

# PEPFAR News



*Happy moments: Ambassador Terence McCulley with Erelu Olusola Obada, Minister of State for Defense at the commissioning of a defense reference laboratory on August 22.*

## A Publication of the U.S. Mission in Nigeria

July 4th, 2013 Special Edition

## PEPFAR at 10 - A story worth telling!

This is a really great celebration. This is special. And if anybody here – I know you're here because you are touched by it – but what a wonderful thing to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of this remarkable intervention that represents the best of the human spirit, and also I think in many ways, the best of American

leadership.

The success of PEPFAR, as well as efforts by the entire global community, including the great work done by the Global Fund, represents in truth a victory for the human spirit. The fight against HIV and AIDS shows what we can accomplish when we make the effort together, join hands, overcome the ideology and the politics, and really dedicate our hearts to win.

None of this was easy, and frankly it's really worth remembering for a moment how bleak things looked at a certain point in time. A decade ago, when the world finally began to reckon with the full magnitude of this crisis, many experts thought it was too late, and with nearly 30 million people infected with HIV/AIDS in 2002, an entire generation seemed lost.

This landmark legislation [establishing PEPFAR] created the world's largest and most successful foreign assistance program, and today a disease that seemed unstoppable is

in retreat. Globally, new HIV infections have declined nearly 20 percent over the past decade. In Sub-Saharan Africa, both the number of new infections and AIDS-related deaths are down by almost one-third over the last decade. Last year alone, PEPFAR supported HIV testing and counseling for nearly 50 million people, and while just 300,000 people in low and middle income countries were receiving anti-retroviral treatment 10 years ago, today PEPFAR is directly supporting more than 5 million people on treatment. Because of these successes, I am honored to make a very special announcement today, an announcement that we could literally only have dreamed about 10 years ago. Thanks to the support of PEPFAR, we have saved the one millionth babies from becoming infected with HIV. That is a remarkable step.

And as you know, preventing mother-to-child transmission has been a central pillar of our fight against this disease, and just this month we reached the truly landmark moment on the HIV/AIDS timeline. Imagine what this means – one million babies ... can grow up happy and healthy, go to school, realize their dreams, break out of this cycle, maybe even have sons and daughters of their own, free from the burden and the fear of HIV. That is not the only good news. I'm also pleased to report that in 13 countries, we have now passed a programmatic tipping point. Today, more people are newly receiving treatment than are newly infected. We are at this point, thanks to the combined and coordinated efforts of all partners in the fight of global – against global AIDS. That is what has brought us to this moment. This has been a decade of remarkable progress...

Read full remarks @ <http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2013/06/210770.htm>

*Culled from the remarks of John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State at PEPFAR 10th Anniversary Celebration on June 18, 2013*



## You Need to Know

### Tipping Point in the Fight Against AIDS

The concept of the programmatic tipping point describes a scenario where the annual increase in adults on treatment is greater than the number of annual new adult HIV infections. The 2012 UNAIDS World AIDS Report identified 13 countries that are currently at this tipping point. Nigeria was not one of these countries as the most recent data suggests that we still record about 300,000 new infections annually among adults and only about a third of these people are able to access the life-saving treatment that is increasingly available. The reasons for this are many but most importantly there are still a lot of misconceptions about the disease among the Nigerian populace. This manifests in the very high levels of HIV-related stigma and discrimination that is still being reported across the Country, and increases the reluctance of people to seek or assent to HIV counseling and testing even when these services are offered freely and are widely available. The fear of stigma and discrimination also discourages people from accessing the treatment options that are offered.

A lot of progress has been made in the recent past to move Nigeria closer to this programmatic tipping point. PEPFAR is currently supporting an unprecedented effort to scale-up the availability of treatment as well as prevention of mother-to-child transmission services by decentralizing to lower level health facilities with opportunities to reach more people. The program aims to close the gap, and have planned to reach about 160,000 new adults with HIV treatment services this year and to increase that to 220,000 next year. There is an expectation that these efforts will be complemented by similar on-going scale-up efforts by other stakeholders like the Global Fund and the Nigerian Government to bring the country closer to the programmatic tipping point. All stakeholders have committed to the efforts to saturate the highest prevalence states with services and to expand the capacity of private clinics and hospitals to also provide these services, which had, hitherto, been limited to public health facilities.

There has been a renewed focus on the provision of a legal framework for addressing HIV-related stigma

and discrimination with the on-going debate on the National Anti-HIV Stigma bill which has just recently passed a second reading in the Senate. Community targeted efforts in this regard have also been scaled



up with opinion leaders increasingly lending their voice to the campaign for HIV-stigma reduction. \*PEPFAR currently supports HIV treatment for 542,000 men, women, and children in Nigeria.

Story contributed by Dr. Murphy Akpu,  
Assistant PEPFAR Coordinator.

### LeaderSpeak

(Quotes on PEPFAR)



“While many aid agencies are shifting their HIV funding to a narrower set of biomedical interventions, PEPFAR has shown unwavering commitment, not only to reducing new HIV infections and massively scaling up HIV treatment, but also to addressing the devastating social and economic consequences of the epidemic” - Rachael Yates, Senior Adviser, UNICEF’s Children affected by AIDS on June 18, 2013 in commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of PEPFAR. .

### News & Titbits

The United Nations (UNAIDS) celebrate PEPFAR on June 18, 2013 in commemoration of its tenth anniversary. On this occasion, Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé said: “PEPFAR surpassed its initial goals considerably [more than doubled] in supporting treatment for more than five million people and providing care and support to 15 million people, including five million children.”

### History: An HIV Time Line

#### March 2013

Researchers declared that they have “functionally cured” a Mississippi toddler of HIV, judging that early intervention -- in this case within 30 hours of birth -- with three antiviral drugs was key to this outcome.