

**PEPFAR World AIDS Day 2021 Top Lines**  
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- Thirty-four years ago, the international community observed the first World AIDS Day. Forty years ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officially reported the first cases of what later became known as AIDS.
- Since the start of the global AIDS epidemic, more than 36 million people (including 700,000 in the United States) have died from AIDS-related illness and nearly 38 million people (including 1.2 million in the United States) are living with HIV.
- The United States government’s World AIDS Day 2021 theme is “Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone’s Voice”.
- On World AIDS Day, the U.S. recognizes continued progress in the global AIDS response as well as the serious threat HIV remains to global health and global health security. This year, as the global community marks the fortieth anniversary of the first reported cases of AIDS, we recommit to supporting international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
- Over nearly two decades, strong bipartisan U.S. leadership across Administrations and from the Congress has helped move the global HIV epidemic from tragedy toward triumph. Globally, AIDS-related deaths have been cut by almost two-thirds and new HIV infections have been halved since their respective peaks. In community after community, where AIDS once brought unfathomable death and despair, there is now vibrant life and hope.
- Through the nearly \$100 billion the U.S. has invested in PEPFAR and as the largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, we are proud to have helped transform the global health landscape.
- PEPFAR has been resilient in the face of COVID-19, protecting and accelerating hard fought HIV gains. PEPFAR has partnered with countries and communities to save more than 21 million lives and prevent millions of HIV infections. At least 20 PEPFAR-supported countries have achieved epidemic control of HIV or reached their 90-90-90 HIV treatment targets – a tremendous achievement.
- PEPFAR’s efforts have also significantly strengthened local health systems to deliver life-saving services and support for those most in need, and created the backbone to fight other health threats, including COVID-19, particularly in Africa -- contributing to greater global health security and pandemic preparedness.
- Through over \$15 billion in total health systems strengthening investments across 55 countries, PEPFAR supports more than 70,000 facility and community health clinics, 3,000 laboratories, and 300,000 health care workers. These capacities have been vital in to protecting and advancing HIV gains and to the global fight against COVID-19.

- Yet, as we have seen with COVID-19, our progress on global health, including HIV, is neither impervious to new threats nor inevitable. We must keep our focus, conviction, and address the enduring inequities facing far too many people around the world.
- The HIV epidemic continues to claim nearly 700,000 lives and infect 1.5 million people annually, often fueled by deep disparities in access to life-saving HIV services solely because of who you are, where you live, or whom you love.
- We will only end AIDS if we protect people's sexual and reproductive rights and stop discrimination against those who are often the most vulnerable to HIV, namely the LGBTQI+ community, people who use drugs, sex workers, racial and ethnic minorities, and women and girls. We also must always ensure that all voices are heard and honored in all our efforts.
- To end AIDS, we must address the stigma, injustice, and punitive laws that stand in our way. PEPFAR continues to support equitable health services and solutions, enduring national health systems, and lasting collaborations. PEPFAR investments remain vital in the global AIDS response.
- The Biden-Harris Administration is deeply committed to ending the HIV epidemic in the United States and around the world through a focus on ensuring equitable health services and solutions, enduring national health systems, and lasting collaborations.
- On World AIDS Day, we reaffirm our steadfast commitment to partnering with countries and communities to help end the HIV epidemic, support resilient and responsive health systems, and create a healthier, more equitable, and more secure world.