

USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter
November 28, 2003

This newsletter provides regular updates 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.

NEWS

New HIV/AIDS Grants: The U.S. Agency for International Development posted information about new grants for support to orphans and vulnerable children and for HIV prevention for youth through abstinence and behavior change. Information is available at: http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/AID/OP/WAS/postdate_1.html (see November 26 listing).

Community- and Faith-Based Groups Learn How to Work with USAID

More than 200 representatives of 160 community- and faith-based organizations gathered in Washington, D.C., earlier this month for a workshop on how to work in partnership with USAID. They were introduced to USAID funding sources and the application processes; guidelines for developing and evaluating proposals; and requirements for monitoring and evaluation. The two-day meeting attracted U.S.-based organizations currently working in or planning to undertake HIV/AIDS or other health programs in developing countries. For more information, go to: http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/News/conferences.html.

USAID Meeting Strategizes to Assist Children Affected by AIDS

USAID convened a technical consultation in Washington, D.C., this month to share and discuss the latest knowledge and program approaches in addressing the escalating crisis of children affected by HIV/AIDS around the world. Particular emphasis was on sub-Saharan Africa. A full report will be available in December. Meanwhile conference presentations and materials are accessible at: <http://sara.aed.org/ovc-tc/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community REACH Accepting Proposals on Orphans and Vulnerable Children

PACT's Community REACH Project is currently accepting applications from nongovernmental organizations interested in conducting focused studies to improve programs for orphans and vulnerable children in Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The USAID-funded project encourages proposals from national and local organizations that implement HIV/AIDS activities in these ten countries. The application deadline is January 5, 2004. More information is available at: www.pactworld.org/reach.

USAID to Update Directory of Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS

The Synergy Project, on behalf of USAID, is collaborating with the Global Network of People with HIV/AIDS and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS to update the "Directory of Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS," which was first published in July 2002. Associations can contribute to this resource by completing an online form in English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese at: http://synergyaids.com/announce/PWA_Directory.htm.

Population Services International Launches Faith-Based Initiative

Population Services International (PSI) launched a program to help faith-based organizations around the world increase their capacity to implement HIV/AIDS prevention activities. This program was kicked off at the All Africa Conference of Churches 8th General Assembly, November 26, in Yaounde, Cameroon. For further details, visit: <http://www.psi.org/news/1103e.html>.

International AIDS Economics Network Calls for Papers

The International AIDS Economics Network has issued its third “Call for Papers,” open to individuals conducting research on the issue of HIV/AIDS and economics. Accepted papers will be presented during a two-day symposium in Bangkok, Thailand, immediately prior to the XV International AIDS Conference, July 11–16, 2004. For more information, see: <http://www.iaen.org/announcements/index.php?view=detail&id=11232>.

World AIDS Campaign

The World AIDS Campaign 2003 continues to focus on stigma and discrimination under the slogan “Live and Let Live.” The campaign aims to encourage people to break the silence and the barriers to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care. For more information, visit: <http://www.unaids.org/worldaidscampaign/>.

RECENT EVENTS

Workshop Provides Effective Tools to Manage HIV/AIDS

The American International Health Alliance sponsored a five-day workshop in October to familiarize health care providers from obstetrical and women's wellness institutions with HIV prevention techniques and to set the stage for future dissemination of prevention of mother-to-child transmission programs in Moldova, Russia, and Central Asia. Read more in “Connections,” AIHA’s online newsletter, at: <http://www.aiha.com/index.jsp?sid=1&id=8723&pid=4177>.

Safe Water System Improves Health of People Living with HIV

An abstract presented at the 13th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa in Nairobi in September suggested use of the Safe Water System resulted in a 37% reduction of risk of diarrhea in people with HIV/AIDS. Chronic diarrhea can prove life threatening for those with weakened immune systems. Created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Safe Water System is promoted and distributed by Population Services International, with support from USAID and other organizations, in eight developing countries. For more information on the Safe Water System, visit: <http://www.psi.org/resources/waterlink.html>.

PUBLICATIONS

The Synergy Project Introduces Series on Advances Through HIV/AIDS Research

“Advances Through HIV/AIDS Research Series” includes these titles on emerging issues: Breastfeeding and HIV Transmission, Microfinance and HIV/AIDS, Home Self-Testing for HIV, and Human Capacity Development for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, and Support. The goal of the series is to disseminate key research findings and expert analyses to practitioners and policy makers working in the field. Each paper places significant, new, or controversial research findings in a broader context and explores their practical and policy implications. The series can be downloaded at: <http://www.synergyaids.com/SynergyPublications/Synergypublicationshtm>.

International HIV/AIDS Alliance Releases Two New Publications

“Working with Men, Responding to AIDS, Gender, Sexuality, and HIV: A Case Study Collection,” and “Forgotten Families: Older People as Carers of Orphans and Vulnerable Children,” a new policy report by HelpAge International and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, are available electronically at: http://www.aidsalliance.org/new_publications/.

