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A regular update on activities of the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of HIV/AIDS and its partners to prevent and mitigate HIV/AIDS across the developing world. We encourage you to circulate this publication to colleagues.

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NEWS

USAID Scales Up Prevention Efforts in Ukraine

In September, USAID launched the Scaling up the National Response to HIV/AIDS through Information and Services (SUNRISE) project. This new \$8.2 million project to enhance prevention efforts directed at communities most vulnerable to the HIV/AIDS epidemic will be implemented by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in a consortium with the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS and Program for Appropriate Technology in Health. The SUNRISE project is the first initiative within the newly developed USAID HIV/AIDS strategy for Ukraine and constitutes a substantial increase in resources directed to support the Ukrainian response to the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic. [More.](#)

IMPACT Facilitates Cross-Learning Exchange on Uniformed Services Programming

Officials from the prison system, police force, and other uniformed services of Ethiopia's southern regional state recently traveled to Ghana to learn about the country's HIV/AIDS programming for the uniformed services. The trip, organized by IMPACT, included site visits to a police academy, and a voluntary counseling and testing center, as well as a workshop on lessons learned led by the Ghanaian police. [More.](#)

Namibia Launches First Integrated HIV/AIDS Services Center

With support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and assistance IMPACT and the Social Marketing Association, the Namibian government opened the Oshikuku Center, the first in the country to offer integrated HIV/AIDS services. Operated by Catholic Health Services, the clinic offers voluntary counseling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission services, and antiretroviral therapy. [More.](#)

Expanding Voluntary Counseling and Testing Network Saves Lives in Mozambique

Population Services International's network of RENASCER voluntary counseling and testing centers in Mozambique is rapidly expanding affordable access to well-trained and professional HIV counselors. RENASCER centers have tested more than 40,000 people during the first eight months of 2004, averting an estimated 212 primary HIV infections and 2,517 secondary infections. One man's testing experience at RENASCER allowed him to "be born again," and today he is president of a group of people living with HIV/AIDS. [More.](#)

Award Ensures Long-term Health Impact in Zambia

A recent \$24 million grant administered by USAID to Population Services International's (PSI) Zambian affiliate, Society for Family Health (SFH), will ensure that affordable health products and services are available to low-income Zambians for the next six years. SFH's social marketing portfolio includes campaigns, products, and services related to HIV/AIDS, malaria, safe water, nutrition, and family planning. In 2003, PSI's Zambia program averted an estimated 44,125 HIV infections, 90,545 unintended pregnancies, and 11,769 child deaths from malaria and unsafe water. [More.](#)

Russia's Internet Campaign Endorses the "B" in ABC

Recognizing the importance of the "B" for "be faithful" in the ABC approach, Population Services International (PSI) launched a campaign on its Russian Vosmi S Soboi Web site on the importance of fidelity and partner reduction. The two-week campaign reached more than 115,000 individuals, and feedback has shown that the campaign reached youth at a personal level. With the numbers of Internet users growing exponentially, most of them youth, PSI/Russia has tapped into a cost-effective and efficient medium to target youth with healthy behavior messages. [More.](#)

South Africa: Developing ART Biometrics/Smart Card System

JSI/DELIVER/South Africa is collaborating with Net1, a biometrics and smart card technology leader

in South Africa, in the development and field testing of a combination biometrics and smart card solution that will significantly improve antiretroviral drug treatment, patient compliance, supply chain management, and program monitoring. The fully developed system is expected to be ready for wide implementation by the end of November 2004. [More](#).

Antiretroviral Drugs Delivered to Zimbabwe

The DELIVER project is distributing antiretroviral drugs to health clinics in Zimbabwe. The shipments of first- and second-line drugs needed for the first quarter of the program arrived this summer and will eventually treat 500 Zimbabweans with HIV/AIDS. This was the first procurement of antiretroviral drugs purchased with U.S. Government-coordinated funds. [More](#).

Zambia Documentary Wins Silver Hugo at Chicago Film Festival

The Zambian documentary "Tikambe" ("Let's Talk About It") received a Silver Hugo for Best Non-Broadcast Documentary at the Chicago International Film Festival's International Communications Film and Video Competition for its portrayal of a Zambian woman struggling to live positively with AIDS. Directed by Carol Duffy Clay, "Tikambe" was selected from among hundreds of entries from around the world. The film was produced by the Zambia Integrated Health Programme (a joint effort of the Government of Zambia and the USAID), the Network of Zambian People Living with HIV, and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs. A discussion guide accompanies the film, which has been shown throughout Zambia and is the first video there to openly discuss issues of stigma related to HIV/AIDS. [More](#).

Sports Stars Promote Voluntary Counseling and HIV/AIDS Testing in South Africa

Led by "Basketball Without Borders Africa" legend, Bob Lanier, and boxing champion Baby Jake Matlala, distinguished U.S. and South African athletes recently volunteered for counseling and HIV/AIDS testing, demonstrating the process with assistance from USAID. Counseling and testing are always conducted individually and in private, but the sports stars simulated for the public what happens at such encounters. A counseling session was staged in front of thousands of South Africans so the audience could hear the exchange between USAID's professional HIV/AIDS counselors from the Right To Care partnership and the athletes about HIV and the AIDS test. [More](#).

