

Public Affairs Section
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Press Release

Officials from Across the Region Convene in Gaborone to Share Best Practices in Transitioning Care, Support, and Treatment Services for Adolescents Living with HIV

The United States Embassy is pleased to announce that Ambassador Michelle Gavin will deliver opening remarks at a three-day region-wide meeting for U.S. officials and key African partners at Gaborone Sun Hotel at 08:30 on Tuesday, February 7. The U.S. Government-hosted event will allow stakeholders from across the region to discuss best practices in how most effectively to help adolescents who are living with HIV.

A primary emphasis of the meeting will be on identifying evidence-based strategies to minimize obstacles to develop, implement, and monitor services for adolescents and their families. The group will also discuss how to address the challenges of meeting both the HIV clinical and social needs, as well as the development support, of this vulnerable population in the context of transitioning from pediatric to adult care. Additionally, participants will review and finalize a technical brief and transition toolkit for immediate use and application at the country level.

The purpose of the three and a half day meeting is to allow for “South-to-South” sharing of successes and challenges in addressing the gaps in policies and programs that focus on transitioning perinatally infected children to youth friendly adolescent and adult care. While the primary focus is on perinatally infected children, some of the content of the meeting will also be relevant for those adolescents who are infected via behavioral routes.

This conference is being held in response to calls from practitioners, government officials, and programmers to share knowledge, experience, and resources on how to best care for the increasing numbers of perinatally infected children surviving to adolescence and adulthood. This group is emerging as a unique population and a unique challenge for policy makers, programmers and service providers, thus requiring attention and a stronger understanding of their unique needs to support their continued health and development.

The meeting is targeting seven African countries with substantial pediatric and adult HIV programs and will highlight programs that are facing and responding to the needs of adolescents living with HIV and the gaps and opportunities in transitional services.

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