New Briefing Documents on Logistics for HIV/AIDS Programs

John Snow International/DELIVER has issued a new series entitled “The Importance of Logistics in HIV/AIDS Programs.” Topics include: No Product? No Program (overview of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment); Financing and Procurement; Logistics Management Information Systems; Central Information Systems; Warehousing and Distribution; Warehousing and Consolidated Shipping; and Human Capacity for Logistics. For details, see: http://www.deliver.jsi.com/2002/Pubs/Pubs_FactSheets/index.cfm#Importance

Senegal Involves Community Networks in Adolescent Reproductive Health

A study in Senegal by the Population Council FRONTIERS program shows that an intervention to improve adolescent reproductive health increased community awareness and improved young people's knowledge. Use of safer sexual practices such as abstinence increased, but condom use decreased among sexually active couples. A final report is pending, but a summary of the findings is accessible at:
<http://www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/orsummaries/ors35.html>

Kenyan Communities Support Adolescent Reproductive Health Education

Community, health, and school interventions in rural Kenya increased understanding and discussion of adolescent reproductive health, including prevention of HIV/AIDS, and encouraged safer sexual behavior among young people. These are the conclusions of a three-year study of the Population Council FRONTIERS program to test the feasibility, effectiveness, and cost of interventions to improve adolescent reproductive health. To learn more, go to:
<http://www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/orsummaries/ors33.html>

Study Unravels Complexities of HIV/AIDS Stigma

"Disentangling HIV and AIDS Stigma in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Zambia" is the culmination of a study conducted by the International Center for Research on Women, in partnership with the CHANGE Project. The report can be accessed at: <http://www.icrw.org/docs/stigmareport093003.pdf>.

'Global AIDSLink' Highlights Caring for the Infected and Affected

The current issue of "Global AIDSLink" is thematically devoted to the various ways those in resource-constrained settings are addressing quality of life issues for people living with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. Read more at:
<http://www.globalhealth.org/publications/contents.php3?id=1&issue=82>.

POLICY Project Reports on the Men in HIV/AIDS Partnership and Youth Reproductive Health

POLICY Project has issued the following publications:

- "Men in HIV/AIDS Partnership" reports on a series of provincial workshops held recently to assist South Africa's Government AIDS Action Plan in promoting men's involvement in HIV/AIDS issues. The full report is available at: <http://www.policyproject.com/abstract.cfm?ID=1545>.
- "Adolescent Reproductive Health in the Asia and Near East Region" assesses adolescent reproductive health (including HIV/AIDS) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, and Yemen. A summary report and country-specific reports can be downloaded at: <http://www.policyproject.com/pubs/arh.cfm>.

YouthNet Research Briefs Available

YouthNet has released three new publications:

- "Abstinence and Delayed Sexual Initiation" is accessible at:
www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/Publications/YouthLens+English.htm.
- "Information and Communications Technology" discusses how e-mail, CD-ROMs, listservs, the Internet, radio, and television can be applied to youth health issues. Read about these resources at:
www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/Publications/YouthLens+English.htm.
- "Private-Sector Assessment Tool" is a guide to assess the potential for private-sector youth reproductive health interventions. This handbook is online at:
www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/ProgramsAreas/PrivateSector.htm.

Horizons Reports Examine Readiness for HIV/AIDS Services and Expansion of Care and Support

The Horizons Program has published the following reports:

- A situation analysis study on the readiness of South African reproductive health programs to provide HIV/AIDS services, accessible at: www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/horizons/kznsitanlr.pdf
- "Expanding Care and Support in South India: Scaling Up YRG CARE's Patient-Centered Approach," which can be downloaded at: www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/horizons/yrgcrsclngup.pdf

ONLINE RESOURCES

USAID and Synergy Project Launch Redesigned Web Site

USAID's Latin America and Caribbean Regional Bureau and The Synergy Project have updated the Latin America and Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Initiative Web site with new features designed to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS best practices, tools, research, guidelines, data, and program experience among the region's policy makers and program managers in the region. To view the site, go to: <http://www.synergyaids.com/lacriaids/>

Family Health International Releases Online Training Materials

Family Health International's Contraceptive Technology and Reproductive Health Series is now available online. This 12-module series was designed to meet the continuing education needs of family planning practitioners, program managers, and policy makers in resource-poor settings. Sexually transmitted diseases, barrier methods, and reproductive health of young adults are among the topics covered. To access the complete set of modules, see: <http://www.fhi.org/en/RH/Training/trainmat/cturhmodules.htm>.

'The Pop Reporter' Introduces Customized Edition

"The Pop Reporter," the INFO Project's weekly e-magazine for the world's reproductive health care professional, recently launched a customized edition. This feature allows subscribers to customize their subscriptions, tailoring issues to both topic and delivery preferences. Now subscribers may choose from among 17 categories of the most important concerns of the world's reproductive health community today, including HIV/AIDS research and news. To sign up, go to: <http://prds.infoforhealth.org/signup.php>

Country Analyses Help Inform National HIV/AIDS Policies

The Country AIDS Policy Analysis Project develops and disseminates comprehensive analyses of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Cambodia, and India. Managed by the AIDS Policy Research Center at the University of California San Francisco and funded by USAID, the project links each analysis with national strategic plans for HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and support. Analyses also include a detailed map and comparative table of 70 key HIV/AIDS and socioeconomic indicators. Analyses are available at: <http://ari.ucsf.edu/ARI/policy/countries.htm>.

Beninese Youth Magazine Promotes ABCs of AIDS Prevention

"Amour & Vie" (Love & Life), a magazine published by Population Services International in Benin with funding by USAID, is educating young people on HIV/AIDS prevention and having a proven health impact on the behavior of its readers. A survey has shown that reading "Amour & Vie" resulted in positive changes in behaviors, attitudes, and knowledge. With a circulation of over 35,000, "Amour & Vie" is gaining popularity and will continue to address topics crucial to Beninese youth. Read more at: <http://www.psi.org/news/1103b.html>.

The Synergy Project publishes this newsletter on behalf of USAID'S Office of HIV/AIDS. To subscribe, click on <mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=SUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE>. To unsubscribe, click on <mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=UNSUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE> or go to www.synergyaids.com/newsletter.asp. For those without Web access, to subscribe or unsubscribe, send an e-mail to: listserv@list.s-3.com with "subscribe subscribe" or "unsubscribe subscribe" in the body of the e-mail.

USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS welcomes newsletter submissions from USAID Missions and partner agencies. Send information to enews@s-3.com by the 2nd of the month.