



Embassy of the United States of America Bujumbura, Burundi

MEDIA RELEASE

U.S. pledges \$3.5 million for HIV/AIDS, bringing health support for 2013 to \$15.7 million

February 28, 2013 -- The Government of the United States of America today committed an additional \$3.5 million to expand HIV/AIDS services in Burundi. This additional funding will allow the continuation of programs for prevention, testing and counseling, and training for healthcare workers already underway in Kayanza, Muyinga, Kirundo, and Karusi provinces.

The pledge brings to \$15.7 million the total U.S. assistance this year to support health and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs in Burundi.

Ambassador Dawn W. Liberi joined with Laurent Kavakure, Minister of External Affairs and International Cooperation, today to sign the agreement. Ambassador Liberi said the funds will support Burundi's efforts to create a healthy future for its citizens.

"Our commitment to HIV/AIDS programming in Burundi is strong," Ambassador Liberi said. "Because of the collaboration between our two governments, improvements in the overall health of Burundians have been significant."

Since 2007, the United States Government, through USAID, has been among the major donors to the fight against HIV and AIDS, as well as programs targeting malaria and improvements in maternal and child health. U.S. funds have provided medicine, laboratory equipment, and education for thousands.

During the past year, funding through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has supported the following in Kayanza, Muyinga, Kirundo, and Karusi provinces:

- 115,658 women attended their first antenatal care visit and 97,408 were tested for HIV
- 892 health care providers and 407 community workers received training
- 78,431 people received information on reducing HIV transmission
- 19,484 individuals were provided with the minimum care service
- 9,072 individuals received care services in their homes
- 5,604 received health care
- 1,546 nutritional support
- 9,054 orphans and vulnerable children received education, health care, psychological support

"Last year, President Obama called for the world community to create a path for an AIDS-free generation," the Ambassador said. "Eighty countries, including Burundi, have committed to a roadmap to improve the health for their people by creating and strengthening health systems that are sustainable and effective. Together we can reach that goal."