



In our Corner

PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire welcomes a new chief in U.S. Ambassador Phillip Carter III, who brings a background in economics and extensive experience in Africa to his new post.



The Ambassador has held a variety of leadership positions in the State Department's Africa Bureau and served as ambassador to Guinea and deputy chief of mission in Madagascar and Gabon. As a former international financial economist, he has dealt with international debt and capital matters and served as the State Department's point person on International Monetary Fund issues with Africa. Other posts have included Bangladesh, Malawi, Canada, and Mexico City.

The Ambassador and his wife, Amanda Jane Carter, have two sons.

US increases HIV funding, helps offset global decline

A substantial increase in U.S. funding for international AIDS relief helped offset a drop in support from other donor nations in the midst of last year's global economic crisis, according to an analysis from the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

In 2009, the Group of Eight nations, European Commission and other donor governments provided \$7.6 billion for AIDS relief in developing nations, compared with \$7.7 billion disbursed in 2008. The 2009 totals ended a run of annual double-digit percentage point increases in donor support for international AIDS assistance since 2002. "Reductions in investment on AIDS programs are hurting the AIDS response," said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé. "At a time when we are seeing results in HIV prevention and treatment, we must scale up, not scale down."

An increase in U.S. funding (from \$3.95 billion in 2008 to \$4.4 billion) helped to offset reductions in support from Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and the Netherlands. Through its PEPFAR initiative and support for the Global Fund, the United States remains the largest donor nation in the world, accounting for 58% of 2009 disbursements, followed by United Kingdom (10.2%), Germany (5.2%), and the Netherlands (5%).

UNAIDS estimates that \$23.6 billion was needed to address the epidemic in low- and middle-income countries in 2009. This suggests a growing gap between available resources and need, according to UNAIDS estimates.

For the full report, visit www.unaids.org.

The OVC platform

A chain reaction of care and support

Success Story

When Martine G., a vegetable seller in southwest Côte d'Ivoire, took her sickly 6-month-old to the local social center for some advice, she set in motion a whole chain reaction of care.

What she encountered was the OVC platform, a coordination hub that links health, education, and community-based services for orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS (OVC). The platforms, based at government social centers, are the heart of the National OVC Program's strategy for decentralized care and support, implanted with PEPFAR support in 28 communities nationwide, with 12 more coming on line this year.

For Martine and her son, Arnaud, the platform worked just as intended:

The government social worker, detecting signs of poor health and malnutrition in Arnaud, had a long talk with Martine, who agreed to undergo



For Martine and her son, Arnaud, the OVC platform worked just as intended.

HIV testing, available at the social center thanks to PEPFAR partner Columbia University. The social worker then accompanied mother and son to the hospital – also a platform member – for PCR testing for Arnaud and free care for his mother, and she recommended a nutritious mix of milk, oil, and cereal to build the child's strength.

When Arnaud's HIV test came back positive, she referred Martine to the community-based organization VIF, a platform member that specializes in medical and nutritional care of OVC, which in turn obtained milk for Arnaud through the World Food Program.

After several months of home visits by the social worker, Martine's husband agreed to be tested. Along with his wife, he has joined the support group at the social center, which also continues to monitor Arnaud's nutritional status – completing, continuing, the circle of care.

Homage to a fighter

Theodore Maguy was working in the office, that holiday morning, before heading out to visit a family affected by HIV.

"Don't you ever stay home and rest?"

Odette Brou Koffi, executive director of the local NGO APROSAM in San Pedro, asked him.

That evening, Sept. 6, word reached Mrs. Koffi that Theodore had collapsed and died of an apparent heart attack.

A carpenter who suffered the ravages of HIV and then found hope in antiretroviral treatment and support by APROSAM, Theodore dedicated the rest of his life to the fight against HIV. He leaves behind a widow, two children, and stunned colleagues and friends throughout the region. He also leaves a network of local peer support and activists, as well as a farm benefiting HIV-affected families that he helped build and that will live on in his spirit of fraternity, solidarity, love of neighbor, and volunteerism.

As president of FURBAS, a support group for HIV-positive men, and of a regional care and support network, he helped give life to the concept of GIPA, the greater involvement of

people living with HIV/AIDS

not only as beneficiaries but as agents of change. A quiet man, he was not particularly pleased, though gracious, when his photograph went 'round the world – and back to Côte d'Ivoire – in PEPFAR publications. Armed with courage and a commitment to helping others, he was a man of action who lived the concept of "accompaniment," giving himself body and soul in activities ranging from income generation to care and support for PLWHA and orphans and vulnerable children.

PEPFAR joins his brothers and sisters from FURBAS, CERBAS, RIP+, APROSAM, and others in saying thank you, Theo, for your courage, your self-sacrifice, your faith.



The late Theodore Maguy with his wife and son, in a photo that was seen 'round the world.

New Partners, Old Partners

Thank you, congratulations, welcome, good luck – things are changing so rapidly at PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire, it's hard to know what to say to whom.

