

U.S.

Agency for

International

Development

Responds

to

AIDS

Building Partnerships For HIV Prevention

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection present unique social, economic, and public health challenges to people and governments throughout the world. These challenges are particularly significant in developing countries, where the pandemic threatens to reverse decades of progress in strengthening national economies and improving the health status and social well-being of millions of men, women and children.

Since 1986, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been a world leader in the global response to HIV and AIDS, committing over \$400 million to HIV/AIDS prevention activities through both bilateral programs and contributions to the multilateral efforts of the World Health Organization/Global Programme on AIDS (WHO/GPA). Through this work, USAID has gained extensive experience and valuable insights into the nature and evolution of the pandemic and the relative effectiveness of prevention interventions.

Policy and Programs

Prevention remains the focus of USAID's HIV/AIDS program. USAID supports the development of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programs that integrate multiple interventions and are designed to address a long-term problem. These programs seek to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV by utilizing three basic strategies:

- 1) promoting safer sexual behavior;
- 2) increasing condom availability and use; and
- 3) improving prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

In designing and implementing global HIV/AIDS prevention programs, USAID seeks to establish effective partnerships with and between local community-based organizations, private voluntary organiza-

tions, the private sector, as well as donors and the governments of host countries. In cooperation with its partners, USAID supports HIV/AIDS prevention interventions, biomedical and behavioral research, information and networking programs and various technical assistance activities in the areas of surveillance and modeling. USAID provides both multi-lateral assistance through organizations such as the World Health Organization's Global Programme on AIDS and bilateral assistance in HIV/AIDS prevention through its field-based missions and centrally-funded program. The following is a brief description of some of USAID's HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

WHO/GPA

WHO/GPA provides technical and policy leadership in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, coordinates research activities and global surveillance of the epidemic, facilitates

international donor cooperation, and assists countries with strategic prevention and control interventions. USAID has been a principal supporter of and partner in WHO/GPA efforts and is an active member of the WHO/GPA Management Committee.

UNICEF

Beginning in 1993, USAID will give support to UNICEF for technical assistance in the five key UNICEF strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention: community social mobilization, school based initiatives, youth health development, rural health programs, and family care and counselling.

Bilateral Programs

Many USAID Missions support bilateral HIV/AIDS prevention activities using a variety of local, regional and central technical resources including those provided through the projects described below.

The AIDS Control and Prevention Project

The AIDS Control and Prevention Project (AIDSCAP) is the principal component of USAID's global HIV/AIDS prevention effort. Implemented by Family Health International (FHI), this five-year project is designed to support the local capacity of developing countries to prevent and control HIV. In support of the three key strategies to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV that are outlined above, the AIDSCAP project also emphasizes:

- Behavioral research to explore the cultural and societal factors that affect

sexuality, to understand better the determinants of high risk sexual behaviors and to improve strategies that bring about behavioral change.

- Policy dialogue to provide policy makers with the information and support necessary to develop and sustain policies conducive to reducing the spread and impact of HIV infection.
- Evaluation to measure the impact and effectiveness of all activities.
- Support for coalition-building among private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and indigenous, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in HIV/AIDS prevention.

The AIDSCAP project provides resources and technical expertise to government and private organizations, universities, and community groups to mobilize large-scale HIV/AIDS prevention programs in 15 developing countries. To date, the emphasis countries are: Brazil, Cameroon, The Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Thailand. AIDSCAP also assists USAID missions in designing bilateral HIV/AIDS prevention projects in other countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Centers for Disease Control

USAID has an agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to provide short-term technical assistance in HIV/AIDS prevention. This assistance includes a range of activities such as ensuring safety of blood supplies, improving surveillance systems, HIV testing and rapid epidemiologic assessments.

Peace Corps

Through an agreement with the U.S. Peace Corps, USAID supports the development of HIV/AIDS prevention projects in eight African countries. These programs are implemented by Peace Corps volunteers and their counterparts and focus on education of youth and HIV prevention counselling.

International Planned Parenthood Federation

Taking advantage of the large, well-established network of affiliates of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, USAID funds a project to integrate STD and HIV prevention activities including condom promotion and STD diagnosis and treatment into ongoing family planning services in Brazil, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and The Dominican Republic.

MotherCare

USAID, through the MotherCare Project, supports a cost-effective, clinic-based demonstration project in Nairobi, Kenya that provides syphilis screening and treatment to pregnant women and their partners in conjunction with existing antenatal care services.

Condom Supply and Logistics

USAID supports condom social marketing programs such as those undertaken by Population Services International and the Futures Group's SOMARC Project to make affordable, high quality condoms readily available to target audiences. To ensure continued demand for condoms in its many programs, USAID engages the technical support of John Snow, Inc. and CDC in the area of commodity logistics management.

