



Embassy of the United States of America Bujumbura, Burundi

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MEDIA RELEASE

U.S. pledges \$10 million more to prevent transmission of HIV from mother to child

The Government of the United States today announced it will provide an additional \$10 million to support programs that work to prevent transmission of HIV from mother to child. The donation brings the total U.S. contribution in 2013 to Burundi through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to \$18.86 million.

This additional funding will allow the continuation of the Prevention of Mother to Child Transfer of HIV (PMTCT) programs in current U.S. Government-supported sites and the expansion of the work to four additional provinces. The funds support prevention programs, testing and counseling, treatment, and training for healthcare workers.

Since 2008, the American government has provided comprehensive HIV/AIDS programming (including PMTCT) in Kayanza, Muyinga, Kirundo and Karusi provinces. With the additional grant, programs will be added in Bujumbura Marie, Bujumbura Rural, Gitega and Ngozi provinces.

In announcing the grant, Ambassador Dawn M. Liberi said the additional funding will support Burundi's efforts to create a healthy future for its citizens and eliminate new HIV infections among children and keep their mothers alive.

"On this National Day of the fight against HIV and AIDS, we can be proud of the results achieved," said Ambassador Liberi. "The number of people newly infected each year is decreasing. With our partners around the world, the United States of America has provided treatments that saved the lives of four million-five hundred thousand (4.5 million) people. But we must not rest. At the end of 2012, there were still 34 million people living with HIV and AIDS."

Ambassador Liberi joined with the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr. Sabine Ntakarutimana and UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe today to celebrate Burundi's National HIV/AIDS Day.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease. Since 2005, the United States Government, through USAID and PEPFAR, has been among the major donors in the fight against HIV and AIDS providing over \$62 million in support in Burundi. This is in addition to programs targeting malaria and improvements in maternal and child health and funding for medicine, laboratory equipment and education for thousands.