So let's take a moment to say:

Thank you to our partners who are completing projects – years of hard work to help those in need.

Congratulations to our partners who won new awards – years of hard work to come.

Welcome to our partners who are new to Côte d'Ivoire – it's a great place to work and live.

- * Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene; Ministry of Family, Women, and Social Affairs; and CNTS (National Blood Transfusion Center) – completing five-year projects and starting new ones
- * Institut Pasteur – starting a five-year project focused on HIV/TB
- * ANADER – completing a five-year project in rural areas, and starting a new one
- * PSI – completing a five-year project targeting the uniformed services, and starting a new one
- * FHI – completing its PAPO project targeting sex workers and other highly vulnerable populations, and continuing its technical assistance
- * Heartland Alliance – starting a five-year project targeting sex workers and other highly vulnerable populations
- * Hope Côte d'Ivoire – starting a five-year OVC and AB prevention project
- * Habitat for Humanity – starting a five-year OVC and AB prevention project
- * Care International – completing a five-year project in the North and West
- * International Rescue Committee – starting a five-year prevention and care project in the North and West
- * Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation – starting a five-year prevention and care project in the North while continuing its extensive care and treatment program

And thank you to ALL partners, for all that you do (including the COP!).

Côte d'Ivoire inaugurates HIV Information Center

The Côte d'Ivoire Ministry for the Fight Against AIDS (MLS) officially inaugurated its renovated HIV Documentation and Information Center in September, adding an important national resource in the fight against the epidemic.

Deputy Chief of Mission Julia Stanley joined Minister of AIDS Dr. Christine Nebout Adjobi and about 250 others in a ceremony to open the center at the Houphouët-Boigny Bridge dispensary in Treichville.

In her remarks, Dr. Evelyne Ehua, director of the Information and Communication Division of the MLS, traced the history of the center, which was created in 1996 and moved to Plateau in 2006 before a scarcity of materials and difficult access led the ministry to decide to overhaul and relocate the center to its original site. She noted that the

MLS hopes to extend the center to other regions.

New both in form and in the extent of its offerings, the center offers access to national policy, guideline, procedure, and training documents as well as studies, theses, and other scientific documents in an environment conducive to reading and research. It is open Mondays-Fridays to all interested parties.

Dr. Adjobi thanked PEPFAR, the World Bank, and UNAIDS for their support for the center, noting its importance in an environment where most people have limited or inaccurate information about HIV and the evolution of the epidemic. Combined with the ministry's overhauled Web site (www.mlsida.gouv.ci), the center can help fill those national information gaps, she said in urging stakeholders to make it their own.



Minister of AIDS Dr. Christine Nebout Adjobi and U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Julia Stanley applaud the opening of the ministry's HIV Documentation and Information Center.

More on the national response to HIV/AIDS:

www.mlsida.gouv.ci

<http://abidjan.usembassy.gov/pepfar.html>

PEPFAR donations strengthen Ministry of Health

Capacity building for the Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene took the form of 80 computers, four vehicles, 32 motorbikes, and a bronchial fibroscope in PEPFAR donations valued at more than \$400,000 organized in July by CDC partner Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and USAID partner SCMS.

The vehicles and motorbikes will support data collection and other monitoring and evaluation activities by the ministry, health professional schools, and hospitals, as well as the transport of lab specimens and blood products. The fibroscope will improve patient care at the university hospital in Treichville.

The computers will enable clinics to improve service quality and tracking of drugs and commodities, with accurate reporting to strengthen national projections and avoid stockouts.

Eight "future champions" in the fight against HIV/AIDS have re-

News in Brief



Minister of Health Dr. Aka Ouélé tries out one of the donated vehicles with CDC Director Dr. Anna Likos, above, and joins PSP Director Dr. Rachel Duncan in accepting a donation of 80 computers from outgoing U.S. Ambassador Wanda L. Nesbitt.



turned to Côte d'Ivoire after eight weeks of intensive training in epidemiology, monitoring and evaluation, and research techniques at the University of California at Berkeley. The eight, representing the Ivorian government, civil society, and the PEPFAR country team, were selected by a panel that included the Ivorian ministries of AIDS and of Health. They are part of a PEPFAR program administered by the U.S. National Institutes of Health/Fogarty Center designed to build national capacity in strategic information.

PEPFAR partner Columbia University (ICAP) marked two milestones in September, having provided HIV/AIDS services to 1 million people in Africa and having screened 1 million women in PMTCT programs. ICAP supports work at more than 1,200 sites in 15 African countries. In Côte d'Ivoire, ICAP provides HIV care, treatment, and prevention services at 104 sites.

Contribute to PEPtalk!

Do you have a news item, a story idea, a good photo? An insightful commentary? Share it. Send it to peptalk@ci.cdc.gov.

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Maïmouna Fondio, new administrative secretary for the Retro-Cl lab



Franck Houphouët, new driver



The late **Dja Sessegnon Elisabeth**, coordinator of HIV prevention and OVC activities for Health Alliance International, July 20, 2010, at Bouaké.

Comings & Goings