



# Temas Mundiales

CENTRO DE INFORMACIÓN Y REFERENCIA  
Sección de Prensa y Cultura  
Embajada de Estados Unidos en Bolivia

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# World AIDS Day

## 2010



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World AIDS Day, observed December 1 each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. It is common to hold memorials to honor persons who have died from HIV/AIDS on this day. Government and health officials also observe the event, often with speeches or forums on the AIDS topics.

Since 1995, the President of the United States has made an official proclamation on World AIDS Day. Governments of other nations have followed suit and issued similar announcements. The theme for World AIDS Day 2010 is “Act Aware.”

## Audio Message of Ambassador Goosby on World AIDS Day



Ambassador Eric Goosby

World AIDS Day is both a day of remembrance and a day of celebration. We must all keep in our thoughts

those who have lost their lives to AIDS. It's in their honor that we work every day to provide HIV prevention, treatment and care to millions across the globe.

Yet, it's also a day to celebrate those whose lives have been improved and saved thanks to global efforts to fight this devastating disease. On this World AIDS Day, we must all agree that we have a shared responsibility to build on the success achieved to date by making smart investments that will ultimately save

more lives.

And there is much success to build on. Globally, about 5.2 million people in low- and middle-income countries were on HIV treatment at the end of 2009. The United States' President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief—or PEPFAR as it is commonly known—was a major contributor to the increase, supporting treatment for nearly 2.5 million people through September 2009, up from approximately 1.7 million in the previous year.

*Continued...*

*Ambassador Goosby (continued)*

U.S. support continues to grow despite difficult economic times. In addition to requesting the largest increase in PEPFAR funding ever, President Obama has put forward an ambitious United States' Global Health Initiative, the next chapter in our nation's global health efforts. With PEPFAR as its cornerstone, the Global Health Initiative is an investment in partnerships that will save lives, promote social and economic progress and build a more secure world.

Going forward, in addition to doubling the number of babies born HIV-free, the United States, working with our partner countries, will support the prevention of more than 12 million new HIV infections, HIV treatment for more than four million people, and care for

more than 12 million people, including five million children and orphans. Through U.S. investments in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, many more people will also benefit from prevention, care and treatment. The United States is proud to be the Global Fund's largest donor, providing more than \$5.1 billion to date. This October, the Obama administration made the United States' first-ever multi-year pledge of \$4 billion, representing a 38 percent increase in U.S. support for the fund.

The United States is also becoming smarter about how we're making investments. Experience has taught us how to use every dollar invested in battling HIV/AIDS more effectively and efficiently. This means every dollar is going a little further, allowing us to do

more to combat HIV/AIDS as well as other global diseases. It also means that we can now measure our success not just in dollars invested, but in the ultimate measure of success—lives improved and saved. From investing in greater use of generic drugs to switching from air freight to water and land transportation, we are using our money wisely for greater impact.

On this World AIDS Day, we honor the lives lost and celebrate the lives saved, but we do not dare rest. Working together, we must remain dedicated to building on success by making smart investments to save even more lives.

(The Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State)

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## Caribbean Regional Program

Outside of sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean has the highest HIV prevalence in the world. In 2006, AIDS was one of the region's leading causes of death among adults aged 15 to 44, claiming the lives of an estimated 19,000 people. That year alone, approximately 27,000 people were newly infected with HIV, according to UNAIDS. The number of

people living with HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean is estimated to be 250,000. Nearly three-quarters of them are from two countries: the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

USAID programs in the Caribbean region are implemented in partnership with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (Emergency

Plan/PEPFAR). USAID provides support to Caribbean Epidemiology Center to prevent the spread of HIV and to minimize the impact of AIDS by strengthening national and regional capacity in the areas of research; by improving diagnosis, care, and treatment for TB/HIV programs; and by providing information to target behavior change

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*Caribbean (continued)*

interventions at groups most likely to acquire and spread HIV.

USAID's regional program supports the strengthening of managerial, technical, and

administrative capacities of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) involved in HIV/AIDS prevention activities and works with national governments in public-private partnerships to develop multiyear HIV

prevention plans. USAID supports NGO networks in six countries in the eastern Caribbean that are working with national governments to reduce HIV transmission among high-risk populations.

## PEPFAR Showing Greater Effectiveness, Efficiency Against HIV/AIDS



Blood is tested in a South African lab that is partly funded by PEPFAR. Between 2004 and 2009, 2.5 million people benefited from PEPFAR's HIV/AIDS treatments.

Washington — Nearly seven years after the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was announced, the program is having an "extraordinary impact" on the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, with data showing that more than 2.5 million people have been directly supported by its treatments through 2009, according to U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and PEPFAR Administrator Dr. Eric Goosby. Through PEPFAR and contributions to the Global

Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United States has committed approximately \$32 billion to fight HIV/AIDS.

