

Philanthropy for HIV/AIDS

A Brief Guide

Prepared by the Global AIDS Alliance

The Global Crisis

More than twenty years after AIDS emerged as a major health threat, it has become the greatest health catastrophe in human history and killed over 20 million people around the world:

- In 2003, more than 3 million people died because of AIDS, and another 5 million people became infected with HIV. Half of those new cases are young people age 15-24. Around the world an estimated 40 million people are now living with HIV/AIDS.
- The CIA estimates that by 2010, the number of people infected could reach 100 million because of a second wave of infections in India, Russia, and China.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, where 2.3 million people died from AIDS in 2003, only 2% of those who need life saving treatment now have access to medicine. One in five adults in Southern Africa is now living with HIV/AIDS, and 39% of adults in Botswana are infected.
- AIDS is transforming the lives of young people. Without immediate intervention, there will be 25 million AIDS orphans around the world by the end of the decade. Young women are particularly vulnerable - those aged 15-24 are up to 2.5 times more likely to be infected than their male peers.
- In India, 4.5 million people are now infected with HIV and another 610,000 Indians contracted the virus last year.
- Former Secretary of State Colin Powell remarked that: "AIDS is more devastating than any terrorist attack, any conflict or any weapon of mass destruction. . . AIDS can destroy countries and destabilize entire regions."

UNAIDS estimates that private, national, and international sources are currently spending less than half of the "bare bones" \$10.5 billion that is needed to fight AIDS. By 2007 that number will be \$15 billion.

And Yet There Is Hope

- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is scaling up successful programs in at least 121 countries around the world.
- The World Health Organization is mobilizing an unprecedented global effort to put three million people on life saving anti-retroviral treatment by 2005.
- The price for these life saving medicines has dropped dramatically, to as little as 38 cents a day for generic medicine under a recent agreement negotiated by the Clinton Foundation.
- In Uganda, strong national leadership and a comprehensive approach to prevention reduced HIV prevalence from 15% to 5%.

Addressing the Crisis: What Should the Next Steps Be?

Scaling up effective programs: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is the central mechanism for expanding the fight against AIDS in Africa and elsewhere. The Global Fund will also work with the Bush Administration's bilateral initiative in 14 targeted nations in Africa and the Caribbean.

Broadening the response to include the most vulnerable victims of AIDS: Governments and Private Voluntary Organizations are now expanding effective programs to respond to the needs of AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children who themselves are at great risk of infection.

Improving access to treatment: With the progress in reducing the cost of treatment for AIDS, the World Health Organization's "3 by 5" initiative can help to bring the promise of life-saving treatment to millions in Africa and around the world.

How Can Philanthropists Help?

Philanthropic support of various organizations is crucial for the continued effectiveness of efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. These organizations support and complement the work of governments struggling to cope with the pandemic. Private support enables organizations to deliver the following kinds of services:

- **Advocacy:** In order to leverage the resources needed to fully respond to the AIDS pandemic, effective advocacy is critical. By engaging with policy leaders, shaping the public debate, and mobilizing key constituencies, advocacy efforts have already dramatically expanded funding for global AIDS.
- **Treatment:** With declining prices for life-saving medicine and the World Health Organization's new treatment initiative, the hopes for widely expanding treatment for HIV/AIDS appear bright. Treatment can turn HIV into a somewhat manageable disease for millions who otherwise would die.
- **Prevention:** Prevention remains critical to combating the epidemic and preventing the exponential increase of infections in the second wave nations. Education, appropriate health services, and voluntary testing and counseling programs are all essential parts of a comprehensive approach to prevention.
- **Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children:** Expanding programs to care for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children can make an enormous difference in the lives of the most helpless victims of AIDS. Supporting educational opportunities for these children and providing safe, caring environments for them are some examples of this work.
- **Research:** Support research to develop improved and simplified treatment regimes and new prevention tools, including microbicides to help women protect themselves from infection. Continuing research is also needed in order to find an effective vaccine.

Where Can You Go To Learn More?

Funders Concerned About AIDS is an affinity group for grantmakers addressing AIDS issues. It provides technical assistance and resources for donors addressing AIDS and giving internationally. www.fcaids.org

The Global Business Coalition on HIV and AIDS is an alliance of international businesses combating AIDS through workplace and local community programs and through partnerships with governments and NGOs. www.businessfightsaids.org

The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is the leading mechanism for scaling up the global response in the fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria. The Global Fund is funding programs in 121 countries around the world that focus on both prevention and treatment. www.theglobalfund.org

UNAIDS serves as a key coordinator of the United Nations' response to the AIDS crisis and publishes the most authoritative data on the state of the AIDS pandemic. www.unaids.org

The Global AIDS Alliance is one of the leading advocacy organizations working to increase funding for Global AIDS. The Global AIDS Alliance works to shape the public debate and mobilize key constituencies and policy leaders to support the Global Fund and respond to the AIDS orphan crisis. www.globalaidsalliance.org

UNICEF was mandated to advocate for the protection of the rights of children. Its priority areas include AIDS education, preventing parent-to-child transmission of AIDS, and protecting and supporting AIDS orphans. www.unicef.org/aids

The Global Health Initiative of the World Economic Forum aims to increase the quantity and quality of business engagement in fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. www.weforum.org/globalhealth

Keep a Child Alive is an initiative to provide life-saving treatment to many of the 3.2 million children with HIV in the developing world. Keep a Child Alive offers new hope to the most vulnerable victims of AIDS. www.keepachildalive.org