

USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter
July 10, 2003

This newsletter provides regular updates on the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of HIV/AIDS and partner activities to prevent and mitigate HIV/AIDS across the developing world. We encourage you to circulate this publication to colleagues.

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NEWS

AIDSMARK to Launch 'Trusted Partner' Campaign

Population Service International's AIDSMARK Project is pretesting an 11-country multimedia campaign in eastern and southern Africa that will address the issue of risk assessment among youth. This campaign has grown out of extensive research in the region, which demonstrated "trust of one's partner" results in behaviors that put youth at risk of HIV infection. A summary of the research that led to the campaign is available at: <http://www.psi.org/resources/pubs/rb-1.pdf>.

Voluntary Counseling and Testing Expanding in South Africa

The USAID-funded EQUITY Project, implemented by Management Sciences for Health, has led the rapid expansion of voluntary counseling and testing and prevention of mother-to-child transmission services in the most disadvantaged areas of the Eastern Cape. The province now has 220 voluntary counseling and testing and 92 mother-to-child transmission sites. For more information about this program, visit: www.equityproject.co.za.

Guinean Youth Drive Innovative HIV/AIDS and Pregnancy Prevention Program

In partnership with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs, Management Sciences for Health is leading an innovative youth campaign in Guinea, implemented under the Pour Renforcer les Interventions en Santé Reproductive et MST/SIDA (PRISM) Project. Supported by USAID, the program has led to more openness in discussing youth sexuality issues in the community by spreading the word about abstinence and condom use. For more information on the "Guinea Youth Campaign," visit: <http://www.jhucp.org/pressroom/2003/06-27.shtml>.

START Program Sees Successful Beginning in Ghana

Family Health International's START Program in Ghana began treating patients with antiretroviral therapy in late May and expects to provide antiretroviral therapy to 50 patients by August 1. START has initiated voluntary counseling and testing at two sites in the Manya Krobo District and supports the local prevention of mother-to-child transmission programs. Since March 2002, START has supported and provided technical assistance to six local nongovernmental organizations and the district health team. For more information about the START Program, see:

http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/CountryPages/Ghana_HIV.htm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

People With AIDS Volunteer at Pathfinder's COPHIA Project

Currently, at Pathfinder International's Community-Based Prevention, Care, and Support (COPHIA) Project in Kenya, more than 20 percent of its 600 volunteer community health workers are living with HIV/AIDS. These men and women perform routine duties such as providing home-based care to their neighbors, training caregivers, and linking families to medical care and community support. COPHIA partners with organizations such as Kenya Network of Women with AIDS to counsel and empower its members to "go public" as a means of combating the stigma against themselves and others. To learn more about the USAID-funded COPHIA Project, go to:

http://www.pathfind.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Programs_Africa_Kenya

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific Rescheduled

The 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific has been postponed. For a full announcement, go to: <http://www.icaap7.jp/>.

International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa Set for September 2003

Nairobi, Kenya, will host the 13th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa September 20–24, 2003. The conference theme is "Access to Care: Challenges," an issue receiving global attention because of the strain AIDS presents to medical facilities and affected communities. The registration deadline is July 31. To register online, go to: <http://www.icasanairobi2003.org/index.html>.

Family Health International to Offer Behavioral Surveillance Survey Training

Family Health International/Asia Regional Office will offer two back-to-back behavioral surveillance survey trainings in Bangkok, Thailand, in September 2003, as a follow-up to the "BSS Start-to-Finish" training in May. The trainings on sampling and data management and analysis will provide participants with in-depth and practical knowledge in these specialized areas, as well as extensive resources for applying them in the field. For more information, see:

<http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/CountryPages/Asia+Regional+Office+country+page.htm>.

PUBLICATIONS

Report to Congress Available

The recent "Report to Congress: Care, Treatment and Support of Persons Living with AIDS," published by the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS, is now available at: http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/.

Global Health Releases Advocacy Manual

The Global Health Council's "Global Health Advocacy Manual" is now available online at: <http://www.globalhealth.org/publications/>.

DELIVER Project Introduces Three Publications

The DELIVER Project has published "Tool To Assess Site Program Readiness for Initiating Antiretroviral Therapy," "HIV Test Kit Selection: Operational Considerations for VCT and PMTCT Services," and "Zimbabwe: Antiretroviral Therapy Program—Issues and Opportunities for Initiation and Expansion." The resources can be downloaded, respectively, at:

http://www.deliver.jsi.com/pdf/G&H/readinesstool_final.pdf;

http://www.deliver.jsi.com/pdf/factsheets/operational_considerations.pdf; and

http://www.deliver.jsi.com/pdf/country_papers/zimbabwe_arv.pdf.

‘Lancet’ Launches Child Survival Series

The “Lancet,” an international medical journal, joined public health scientists and international agencies, including USAID and the Global Health Council, to launch a five-article series on key child-survival issues. For details, visit: <http://www.globalhealth.org/news/article/3217/newsletter>.

POLICY Releases Two New Publications

The POLICY Project has released “HIV/AIDS in the Mekong Region,” an overview of the current situation and impact of HIV/AIDS in the region, and “Moments in Time,” a collection of stories that highlight key advocacy moments told by those engaged in advocacy work. The reports can be downloaded at: <http://www.policyproject.com/abstract.cfm?ID=1396> and <http://www.policyproject.com/stories/>.

YouthLens Research Briefs Available

Four YouthLens research briefs are available in Spanish and French: “Youth-Adult Partnerships Show Promise,” “Condoms and Sexually Active Youth,” “Participatory Learning and Action,” and “Multisectoral Programs Link Intervention Efforts.” View and download these publications at: <http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/Publications/YouthLens+English.htm>.

Horizons Study Examines Relationship Between AIDS and Microfinance Efforts

The Horizons Program has published “Microfinance and Households Coping with HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe: An Exploratory Study,” which examines the effects of HIV/AIDS on the households of microentrepreneurs and the role of microfinance in helping households mitigate the negative economic impacts of the disease. To view the report, go to: <https://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/horizons/microfinzimbfnl.pdf>.

ONLINE RESOURCES

CORE Web Site Provides Up-to-Date Information

The Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic (CORE) Initiative Web site, designed to address the information needs of community- and faith-based organizations and their partners, provides up-to-date information about the initiative, links to partner organizations, selected resource materials, an e-mail forum to facilitate information sharing and networking, and access to the Health Communication Materials database. Visit the Web portal of CORE at: www.coreinitiative.org.

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.