



JUNE 2006 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

Small Grants Yield Big Dividends



Twenty-seven year old Sello Mokhalipi is a study in courage and hope. Having lived with HIV for nearly 10 years, Sello knows first hand the pain associated with stigma and isolation. Today, with support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (Emergency Plan/PEPFAR), Sello is taking his message of hope and compassion to those in his community seriously ill with AIDS.

"I have always wanted to help people who are living with HIV/AIDS," says Sello as he carefully assists a patient to sit up. "I never imagined that I would one day be the one in need of the same help."

When he tested positive in 1996, Sello was initially despaired because many of his friends and neighbors rejected him. Quickly resolving to live positively, he turned for help to a fledgling community group,

see **SOUTH AFRICA**, page 2



Photo by South Africa In-Country Team

Sello Mokhalipi assists a patient in the hospice ward at the Maboloka HIV/AIDS Awareness Organization.

Bono visits PEPFAR sites



Photo by Tanzania In-Country Team

Bono, lead singer of U2 and co-founder of DATA, recently visited the Ngarenaro Health Center in Tanzania. The clinic provides services to an average of 100 women every day, and is supported by the Emergency Plan.

Fighting HIV/AIDS in the Djiboutian Armed Forces



The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (Emergency Plan/PEPFAR) is

supporting a military-to-military collaboration between the Djiboutian Armed Forces (FAD) and the U.S. Government. Through this partnership, the Emergency Plan supported training for a cadre of military health care providers in the management of patients with sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/

AIDS. PEPFAR also supported the procurement of computer and audiovisual equipment used by the training program.

To date, two outlets provide counseling and testing and over 280 troops have been tested for HIV and received their results. Additionally, approximately 200 individuals have been trained in the provision of counseling and testing. The U.S. Government provided funds to

see **DJIBOUTI**, page 2

OGAC

Int'l Testing Day

First Lady Laura Bush proposes an International Testing Day. **P.3**



SOUTH AFRICA

Small Grants Program

The Emergency Plan is supporting grassroots organizations with small grants. **P.2**

TANZANIA

Bono Visits Sites

The lead singer of U2 witnesses the Emergency Plan in action **P.3**

PEPFAR supports military-to-military HIV/AIDS project

Over 800 soldiers given HIV prevention information

from **DJIBOUTI** page 1

purchase vital HIV test kits, HIV/AIDS diagnostic equipment, and supporting supplies. Over twelve laboratory technicians have been trained in the use and maintenance of this equipment. In a ceremony at the FAD garrison on December 22, 2005, the U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti formally delivered the laboratory equipment necessary to conduct HIV seroprevalence surveys to the FAD Commanding General.

The FAD is breaking new ground with a

HIV prevalence study covering 2,134 active duty military personnel. The complementary knowledge, attitudes, and practices survey with troops will provide important information about the correlation between behavior and HIV prevalence in the FAD.

Finally, the FAD is training peer educators to provide life-saving HIV prevention information to fellow military personnel. Trained peer educators have helped to develop standardized materials on HIV prevention and have



Photo by Djibouti In-Country USG Team

Sponsored by an Emergency Plan partner, the Djibouti Armed Forces deliver laboratory equipment, including a CD4 counter, to assist with antiretroviral treatment.

conducted a mass media campaign with messages geared towards military personnel. As a result, over 50 military peer educators have been trained, reaching over 800 soldiers with comprehensive HIV

prevention information.

The partnership between the Djiboutian Armed Forces and the U.S. Government is helping to turn the tide against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Emergency Plan extends grants to grassroots organizations

Emergency Plan Small Grants Program in South Africa awards grants that fill critical gaps

from **SOUTH AFRICA** page 1

the Maboloka HIV/AIDS Awareness Organization (MAHAAO). "It hasn't been easy, but through the assistance and support from the organization, I regained my will to live and help others like me," he says proudly.

Today Sello is a support group coordinator at MAHAAO, which is based in a small, rural community in South Africa's North West Province. Serving a population without easy access to either a hospital or government AIDS clinic, MAHAAO works hard to accommodate the growing number of HIV-positive community members.

The Emergency Plan Small Grants Program is helping organizations like MAHAAO meet

"I assist patients who are on ARV treatment. I teach them about the importance of taking their medication correctly. They get motivated and find comfort in speaking to someone like me who is also on the ARV treatment and is now better."

-- Sello Mokhalipi, support group coordinator at MAHAAO

expanding needs. In 2005, the program awarded grants averaging nearly

\$9,000 to 51 community-based organizations around the country. These grants are extending the reach of the Emergency Plan to grassroots organizations engaged in small-scale but high-impact activities.