Goosby spoke with reporters in Washington November 10, saying "PEPFAR has shown that indeed one disease responded to with significant resource infusion can have outcomes that have changed the way we think about global health."

The program, now operating in more than 30 countries, is showing increased efficiency and effectiveness, with more than 60,000 new patients receiving anti-retroviral medication every month, and expansions in prevention and care programs.

Each partner country is looking more closely at who is being affected by HIV and how the disease is moving through its populations, and that information is helping PEPFAR decide where to

by Stephen Kaufmann  
Staff Writer  
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position its prevention programs as well as any special care and treatment services that might be needed.

"We're learning how to do this better than we did in the first couple or three years of PEPFAR. Each month brings in new insights that we are better and better positioned to realize, to see, to document and then to reintegrate that learned advantage or system change into our larger systems of care in each country," Goosby said.

The United States accounts for almost 60 percent of international funding commitments to prevent and fight HIV/AIDS, and Goosby said more nations need to step up their support.

"We alone are not going to be successful ... without really

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*PEPFAR (continued)*

soliciting the help of all countries on the planet, including the countries we are working in," he said. Other nations need to join the United States by contributing to the effort, and to do so explicitly and continuously. "We are ready to be the voice to put that challenge out," he said.

Reducing HIV/AIDS contributes to a country's overall security and stability. Individuals aged 15 to 50 are disproportionately targeted by the disease, and they also represent the prime years of a country's working force. It also "hits individuals who have money, who are mobile and often educated," including doctors, lawyers and teachers, he said.

"The lack of that layer in society is ... a huge destabilizing force and kind of lends fertile fodder to the development of armed and terrorist activity," Goosby said.

In its fight against HIV/AIDS, PEPFAR is now looking to transition toward "a more stable, sustained response," from its initial emergency focus. "We're lean and clean in our ability to deliver more with fewer people and for less money," he said.

For example, Goosby said,

new research has demonstrated the effectiveness of male circumcision, which has been shown to reduce the rate of HIV infection by 64 percent. The operation removes a layer of cells that are highly susceptible to infection, he explained, and PEPFAR's data has projected that 4.2 million HIV infections can be averted through 2025 with an increase in the number of circumcised men between ages 15 and 50, as well as having programs in place to circumcise newborn males.

Circumcised males are still at risk of infection, he said, but the reduced rate "will look like a vaccine has entered" the population because of the drop in the number of infections.

PEPFAR is also planning to accelerate its prevention of mother-to-child transmission by providing 80 percent coverage of disease testing at the national level and 85 percent coverage of prophylaxis and treatment for infected pregnant women by the year 2014, he said.

The increased availability of generic drugs has also helped to lower the average treatment cost per patient to about \$435, and Goosby said he expects the figure to drop even further, thanks to

increased procurement pooling with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, reduced transportation costs, new drugs that require fewer doses, and other innovations.

PEPFAR will also be expanding its services through the U.S. Global Health Initiative to provide treatment and prevention against other infectious diseases, as well as supporting maternal and child health and clean water. He said this will help increase the effectiveness and efficiency of overall U.S. health assistance.

PEPFAR is "often the strongest delivery system that's up and running," he said. For example, when Haiti was devastated by a January 12 earthquake, "our clinic system and our providers in these clinics were the first responders and the primary responders for the first 10 days or so. Our resources also fed into a lot of that first response effort."

(The Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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## Internet Links

### **PEPFAR, The First Six Years – A Photo Gallery**

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#/30145/pepfar.html>

### **Global AIDS Fight Continues Despite Challenges**

<http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2010/June/201006151537081cnirellepo.1708948.html>

### **Obama Announces New National HIV/AIDS Strategy**

<http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2010/July/20100714162226dmslahrellek8.342922e-03.html>

### **18th International AIDS Conference Stresses Right to Health**

<http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2010/July/20100719123211cnirellepo.6665918.html>

### **AIDS 2010 Calls for Resources, Ends with Strong Science Findings**

<http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2010/July/20100727104501cnirellepo.2074396.html>

### **USAID HIV/AIDS Caribbean Regional Program – Jamaica**

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/global\\_health/aids/Countries/lac/jamaica.html](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/aids/Countries/lac/jamaica.html)

### **U.N.: Progress Being Made on Combating HIV/AIDS**

<http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2010/September/20100921162448tegramo.5362207.html>

### **UNAIDS: The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS**

<http://www.unaids.org/en/default.asp>



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Children in a school in China celebrate World AIDS Day. Photo©AP Images