



NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

# The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

A MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE U.S. COMMITMENT  
TO TURN THE TIDE AGAINST GLOBAL HIV/AIDS

## President Bush Addresses International Development and PEPFAR at White House Development Summit



Last month, the White House hosted a summit on International Development. Entitled “Sustaining a New Era,” the Summit focused on the core principles of international development championed by President George W. Bush: country ownership, good governance, result-based programs and accountability, and the importance of economic growth.

Coordinated in conjunction with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the Summit brought together a wide range of country beneficiaries, faith- and community- based organizations, and other stakeholders in the international development community, including public, private and nongovernmental leaders from the United States and the developing world, to discuss the importance of the four principles in a time of economic crisis.

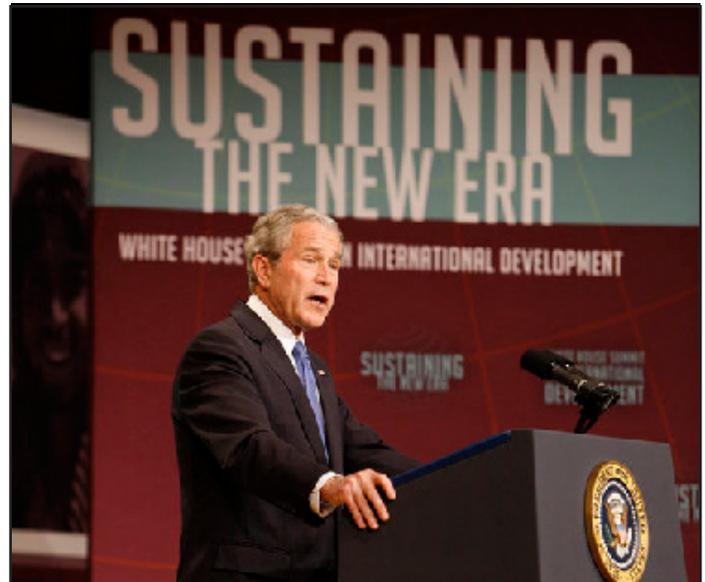
For the past eight years, President Bush has made international development one of his highest priorities. Since taking office in 2001, he has worked to create sustainable economic and social growth for developing countries around the world.

“For too long foreign aid was designated to make us feel good. Now, we’re ensuring that our resources do good,” said President Bush.

With this ideal in mind, Bush shifted from the older models of “donor” and “recipient” development relationships to the “New Era of Development,” which is rooted in partnerships between the American people and host nations.

PEPFAR is a prime example of the successes made possible as a result of this new international development model, said Bush during his keynote speech at the Summit. Recognizing that country ownership is key to a nation's resolve in the fight against HIV/AIDS, PEPFAR relied on country governments to create and implement individualized plans to address their nations'

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White House photo by Eric Draper

President George W. Bush delivers remarks at the White House Summit on International Development on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008, in Washington, D.C. President Bush said during his remarks, “History shows what happens when America combines our great compassion with our steadfast determination. We are a compassionate people and we are a determined people.”

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HIV/AIDS epidemic, said Bush.

“If you’re going to have a new era of development, it’s important to have clear definitions. It’s one thing just to throw money at the problem; it’s another thing to insist upon strategies that actually work. So PEPFAR demands specific measurable targets for progress,” said Bush.

And progress has been made. When PEPFAR was launched in 2003, only 50,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving anti-retroviral treatment. Today, PEPFAR supports treatment for nearly 1.7 million people, the majority of whom reside in sub-Saharan Africa.

Through the strong partnerships made between the American people and host nations, PEPFAR is on track to achieve its aggressive goals of supporting two million people on treatment, prevention of seven million new infections, and care for ten million people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, including orphans and vulnerable children.

Like other successful initiatives spearheaded by the Bush Administration, however, PEPFAR needs continued support during this global financial crisis to maintain its promise to those needing HIV/AIDS assistance

abroad, said Bush.

“During times of economic crisis, some may be tempted to turn inward – focusing on our problems here at home, while ignoring our interests around the world. This would be a serious mistake,” he said. “America is committed – and must stay committed – to international development for reasons that remain true regardless of the ebb and flow of the markets.”

The President stressed that securing international development not only benefits countries around the world, but also advances the United States’ economic, security and moral interests.

