

U.S. Supported HIV/AIDS Program Concludes Successfully

September 28, 2011, New Delhi: The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Population Services International (PSI) today celebrated the success of the USAID-supported Connect Project, which built public private partnerships to prevent the spread of HIV and tuberculosis in south India.

In just five years, the program, part of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), established close to fifty sites in partnership with the State AIDS Control Societies and private hospitals in the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu to prevent parent to child transmission of HIV. Over 37,000 pregnant women received counseling in these facilities. As part of the project, 500 private sector companies became involved in AIDS and tuberculosis workplace interventions, reaching more than 700,000 employees with messages and services.

Additionally, the Connect Project launched the first private sector group health insurance product for people living with HIV in India. Seven thousand adults and children are now covered under this group health insurance scheme.

Emphasizing the importance of public private partnership, USAID Mission Director, William Hammink, said at the event, "One of the most important successes of the Connect Project is that it has demonstrated that partnerships between the private sector, NGOs, and the government can prevent the spread and mitigate the impact of HIV and TB."

USAID/India funds activities in partnership with the Government of India in the areas of health, clean energy and environment, water, food security, disaster management, and education.

PSI is a leading global health organization that works in the areas of malaria, child survival, HIV, reproductive health and non-communicable disease.