



Embassy of the United States of America

Bujumbura, Burundi

Ambassador Dawn Liberi **Signing Agreement with the Government of Burundi for HIV/AIDS Funding** **February 28, 2013**

It is a great pleasure to join the Government of Burundi and His Excellency Laurent Kavakure today to sign this agreement to expand our support in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Burundi. Through this agreement the U.S. Government will provide an additional \$3.5 Million to the effort to prevent HIV and care for those living with HIV and AIDS. These funds were made possible through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development.

These funds are in addition to the \$12.2 million that the U.S. Government has already committed in 2013 to better health for Burundi, bringing our total assistance for health programs to \$15.7 million.

Since 2007, the United States Government, through USAID, has supported Burundi's health sector, in the fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS, as well as to improve maternal and child health. Because of the strong collaboration between our two governments, improvements in the overall health of Burundians have been significant.

The U.S. Government is among the major donors supporting the fight against HIV and AIDS. We work closely with the Ministry of Health to fund health systems that strengthen services throughout the country. At the national level, PEPFAR provided equipment to hospitals and laboratories and has trained over 1,200 health care workers.

At the provincial and district levels we support prevention, HIV testing and counseling, and training of health care workers in Kayanza, Muyinga, Kirundo, and Karusi provinces. Later this year, we will expand our activities to four additional provinces: Ngozi, Gitega, Bujumbura Marie and Bujumbura Rural where we will focus on the Prevention of Maternal-to-Child Transmission of HIV.

We congratulate the government and people of Burundi, especially the Ministry of Health and the Fight against AIDS and the National AIDS Program for their commitment. We look forward to promoting Burundi's success and program models so other countries can learn from Burundi's expertise.

Progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS and other pandemics such as malaria will enable the country to move forward.

“Let's Work Together Towards an AIDS-Free Generation!”

Murakoze cane.