The Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Southern Africa and Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of African Affairs, Matthew T. Harrington visited Hopley Clinic on the outskirts of Harare. The clinic is among the several health centers being supported by the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The support includes two pre-fabricated Porta Cabins to ease space shortages in addition to supporting the staff establishment. Hopley was established in February 2007 by the City of Harare and serves a population of 129,443 with about 17,215 under the age of five. Nearly 40,000 people served at this clinic are women of child bearing potential. DAS Harrington expressed gratitude to volunteers who facilitate community linkages with the clinic in order to retain people in care. “I am impressed by the strategies you are employing to provide HIV and AIDS services,” he said. “PEPFAR is about saving lives so the work you do to ensure adherence to treatment is important,” he concluded.
PEPFAR was signed into law on May 27, 2003. Fifteen years later, “...we are closer than ever to controlling and ultimately ending AIDS”, noted Chargé d’Affaires Savage during the commemoration of PEPFAR’s 15th anniversary held on the sidelines of the homeless soccer tournament at Hatcliffe 3 Primary School in Harare. Participants including players from 17 competing teams had access to HIV testing and counselling as well as health information from eight PEPFAR partners.
The U.S. Mission in Zimbabwe successfully hosted a Media Awards Reception to honor four Zimbabwean journalists for outstanding contribution to HIV and AIDS reporting. The four - Shamiso Yikoniko, Michael Gwarisa, Nhau Mangirazi and Mirirai Nsingo-Maponga- received cash awards and certificates at a ceremony jointly presided by the Minister of Health and Child Care, Dr. David Parirenyatwa, and Chargé d’Affaires (Acting U.S. Ambassador) Jennifer Savage in Harare. One of the U.S. development goals is for Zimbabweans to live longer and healthy lives. As such, PEPFAR continues to support the government of Zimbabwe to realize an AIDS free generation.

Congratulating the winners, Chargé Savage stressed that the awards are a symbol of continued U.S. commitment to ensuring that Zimbabweans have access to information and services available to those affected by HIV. “Your commitment to reporting on the issues that affect your communities, as well as, solutions being implemented by our PEPFAR partners is making a positive impact on Zimbabwe,” she said. "Since 1980, the U.S. has committed to support the people of Zimbabwe and we are providing $150 million this year through PEPFAR.”
For the third year running, the U.S. Embassy sponsored the First Street Stage at the Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA 2018) held under the theme: "We Count." The PEPFAR HIFA First Street Stage was a hive of activity featuring local edutainment and popular celebrity performances including the New York based Slavic Soul Party brass band sponsored by the U.S. Most importantly, thirteen service providers offered free services such as HIV testing and counselling, tuberculosis screening, referrals for voluntary medical male circumcisions and condoms. About 7,000 people visited the PEPFAR HIFA First Street Stage during the six day festival. 1,612 were tested for HIV and 46 tested HIV positive. While 25 individuals were immediately initiated on life-saving antiretroviral therapy, PEPFAR partners have put in place follow up mechanisms to ensure that the remaining 21 individuals not ready to initiate ART are followed-up and linked to care. Additionally, 741 people were screened for tuberculosis (TB) with 166 individuals identified as having presumptive symptoms. As stated by Chargé d’Affaires Jennifer Savage, the "U.S. contribution at the Festival was symbolic of its desire to see a healthy Zimbabwe". With support of the Ministry of Health and Child Care and PEPFAR partners, these outreach services provided an opportunity for people to access health services they otherwise would not have readily accessed.
The U.S. launched "Pathways," a five-year $35 million program that will offer services to 250,000 HIV affected orphans and vulnerable children, 59,500 households, and 15,000 vulnerable youth. Funded by PEPFAR, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), "Pathways" will be implemented by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in collaboration with the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare, Health and Child Care, Primary and Secondary Education, Child Protection Services and local communities. Operating in nine districts in Zimbabwe with high HIV burden, the program will put these communities on a path to self-reliance.

USAID and CDC Zimbabwe are implementing the DREAMS initiative, an ambitious partnership to reduce HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women. With support from PEPFAR, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Girl Effect, Johnson & Johnson, Gilead Sciences and ViiV Healthcare, DREAMS is delivering a core package that combines evidence-based approaches that go beyond the health sector, addressing the structural drivers that directly and indirectly increase girls’ HIV risk, including poverty, gender inequality, sexual violence and a lack of education. DREAMS, which stands for, Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe, has brought hope to many adolescent girls and young women in Zimbabwe. "Breaking the Cycle," is an example of how, "USAID helps young women chart a new path to a healthy future."

Access the full article at: https://breaking-the-cycle.