Training Helps Deejays to Educate Listeners about HIV

Internews Nigeria's "Local Voices" project has been training Nigerian deejays and rap musicians to incorporate messages about HIV/AIDS into their music programming and songs in a way that will appeal to young listeners. The training includes interaction with people living with HIV/AIDS, visits to testing centers, and instruction by internationally recognized deejay Georges Collinet. [More](#).

USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter Subscriber Survey Completed

Earlier this year, a subscriber survey was conducted to learn more about the HIV/AIDS information needs of USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter readers. The survey response rate of 2.6 percent does not allow for generalizations, but feedback was nonetheless illuminating. A few highlights: More than three-fourths of respondents pass the newsletter on to others, 63 percent say the newsletter meets a need that is not filled by any other electronic information source they use, and 98 percent have followed the links provided in articles to visit Web sites or to download publications and electronic resources. USAID extends its thanks to all subscribers and survey participants.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Bangkok Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

MEASURE Evaluation and Mahidol University will sponsor a regional workshop on monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS, population, health, and nutrition programs at the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, in Bangkok, Thailand, from November 15 through December 3, 2004. The course is designed for mid-level health and population officers, program managers, and other professionals. [More](#).

HIV/AIDS Planning Course To Take Place February 28-March 5 in Jamaica

Organized by The Synergy Project, The Essentials Course of HIV/AIDS Planning is designed to build capacity at the country level for the management of expanded resources for HIV/AIDS. It will assist program managers to formulate intervention strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment; to address priorities for rapid scale-up; to use evidence-based approaches to inform programming decisions; and to establish systems for strategic information, including surveillance, targeted evaluation, and operations research. The deadline for course applications is November 15, 2004. [More](#).

RECENT EVENTS

Horizons and InterAction hold seminar on Youth Voluntary Counseling and Testing

Held in Washington, D.C., on September 28, this seminar drew more than 60 participants and featured presentations on program experiences, available resources, and research findings by Horizons, YouthNet/Family Health International, Community Reach/Pact, and Pathfinder International. Key issues included program models; service integration; age of consent; referral systems for care and treatment; and counseling. [More.](#)

Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshops Held in Mexico and Senegal

MEASURE Evaluation recently completed monitoring and evaluation training for participants from HIV/AIDS and related health programs in Mexico and Senegal. In Cuernavaca, Mexico, MEASURE Evaluation and the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública conducted a regional workshop for 15 participants from nine countries. In Dakar, Senegal, 34 participants from 12 countries took part in a regional workshop at Centre d'Etudes Supérieures en Administration et Gestion (CESAG). The workshop was offered jointly by MEASURE Evaluation and CESAG. [More.](#)

Internews Trains Kenyan Journalists to Produce Feature Reports on HIV/AIDS

Internews Kenya recently held its tenth workshop to train Kenyan radio journalists to produce feature-length stories on HIV/AIDS. This latest workshop, part of the "Local Voices" project funded by USAID, focused on improving reporting about orphans and vulnerable children. Journalists, station managers, and sound technicians all participated in the workshop so that entire teams could understand what is involved in producing feature reports. [More.](#)

Kiev Concert Raises Young People's HIV/AIDS Awareness

Young, talented pop groups and celebrated singers from Ukraine and Belarus participated in a concert in Kiev, Ukraine, on September 19, to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among the city's young people. The concert was organized by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine as part of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria program in Ukraine. During the concert, young people received information on HIV/AIDS and participated in contests aimed at increasing their knowledge of HIV/AIDS and means of protecting themselves against the virus. [More.](#)

Organization of African Instituted Churches Conference in South Africa

With support from the CORE Initiative, the Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) held a continental conference for African independent churches to share best practices and engage in discussions on the barriers to effective HIV/AIDS responses among the OAIC member churches. The conference took place September 14-18 in Pretoria, South Africa, and drew 40 participants from 10 countries. [More.](#)

Family Planning and HIV/AIDS Working Group Holds First Meeting

On September 23-24, Family Health International and USAID cohosted the first biannual meeting of the Family Planning and HIV/AIDS Partners' Integration Working Group. Held in Washington, D.C., the event was attended by representatives of more than 25 organizations working to integrate family planning and HIV/AIDS services. The goals of the working group are to regularly share information related to integration, identify research gaps, foster collaboration among organizations with integration programs, and reduce duplication of integration efforts. For more information, write to Rose Wilcher, Family Health International, 2224 E NC Hwy 54, Durham, NC 27713 USA

PUBLICATIONS

EngenderHealth and UNFPA Publish Guides on Prevention in Maternal Health Services

