

**Remarks by Chargé d’Affaires David Young  
PEPFAR Small Grants Awards Workshop  
September 19, 2013**

**University Teaching Hospital Pediatric Center of Excellence, Lusaka**

- Dr. Clement Chela, National AIDS Council Director General
- Representatives from 30 organizations selected nationwide to receive PEPFAR Small Grants Awards
- District AIDS Coordination Advisors
- Representatives from the U.S. government
- Members of the press
- Other distinguished guests

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Mulibwanji.

I am proud to address all of you today who represent 30 organizations from every province in Zambia. We are here today because of the essential three-way partnership among the U.S. government, the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the National AIDS Council, and civil society, represented by your organizations. I want to especially acknowledge the essential support that the District AIDS Coordination Advisors have provided to through the small grants

proposal process, as they reviewed proposals and visited your organizations. We truly value this collaboration.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, through the support of the American people, will award a total of nearly 3 million Kwacha, or US \$550,000 as part of the PEPFAR Small Grants Program. I congratulate you! You underwent a rigorous proposal process and are receiving funding from PEPFAR because we, the U.S. government and the National AIDS Council, recognize your success and want to provide additional support to enhance your work.

Our site evaluators, who came from a variety of backgrounds within the U.S. Embassy, were struck by the dedication, passion, and resourcefulness of your organizations.

Your work can be expressed in this timeless quote from Robert F. Kennedy: "Each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation. Each time a man [or woman] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he [or she] sends forth a tiny ripple of hope."

PEPFAR's Small Grants Program focuses on two areas: providing opportunities for orphans and vulnerable children to grow and be able to make positive contributions to Zambia's future, and HIV prevention.

Your organizations are reaching:

- pregnant women and new mothers, to help prevent transmission of HIV to the next generation;
- orphans and vulnerable children, to provide key skills to help them fulfill their potential;
- physically and mentally-challenged children, to share life-saving information about preventing HIV;
- people living with HIV, by fostering supportive environments; and
- your communities generally, by encouraging people to take personal responsibility for stopping the spread of HIV by knowing their status.

I want you to be aware of the larger significance of your work.

By your HIV prevention activities, you are carrying out a main priority of the Partnership Framework between the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the U.S. government. Through our partners, we are preventing mother-to-child

transmission of HIV in almost 1,500 sites and in every district in the country. We are reducing the risk of contracting HIV by 60 percent for more than 300,000 men who have received voluntary medical male circumcision. We have prevented many other transmissions by encouraging people to take individual responsibility to test and access treatment and by providing life-saving information to communities.

Collectively, you are helping to improve the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children at a local level. Working closely with our partners, PEPFAR is supporting more than 337,922 orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia.

You are also carrying out one of PEPFAR's worldwide goals – increasing civil society involvement in HIV/AIDS planning and implementation.

Our work together is to create an AIDS-free generation in Zambia and beyond.

We are already feeling a ripple of hope: in PEPFAR's 10 years in Zambia, we have come a very long way in our partnership between the people of Zambia and the American people: between 2001 and 2011, the rate of new HIV infections in Zambia dropped by 58 percent. Today, more than 455,000 Zambians are accessing

ART, a staggering difference from 2004, when only 3,500 Zambians had access to this life-saving treatment.

Each of your stories is contributing to the ripple of hope. I am honored to launch the 2013 PEPFAR Small Grants Award workshop. I look forward to hearing about your continued and enhanced success. Thank you for the impact that you are making in your communities.

Zikomo Kwambiri.