Primary Organizations Involved in USAID's HIV/AIDS Prevention Efforts

- *Academy for Educational Development*
- *Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS), University of California, San Francisco*
- *Family Health International/AIDS Control and Prevention Project*
- *Futures Group*
- *Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium*
- *International Center for Research on Women*
- *International Planned Parenthood Federation*
- *John Snow, Inc.*
- *Johns Hopkins University*
- *National Council for International Health*
- *The National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases*
- *Ogilvy, Adams and Rinehart*
- *The Population Council*
- *Population Services International (PSI)*
- *Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH)*
- *Prospect Associates*
- *UNICEF*
- *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*
- *University of Washington*
- *U.S. Bureau of the Census*
- *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- *U.S. Peace Corps*
- *World Health Organization/Global Programme on AIDS*
- *World Learning, Inc.*



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International Center for Research on Women

Through the Women and AIDS Research Program of the International Center for Research on Women, USAID supports 17 behavioral, ethnographic, and operations research projects aimed at identifying ways in which women can be effective agents in reducing their risk of HIV infection. The findings from these research projects are being used to strengthen ongoing HIV/AIDS prevention activities and develop new interventions for women.

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

USAID engages the expertise of the National Institutes of Health to support short-term training of developing country scientists in biomedical and clinical aspects of HIV and AIDS and for technical assistance in designing and conducting biomedical research in HIV/AIDS.

STD Diagnostics Initiative

The STD Diagnostics Initiative is a multi-donor effort to identify, develop, field test, and assist with technology transfer of rapid, simple, inexpensive STD diagnostic tests for use in resource limited settings. Priorities of this initiative include a simple test for gonorrhea in women and a rapid test for syphilis for both men and women. Utilization of these tests will allow more appropriate and effective use of a syndromic approach to STD diagnosis.

The Population Council

With funds from USAID and other international donors, the Population Council is engaged in a microbicide research, development, and introduction initiative. This initiative involves screening of potentially

microbicial compounds and conducting preclinical and clinical studies to assess the stability, toxicity and acceptability of these compounds. In addition, The Population Council will help organize consultative meetings to discuss a broad range of issues related to microbicide research, development and introduction.

U.S. Bureau of Census

The Bureau of Census receives support from USAID to maintain and disseminate a database on HIV/AIDS prevalence in developing countries. The data are used to prepare reports on trends and impacts of the epidemic. Staff from the Bureau of Census also assist the International Working Group on AIDS to integrate demographic data and processes into HIV/AIDS modeling.

National Council for International Health

Through an agreement with the National Council for International Health (NCIH), USAID supports the participation of private voluntary organizations in HIV/AIDS prevention activities. NCIH distributes a newsletter and coordinates semi-annual workshops intended to strengthen the ability of PVOs to assist in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and facilitates networking between these U.S.-based organizations.

HIV/AIDS NGO Support Programme

USAID provides funding to the NGO Support Programme, a multi-donor initiative designed to strengthen indigenous NGOs working in HIV/AIDS and STD prevention by providing them improved access to financial, technical, and managerial assistance.

Chronical of USAID Involvement in AIDS

- October 1985** • Joined the Interagency Working Group on AIDS (iwgAIDS) to assess the impact of HIV/AIDS on other countries and U.S. foreign policy.
- September 1986** • First contributed to the World Health Organization's Special Programme on AIDS (later the Global Programme on AIDS).
- April 1987** • Drafted USAID policy guidance on AIDS.
- September 1987** • Launched the AIDS Technical Support Project, a worldwide AIDS prevention and control effort implemented by the AIDSCOM and AIDSTECH programs.
- October 1987** • Established an HIV/AIDS surveillance database on developing countries which is maintained and continuously updated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.
- March 1988** • Supported the formation of the AIDS Models and Methods Subcommittee of the Interagency Working Group to develop models and databases for estimating and forecasting the scope and impact of the AIDS pandemic.
- September 1988** • Established an agreement with the Centers for Disease Control to engage domestic expertise to combat AIDS internationally.
- September 1988** • Assumed leadership of the International Subcommittee of the Federal Coordinating Committee on AIDS to facilitate coordination of federal HIV/AIDS activities in developing countries.
- March 1989** • Initiated support of PVO/NGO grants program of the HIV/AIDS Prevention in Africa Project (HAPA) to assist international PVOs and NGOs working in the region.
- March 1989** • Began first USAID country Mission bilateral HIV/AIDS Prevention Program.
- April 1989** • Initiated support of the National Council for International Health to assist information exchange and networking among U.S.-based PVOs and NGOs working on AIDS internationally.
- July 1990** • Formed the STD Diagnostics Network to make available inexpensive, rapid, and simple technologies for the detection of sexually transmitted diseases.
- August 1990** • Established a research grants program in cooperation with the International Center for Research on Women to identify HIV/AIDS prevention strategies for women in developing countries.
- November 1990** • Undertook an internal review and redesign of the central HIV/AIDS prevention program.
- May 1991** • Established a set of standardized country-level indicators to measure the impact of AIDS control programs.
- August 1991** • Established a partnership with the U.S. Peace Corps to provide AIDS education in eight African countries.
- October 1991** • Signed \$168 million cooperative agreement with Family Health International to implement the AIDSCAP project.
- October 1992** • Established an agreement with the International Planned Parenthood Federation to support integration of STD and HIV prevention into family planning programs in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- January 1993** • Awarded four grants through AIDSCAP PVO competitive grants program.
- April 1993** • Committed funding to UNICEF in support of HIV/AIDS prevention strategies aimed at decreasing the impact on children and youth.
- May 1993** • Joined a multi-donor research initiative headed by The Population Council for the development and introduction of microbicides.
- May 1993** • To date, 14 priority country programs have been established and implementation plans have been developed for more than 70 activities under the AIDSCAP project.