

# U.S. PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF



## HIV/AIDS IN RWANDA

Rwanda faces a generalized epidemic, with an HIV prevalence of 3.0 percent among adults ages 15-49. The prevalence rate has remained relatively stable, with an overall decline since the late 1990s, partly due to improved HIV surveillance methodology. In general, HIV prevalence is higher in urban areas than in rural areas, and women are at a higher risk of HIV infection than men.

## RESPONSE

Rwanda is one of 15 focus countries for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and began full implementation of PEPFAR in 2004. Funding for PEPFAR/Rwanda has steadily increased since its start in 2004, from almost \$40 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 to \$123 million in FY 2009. The United States is Rwanda's largest funder of HIV/AIDS programs. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Defense Attaché's Office, and the Peace Corps are implementing the program through international and national non-governmental organizations in close collaboration with the Government of Rwanda (GOR) and international donor organizations.

PEPFAR supports voluntary counseling and testing activities, youth intervention programs, provides antiretroviral (ARV) drugs and treatment for opportunistic infections and supports education and life skills training for orphans and vulnerable children. PEPFAR not only provides a wide range of HIV/AIDS services, it also builds the Government of Rwanda's capacity to deliver health services.

## RESULTS (all figures are as of September 2009):

**PREVENTION:** PEPFAR directly supports 181 of 380 sites offering prevention of mother-to-child transmission services in Rwanda. In addition, the U.S. Government (USG) contributes to systems strengthening, logistics support, laboratory support, and assistance with national management information systems through support to the Ministry of Health, National AIDS Control Commission (CNLS), Treatment and Research AIDS Center Plus (TRAC Plus), National Reference Laboratory, Central Medical Stores of Rwanda (CAMERWA), National Blood Transfusion Service (CNTS), and Bureau des Formations Médicales Agricultures du Rwanda (BUFMAR). Moreover, since launch in 2004, PEPFAR directly supported HIV counseling and testing of 1.5 million people, 377,000 of whom were pregnant women.

**CARE AND SUPPORT:** As of September 2009, with PEPFAR support, 89,000 individuals received HIV-related basic health care and support at 205 sites. Services include medical care, psychosocial support, income-generating activities, and prevention activities for HIV-positive individuals. The number of clients served represents 50 percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS. Cumulatively, with PEPFAR support 5,300 individuals have received Tuberculosis (TB) treatment at USG supported sites. Finally, school fees and materials, food, vocational training, psychosocial support and links to clinical services have been provided to 75,000 orphans and vulnerable children.

**TREATMENT:** As of September 2009, 73,700 people were receiving anti-retroviral treatment (ART) at 234 ART sites. USG implementing partners provide direct support to 151 of these sites. This achievement represents a 70 percent-coverage of all adults in need of ART. In addition, the USG provided technical assistance to develop treatment guidelines and policies; mentoring of doctors in pediatric care; and training of trainers for laboratory technicians at the National Reference Laboratory.

## HIV/AIDS AT A GLANCE

- HIV prevalence (ages 15-49): 3.0 percent<sup>[1]</sup>
  - Adults and children (ages 0-49) living with HIV: 178,000<sup>[2]</sup>
  - AIDS deaths (adults and children): 3,700<sup>[2]</sup>
  - HIV prevalence in youth (ages 15-24) in Kigali: 3.4 percent<sup>[3]</sup>
  - HIV prevalence in youth (ages 15-24) countrywide: 1 percent<sup>[3]</sup>
  - AIDS orphans: 220,000<sup>[3]</sup>
- <sup>[1]</sup> Demographic and Health Survey 2005  
<sup>[2]</sup> 2009 Epidemiologic Update  
<sup>[3]</sup> UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2008