President Bush also called on future leaders to remember the importance of development and continue forward in the fight against HIV/AIDS, poverty and equality.

“From fostering good governance and reform, to alleviating hunger and disease, to advancing education, prosperity and justice, our new approach to development has shown inspiring signs of success. Yet this success can be reversed, and the cost of abandoning our commitments would be far higher than the cost of fulfilling them.”

## New Public-Private Partnership Helps Ugandan Health Care Professionals and their Families



The U.S. President’s Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) and the International Council of Nurses (ICN) recently announced a three year, public-private partnership valued at \$1.25 million to establish a new Wellness Center for Health Care Workers® in Uganda. Located in Kampala and managed by the Uganda National Association of Nurses and Midwives (UNANM), the Center will work to strengthen the health care system and address the health worker shortage by offering health and support services for health care professionals and their families.

Currently Uganda has just 29,000 health care workers to serve its population of 30 million. Due to this shortage of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals, these dedicated professionals are particularly vulnerable to the impact of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria. They also regularly encounter difficulties when trying to access the same services that they routinely perform for others.

The Wellness Center hopes to change that.

“Health care workers are the foundation of a health system,” said Gary Cohen, BD Executive Vice President. “By addressing the fundamental needs of

health care workers, such as protecting them from occupational hazards and providing medical treatment when needed, Wellness Centers strengthen a country’s capacity to serve patients”

PEPFAR Coordinator Ambassador Mark Dybul agrees. “Quality and sustainability in HIV/AIDS programs require skilled health services and strong health systems to support them. The Wellness Center is one way of supporting Uganda’s dedicated and hard-working health care professionals,” said Ambassador Dybul.

PEPFAR and BD will support the operation of the Wellness Center for its first three years before turning over ownership to the Ugandan Ministry of Health in 2011. BD, ICN and PEPFAR will collaborate with each other, as well as with UNANM and the Ugandan government, to ensure the sustainability of the Center.

“The Wellness Center for Health Care Workers is an essential resource. It will tackle the many barriers to health and wellness services which health workers face,” said Hiroko Minami, President of the ICN.

Uganda is the fourth country in which BD, ICN and PEPFAR have worked together to build Wellness Centers. Their facilities are also located in Swaziland, Lesotho and Zambia.

## Cambodia Hosts Conference to Address HIV/AIDS



Cambodia hosted its third National AIDS Conference in September 2008 in Phnom Penh to discuss the status of HIV/AIDS in the country. This year's theme was "Greater Multi-Sectoral Response."

The conference, which was jointly supported by UN agencies, the Royal Government of Cambodia and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), drew over 700 attendees, including key players from the government, civil society and both the national and international partner community.

During the three-day event, attendees devised ways to increase the coordination among the various agencies and organizations, both Cambodian and international, that work on the front lines to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The conference featured panel discussions, exhibitions and strategy sessions, including presentations on the status of the epidemic and legal issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS, as well as opportunities for people involved with HIV/AIDS programs to acquaint themselves with varying approaches being used throughout the country.

During the keynote speech, Deputy Prime Minister Sok An praised America's support in Cambodia's fight against HIV/AIDS, especially thanking the U.S. for the \$120 million in the last 15 years.

He also emphasized the connection between fighting the disease and the country's economic and social development. "To advance national development, we must have a healthy people," Sok An said.



Photo by PEPFAR Cambodia Team

Attendees of the third National AIDS Conference shared materials and advice at the three-day event in an effort to advance the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Currently the nation's HIV prevalence rate is down from 2 percent in 1998 to less than 1 percent as of 2007.

Although Cambodia has made great progress in recent years, work still needs to be done to prevent transmission among high-risk populations, such as people in prostitution, injecting drug users and men who have sex with men.

"We must not be overconfident," said Erin Soto, Mission Director of USAID Cambodia, at the event's opening ceremony. "Our challenge is to continue to achieve success without becoming a victim of it."

## World AIDS Day 2008 Theme Is... Celebrate Life!



For more than 25 years, the world community has witnessed the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS. Following the launch of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), we have seen successes in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care that have shifted the way countries and individuals respond to the epidemic. Today, in countless communities all over the world, people are choosing life, saving the lives of their countrymen and women, and creating hope for an HIV-free future.



Please join us as we celebrate life on December 1, World AIDS Day 2008.