Important progress is being made in the fight against global HIV/AIDS, thanks in large part to American leadership and generosity. The next administration and Congress has an opportunity to build on this progress.

The U.S. is a global leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS:

- Current law authorizes $48 billion for the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), of which $39 billion is targeted to AIDS programs and the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria. Funds would cover treatment for more than 3 million people.
- The U.S. provided 41% of the $3.9 billion disbursed by donor countries to tackle the international AIDS epidemic, resulting from commitments made at the 2006 G-8 meeting.
- The U.S. is a global leader of HIV-related research and development (R&D); in 2007, the U.S. accounted for 83% of the total funds invested by the public sector to support R&D for preventive HIV vaccines.\(^1\)

America’s investments in HIV/AIDS are saving lives in Africa and around the world and improving America’s standing abroad:

- The number of Africans living with HIV who are receiving life-saving antiretroviral treatment has increased dramatically in just six years – from 50,000 in 2002 to 1.7 million in 2008.\(^2\)
- PEPFAR has supported prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission services for women during nearly 12.7 million pregnancies. Antiretroviral prophylaxis has been provided in over 827,000 pregnancies, preventing an estimated 157,000 infant HIV infections.\(^3\)
- The U.S. supplied nearly 1.9 billion condoms worldwide from 2004 to 2007.\(^4\)

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\(^1\) Sustaining the HIV Prevention Agenda: Funding for Research and Development of HIV Vaccines, Microbicides and Other New Prevention Options 2000 to 2007


\(^3\) Ibid.

### The United States Government’s Commitment:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria</td>
<td>$2.3 billion</td>
<td>$2.9 billion</td>
<td>$3.4 billion</td>
<td>$4.8 billion</td>
<td>$6.3 billion</td>
<td>$6.4 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global HIV/AIDS Initiative (less Global Fund contribution)</td>
<td>$0.5 billion</td>
<td>$1.37 billion</td>
<td>$1.78 billion</td>
<td>$2.87 billion</td>
<td>$4.12 billion</td>
<td>$4.58 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Fund</td>
<td>$547 million</td>
<td>$435 million</td>
<td>$545 million</td>
<td>$724 million</td>
<td>$841 million</td>
<td>$500 million</td>
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- **The US commitment to HIV/AIDS is historic and necessary.** Economic modeling on the state of the epidemic indicates that $22 billion is needed annually to prevent new HIV infections, treat those already infected, and provide care to those who need it. US Leadership will continue to be a vital element to leveraging international support for the fight against the disease globally.

- **The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is committed to ending the AIDS epidemic in partnership.** By working closely with the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, CDC and USAID, we are able to leverage our commitment to have greater impact on vital R&D around HIV prevention science, including vaccines, microbicides, and new models for behavior change.

The next administration and Congress can save many more lives by:

- **Strengthening HIV prevention efforts.** For every person who received treatment in 2007, nearly three were newly infected. Prevention should be focused on those most at risk of contracting and transmitting the infection. In epidemics affecting the general population, and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, priority must be given to protecting women and young girls; in more concentrated epidemics such as those in Asia, focus should be on those with disproportionately high infection rates, including most often men who have sex with men, sex workers and their clients, and intravenous drug users.

- **Continuing the strong commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.** Since 2002, the Global Fund has committed $10.7 billion to more than 550 programs in 136 countries around the world. The US government’s contribution of $3.1 billion has helped provide lifesaving treatment to an additional 1.75 million people. The Global Fund works and the US contribution helps provide sustainability to its programs.

- **Gathering better data on the nature of the epidemic in each country,** tailoring programs to meet those specific needs, and removing limitations on funding to improve the flexibility and responsiveness of locally allocated funds. The US Institute of Medicine recently concluded that PEPFAR funding allocations are not adequately tailored to reflect country-specific epidemiology and health systems capacity.
• **Increasing resources available for HIV prevention research, both public and private**, and supporting innovative research to discover and develop a vaccine, microbicides, and other tools to protect against HIV.

• **Integrating HIV/AIDS service programs across the health system**, including those for HIV prevention, care and treatment with services for family planning, reproductive health, and TB detection and treatment.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the economic impact of HIV/AIDS?**

By striking the young, HIV/AIDS is affecting long-term prospects for development in poor countries and is reversing decades of progress. In sub-Saharan Africa, one in five working-age adults – teachers, health workers, political leaders, soldiers, and parents – has HIV/AIDS. For countries suffering the biggest losses from AIDS, national income is likely to drop by as much as 20% by 2020, leaving countries trapped in poverty.

**Can’t developing country governments pay for HIV/AIDS programs?**

Yes, and they have committed to increasing their own funding for HIV/AIDS and other health needs. Yet that will not be enough. HIV/AIDS drains health care budgets that are already far too low. Compared with annual health care expenditures of $2,000 per person in rich countries, the governments of some of the world’s poorest countries spend as little as $10 per person.

**Will we have a vaccine soon?**

The search for an HIV vaccine must be a top priority, but it will take time. NIH, which is the dominant funder of scientific research in the world, has expanded its focus on AIDS vaccine research, as have many other governments and private funders. Innovation is needed to identify and exploit new opportunities to protect the immune system against an incredibly complicated and ever-changing virus.

**Is success in the fight against HIV/AIDS possible?**

Yes. There have been many successes already: In Uganda, a combination of antiretroviral therapy and counseling on breast-feeding alternatives for mothers with HIV reduced transmission from mother to child by 50%. In 2005, Thailand reported about 18,000 new cases of HIV, down from 143,000 in 1991 – a decrease of 87%. This success was tied to an aggressive public education campaign and the “100% condom program,” by which all sex workers are required by law to use condoms. Senegal, an early success story in the fight against HIV/AIDS, has managed to keep its prevalence rates low through education programs and high-level political commitment.