Through the program, MAHAAO received \$9,700 to facilitate staff training, purchase critical supplies, and extend its outreach program. "I am so pleased that we received the grant," says Sello. "The training will help me better help those who are living with the virus."

51

the number of grants awarded to grassroots organizations in 2005 through the Small Grants Program in South Africa

HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA



Estimated Number of Adults and Children living with HIV, 2005: **5,500,000**

Estimated Adult (15-49) HIV Prevalence Rate, 2005: **18.8%**

Estimated AIDS Deaths in Adults and Children, 2005: **320,000**

(Source: UNAIDS, Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2006)



Photo by Tanzania In-Country Team

Bono sees progress on the ground



Under blue skies affording views of Mount Kilimanjaro and Meru, Bono, lead singer from the band U2, arrived in Tanzania's third largest city, Arusha, to see African development successes and challenges. During his trip, Bono visited the Ngarenaro Health Center, which receives support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (Emergency Plan/PEPFAR).

The Ngarenaro Health Center provides women with labor, delivery, and family planning services, pregnancy monitoring, and other services. On average, 100 women visit the clinic every day.

With support from the Emergency Plan, the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) program has been integrated with routine maternal child health services. Under this comprehensive approach, services have been provided to over 155 newborns exposed to HIV. Additionally, 99 percent of pregnant women received HIV counseling and

testing using the opt-out approach. During the first eight months of PMTCT services, 559 of the 8,200 pregnant women tested HIV-positive. Many of these HIV-positive women were referred to the regional hospital for assessment and antiretroviral treatment, which is now more widely available.

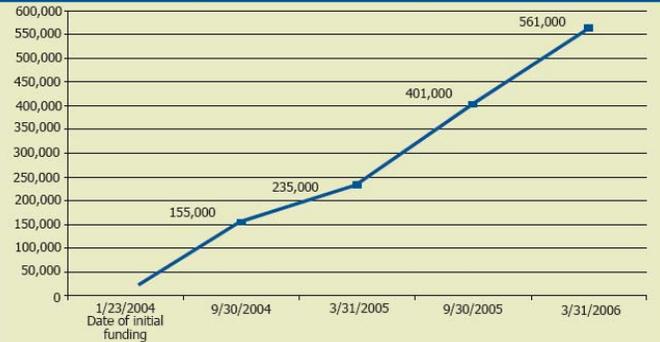
With support from the Emergency Plan, antiretroviral treatment in Tanzania is scaling up rapidly. "It's great to see how PEPFAR and Global Fund dollars are working together to bring off services," said Bono upon learning that 22,000 Tanzanians are now on antiretroviral treatment, up from 1,000 in 2004. "I'm always interested when something abstract becomes real."

Pamela White, USAID/Tanzania Mission Director, who traveled alongside Bono's team said, "Bono has spent enormous energy pushing money for HIV/AIDS and malaria on both sides of the Atlantic... I believe his visit to Tanzania may have been the first time [he's] actually seen policy turned into reality on the ground."

First Lady Laura Bush Proposes International HIV Testing Day

Mrs. Bush announces new PEPFAR treatment numbers

Number of Individuals Receiving Antiretroviral Treatment
Total of both upstream and downstream USG-supported interventions



On June 2, 2006, First Lady Laura Bush addressed the United Nations General Assembly High Level Review Meeting on HIV/AIDS, convened from May 31 to June 2, 2006. The purpose of the high-level meeting was to review progress achieved in fighting the epidemic since the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. In her address, the First Lady acknowledged successes as well as the significant work that remains.

Mrs. Bush noted, "When President Bush announced PEPFAR at the beginning of 2003, only 50,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa were thought to be receiving antiretroviral treatment. Now, in PEPFAR's 15 focus nations, the United States has helped provide treatment for more than 560,000 people". Sixty-one percent of those on Emergency Plan-supported treatment are female. Thanks to the urgent efforts of dedicated PEPFAR partners – both governmental and nongovernmental – hope is reaching a growing number of people.

The First Lady also proposed the designation of an International HIV Testing Day. "... [L]ife-saving treatment never reaches people who do not know they are infected," the First Lady said. In addition, a person unaware of his or her HIV status will not access care that can prevent opportunistic infections and may not take all possible prevention steps to avoid spreading infection. Counseling and testing are key gateways to prevention, care and treatment programs. The proposed International HIV Testing Day will globalize National Testing Day in the United States, which is held on June 27th.