



United States Embassy Nairobi
Public Affairs Section
American Reference Center

United Nations Avenue
P. O. Box 606, Village Market
00621 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 254-20-3636196/7
Fax: 254-20-3636501

U.S. Embassy Partners with Kenya National Library Service to Celebrate World AIDS Day

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The U.S. Embassy's PEPFAR Coordinator Katherine Perry spoke about HIV/AIDS – How YOU can make a difference, at the Kenya National Library Service's (KNLS) National Library to celebrate the upcoming World AIDS Day to be held on December 1, 2011. Ms. Perry explained that PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, partners with the Government of Kenya to place emphasis on prevention efforts, including: expanding counseling and testing efforts to increase knowledge of status, voluntary male circumcision, and creating greater visibility of the Partnership for an HIV-Free Generation - a global initiative to link private sector partners with the programmatic experience and reach of traditional partners in youth prevention. She also stressed personal responsibility and what individuals can do to prevent HIV AIDS.

Dr. Nduku Kilonzo, Director, Liverpool VCT (Voluntary Counseling and Testing), a PEPFAR partner, highlighted the services her organizations provides to the people of Kenya and how they partner with KNLS to offer a mobile VCT truck at KNLS libraries to help Kenyans determine their HIV AIDS status and to counsel them on their responsibilities concerning HIV AIDS. Both speakers stressed that HIV AIDS programs are based scientific evidence.

Public Affairs Information Resource Officer Henry Mendelsohn demonstrated the content of eLibraryUSA databases available at the American Reference Center that provide accurate and authoritative information about HIV AIDS and teen health and wellness. He noted that Kenyans can become members of the American Reference Center and receive passwords to the eLibraryUSA. The audience was welcomed by Mr. Richard Atuti, Director, KNLS. Mr. Atuti informed the audience about KNLS' eHealth service centers located in the Kisumu and Eldoret branch public Libraries, a service funded through grants from the Gates Foundation.

Ms. Perry further noted that the US theme for World AIDS Day is "*Leading with Science, Uniting for Action*" and stressed the following facts:

The United States has been a leader in the field of HIV/AIDS for thirty years. Since the inception of PEPFAR in 2003, the United States has led the response to the global epidemic. To date, PEPFAR is the largest commitment in history by any nation to combat a single disease.

-Building on the success of PEPFAR and other global health programs, President Obama has put forward an ambitious Global Health Initiative (GHI), which encompasses the Administration's comprehensive approach to global health and development programming.

-GHI is a unified strategy to save lives and maximize investments to address the most challenging health issues, advance America's values, and strengthen our national security. The PEPFAR platform provides a unique opportunity to not just confront HIV/AIDS, but to serve as the hub for building a sustainable health delivery system that will provide the opportunity for recipient nations to assume greater self-sufficiency and country ownership of their help systems, consistent with their development needs, and be taken over, in time, by recipient countries.

-With support from PEPFAR and other programs, the global community has made groundbreaking progress in saving lives through HIV prevention, treatment and care services. These gains have also translated into better health for millions of people around the world.

-U.S. investments through PEPFAR have delivered extraordinary results. (Note: results for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 will be announced on World AIDS Day 2011; the results below are for FY 2010.)

-The U.S. directly supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for more than 3.2 million men, women and children worldwide as of September 30, 2010, up from less than 2.5 million in 2009.

-PEPFAR directly supported antiretroviral prophylaxis to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission for more than 600,000 HIV-positive pregnant women in fiscal year 2010, allowing more than 114,000 infants to be born HIV-free.

-Through its partnerships with more than 30 countries, PEPFAR directly supported 11 million people with care and support, including nearly 3.8 million orphans and vulnerable children, in fiscal year 2010 alone.

-PEPFAR directly supported HIV counseling and testing for nearly 33 million people in fiscal year 2010, providing a critical entry point to prevention, treatment, and care.

- Smart investments have allowed us to maximize the human impact of resources. Experience in the field has taught us how to use every dollar invested in battling HIV/AIDS more effectively and efficiently. This means we are getting value for our money - every dollar is going farther, allowing us to increase our impact and save more lives.

-Evidence-based programs have played a key role in our success to date, and new scientific discoveries provide an opportunity to expand our impact.

-As we move forward with PEPFAR, the United States is proud to support partner countries as they assume growing leadership of their fight against HIV/AIDS. Uniting for action, we must

come together to build on our successes to save even more lives and meet our shared responsibility in order to move toward the goal of an AIDS-free generation.

Please view flickr photos [here](#)

Additional information on the U. S. government's HIV AIDS programs can be found at:

[White House: Office of National AIDS Policy](#)

[The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief \(PEPFAR\)](#)

[AIDS.gov](#)

[CDC - HIV/AIDS](#)

[Facing AIDS Site](#)

<http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/>