The "HIV Prevention in Maternal Health Services: Programming Guide" is designed to help public health policymakers, program managers, and trainers address programming gaps in the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in maternal health services. This guide is intended to provide managers with assistance in planning the integration of HIV- and STI-prevention interventions into maternal health services. The guide provides a series of activities designed to build the capacity of program managers and staff to offer integrated HIV and STI services for pregnant and postpartum clients within their particular service-delivery setting. [More.](#)

“Act Now” Urges Strong Response from Asia-Pacific Leaders

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region have reached a crossroads in their HIV/AIDS response. The ability of countries to maintain low national HIV prevalence will depend on their success in rapidly scaling up prevention, care, and treatment. “Act Now,” a joint publication of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS and Development, UNAIDS, and the USAID-funded POLICY Project, encourages leaders from across the region to vigorously combat the epidemic before the situation worsens. [More.](#)

Family Health International Review Examines the Role of Family Planning in Preventing HIV-Positive Births

“Family Planning in the Context of the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission” summarizes the literature on integrating family planning services with other services to prevent HIV transmission at birth. Intended to provide an evidence base for the use of family planning services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, this review of more than 150 articles touches on the topics of contraception for HIV-infected women, voluntary counseling and testing, and maternal and child health, among others. [More.](#)

USAID Funds Research on HIV and Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa

Funded by USAID’s Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, and the Africa Bureau’s Office of Sustainable Development, this research delves into the implications of adult mortality for HIV/AIDS mitigation efforts and agriculture in rural sub-Saharan Africa. The research was discussed in two key Michigan State University papers accepted for presentation at The International AIDS Economic Network Pre-Conference in Bangkok. Policy briefs on these papers are: “Policy Synthesis No. 71. A Cross-Country Analysis of Household Response to Adult Mortality in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for HIV/AIDS Mitigation and Rural Development Policies” and “TEGEMEO Policy Brief No 4. Working-Age Adult Mortality and Primary School Attendance in Rural Kenya.” [More.](#)

Participatory Tools Published to Develop Care and Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

The International HIV/AIDS Alliance, with support from USAID and the Swedish International Development Agency, has published “Building Blocks in Practice.” These participatory tools follow Alliance’s earlier publication “Building Blocks: Africa-wide Briefing Notes,” which outlined the issues, principles, and strategies for community-based support to orphans and vulnerable children. “Building Blocks in Practice” will help facilitators and community members, including children, implement the ideas outlined in the Briefing Notes under the topics of economic strengthening, educational support, health and nutrition, older caregivers, psychosocial support, and social inclusion. [More.](#)

Avoiding Unwanted Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections: A Rural Malawi District Study

This publication assesses the level of perceived risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and the relationship of these perceptions to sexual activity and avoidance behaviors. The study is based on surveys among more than 1,700 men and women in rural Mangochi District, Malawi. The study team included scientists from the Center for Social Research at the University of Malawi, Save the Children Federation USA, Malawi Ministry of Health and Population, Lilongwe Central Hospital, Mangochi District Hospital, and MEASURE Evaluation. The study is among several HIV/AIDS surveys published recently by MEASURE Evaluation, including studies in Mexico, Jamaica, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, the Central Asian republics, and Russia. [More.](#)

MEASURE DHS Releases 2003 Kenya HIV/AIDS-Related Findings

Following the official release of the 2003 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) findings in Nairobi last August, MEASURE DHS recently added the 2003 KDHS final report to its Web site. The results on HIV/AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, and behavior are presented in chapter 12. In chapter 13, HIV-test results are linked to the full KDHS survey information for a more in-depth analysis of the sociodemographic and behavioral factors associated with HIV infection. Kenya was the first country linking HIV-prevalence results to other DHS data. [More.](#)

DELIVER Publishes HIV/AIDS Commodity Security Advocacy Brief

DELIVER has published an eight-page brief entitled “HIV/AIDS Commodity Security: No Product? No Program!” that explains supply chain management implications for HIV/AIDS policy makers and program. DELIVER’s HIV/AIDS and contraceptive security teams collaborated on the brief to leverage lessons learned from its contraceptive security work and apply experience in forecasting, financing, procuring and distributing HIV/AIDS commodities in the field to the commodity security paradigm. This brief was developed for, and disseminated at, the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok. [More.](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

YouthNet/Family Health International Announces Availability of Youth InfoNet No. 10

This issue provides an update to the 2002 YouthNet publication, "New Resources Available on Youth Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention, YouthLens No. 1." The issue summarizes 18 major resources on global issues published from 2002 through 2004 and also offers a "South-to-South" resource, with eight recent publications from Asia and the Near East that may provide lessons for other regions. [More.](#)

Stigma and Discrimination Resources from POLICY/Mexico Now Available Online

Resources from POLICY's Mexico-based stigma and discrimination initiative are now available online. Among the materials is the Spanish-language "De frente a la VIDA," a photojournal that features personal testimonials of ten people living with HIV or AIDS in Mexico. [More.](#)

Synergy Resource Center Highlights What's New

The Synergy HIV/AIDS Resource Center contains some 3,400 searchable online documents relevant to HIV/AIDS project management, research, and reproductive health issues. [More.](#)



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