organization, *Overview of the Global AIDS Epidemic: 2006 Report On The Global AIDS Epidemic* (2006) (online at http://www.who.int/hiv/mediacentre/2006_GR_CH02_en.pdf).
- ^x *Ibid.* Data provided through September 30, 2007.
- ^{xi} The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, *ABC Guidance #1* (online at <http://www.pepfar.gov/guidance/c19545.htm>).
- ^{xii} The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, *supra* note ^{xii}. Data provided through September 30, 2007.