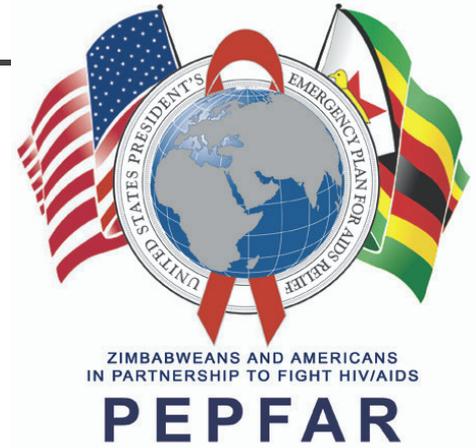


LifeLine

*Highlights from the world's largest
HIV intervention program*



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USG Chargé d'Affaires' tours PEPFAR supported Initiatives



On March 23, 2017, the Chargé d'Affaires, Jennifer Savage, visited two sites offering HIV and AIDS services in Mutare. The sites are supported by USAID partners through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The Chargé toured the Mutare New Start Center, which provides integrated HIV prevention, treatment, and reproductive health services using a one-stop shop approach. At Mutare Provincial Hospital, she was briefed on how the Organization for Public Health Intervention and Development (OPHID) is supporting various components of the HIV Care and Treatment program. She had the opportunity to interact with Clinic Referral Facilitators who explained the importance of mobilizing clients for HIV testing as well as providing peer counselling and support to People Living with HIV to access and stay on treatment. PEPFAR supports a number of partners to implement HIV and AIDS Programs in line with the government of Zimbabwe's national response program. OPHID is one of the partners who piloted the roll out of the "Treat All" campaign at Mutare Provincial Hospital among other places. The model designed to put all HIV positive people on treatment has now been embraced by the Ministry of Health and Child Care and is being rolled out nationally. Collaboration among clinical and local partners is critical in retaining clients in care.

PEPFAR engages stakeholders in COP Planning



PEPFAR partners, civil society representatives and officials from the Ministry of Health and Child Care converged at the Crown Plaza in Harare to discuss COP2017

LINKS • About PEPFAR

HIV testing for revelers at the HIFA-PEPFAR First Street Stage



Edutainment at the OK-First Street HIFA Stage

The PEPFAR First Street Stage in central Harare was a hive of activity with scores of individuals queuing to get tested for HIV as well as receive health information between Tuesday, May 2 and Saturday, May 6, 2017. This was done through "edutainment" comprising of quizzes, drama, muppet shows, hip hop dance as well as oral presentations. The platform was part of the ongoing Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA) 2017. It provided a unique opportunity for health service providers to meet members of the public whilst they received free musical and other entertainment.

Six tents were visible at the site and queues of individuals waiting to get tested for HIV at the junction of First Street and George Silundika Avenue were also visible resulting in 1 936 people counselled and tested. In order to provide an all inclusive package of health services, blood pressure, and sugar level tests were also offered on site.

Several beneficiaries of the services provided suggested that similar outreach activities should happen more frequently as people appreciate them. Based on the number of people who lined up for HIV testing and other services, this outreach activity has proved that presenting services to the door step of users is critical in the response to the HIV epidemic.

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EDUTAINMENT: Lucky Specials



The feature film, *Lucky Specials*, was premiered in Harare on March 9, 2017. In this “edutainment” film, both plot twists and animations technology tell individuals what they need to know about Tuberculosis (TB) disease, detection, treatment, and prevention.

Audiences walked away enchanted by the music and storyline, but also armed with facts that replace long held myths and misinformation about TB. The film was produced by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in partnership with Discovery Learning Alliance, Quizzical Pictures, Wellcome Trust, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, and Management Sciences for Health (MSH).

In Zimbabwe, TB continues to be the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, and approximately 70 percent of Zimbabweans suffering from TB are co-infected with HIV. Last year alone, approximately 30,000 Zimbabweans were diagnosed with TB. USAID has partnered with Zimbabwe’s National TB Control Program and The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease to improve the quality and increase the availability of TB health services. “The Lucky Specials” can also be found on Twitter or Facebook (@LuckySpecials).

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PEPFAR launches the 2017 Media Awards Competition

On March 2017, PEPFAR launched another call for entries for articles to be considered for HIV and AIDS reporting awards on World AIDS Day 2017. In 2016, PEPFAR recognized eight journalists across various categories for exemplary coverage of HIV and AIDS issues. Speaking at the official launch held at the Embassy’s Eastgate offices, Mark Troger, Zimbabwe PEPFAR Country Coordinator thanked the media for the continued reportage on HIV and AIDS. “You are a critical stakeholder in the work that we support and by PEPFAR and I am excited that you are keen to continue to play a significant role in capturing the successes and challenges communities face in accessing health services. PEPFAR would like to ensure that journalists are honored for the good work in HIV and AIDS related awareness raising.” To gain maximum benefit from this competition, it has been streamlined to health journalists who are expected to focus on PEPFAR supported initiatives only.

Journalists present during the launch expressed gratitude to PEPFAR acknowledging that the media awards is a huge opportunity for them to do their work. They also expressed interest to visit the projects being implemented in order to give a human face to their stories.

[LINKS](#) *Competition Guide*

CDC supported I-TECH takes HIV testing to needy communities



Mazowe District Community Advocacy Team poses for a photo after an advocacy meeting

People in farming and mining communities are benefiting from the International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH) outreach programs on HIV testing services targeted towards communities that are hard to reach and where social and economic activities promote the likely spread of HIV. The initiative, conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care at District and Health facility levels, supports the implementation of the UNAIDS 90-90-90 strategy and is aimed at ensuring that people in commercial farms and mines where health facilities do not exist receive HIV testing services (HTS) at their doorsteps. HIV testing, education and information on benefits of HIV testing for the public; benefits of antiretroviral (ARV) therapy for people who test positive as well as the need for those on ARVs to adhere to and stay on medication; blood pressure and blood sugar management advice is offered. These services have been well received by both the farm owners and their workers who have turned out for testing in large numbers. Engaging community leaders in District Advocacy Meetings has been instrumental in the success of these initiatives. I-TECH continues to be responsive to invitations to offer services especially during public events and commemorations of special days such as International Condom Day. People who test HIV positive during these outreach activities are linked to care and treatment. Supported by the United States President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Zimbabwe), I-TECH is one of the partners that piloted the roll out of the "Treat All" campaign in Mazowe District.