Preliminary data show that between October 2014 and March of this year, PEPFAR, Elma Philanthropies and EIP partners supported HIV testing for 40,113 children in 17 high-burden districts. Of those tested, 5 percent were positive and referred for livesaving treatment. This is replicated throughout the HIV-affected world, where the OVC program implementers ensure children are tested for HIV and that those testing positive are referred for treatment.

In Zimbabwe, with the support of Ambassador David Bruce Wharton, USAID is coordinating with the ministries of Health and Child Care, and Labour and Social Welfare, and with partners, to implement interventions in health care settings, schools and the community. "With children representing the majority of Zimbabwe's total population, they truly are the future of this great nation," Wharton explained. "Through PEPFAR and our partnerships with the many good people and institutions working on health care in Zimbabwe, we can help the country save the lives of its most vulnerable."

Zimbabwe is one of the high-HIV countries receiving funding from the Accelerating Children's HIV/AIDS Treatment (ACT) Initiative, a partnership of PEPFAR and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

The close collaboration between government health officials, USAID and the implementing partners is critical to ensuring that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is permanently controlled. The implementation of new programs and new guidance, including ACT, coupled with the use of data is having an impact every day, saving more lives and changing the very course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Wharton leads the PEPFAR interagency team in Zimbabwe, which is coordinated by the Zimbabwe PEPFAR Coordination Office and implemented by USAID and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More information about PEPFAR's investment in Zimbabwe is on the PEPFAR Dashboards, and more info about PEPFAR's contribution to the global HIV/AIDS response is available on PEPAR's website. ◘