



The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is the largest commitment ever by any nation for an international health initiative dedicated to a single disease.

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Peace Corps

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Prevention of Sexual Transmission for People Engaged in High-Risk Activity

In most PEPFAR countries certain groups (e.g. mobile populations, persons involved in prostitution, persons who use injecting drugs, men who have sex with men, persons in uniformed services, and prison populations) are at a higher risk for HIV. In several PEPFAR focus countries, such as Vietnam, Guyana and Ethiopia, the HIV epidemic is concentrated among new infections.

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) supports the rapid scale-up of prevention education and services utilizing the "ABC" approach. The "ABC" approach tailors behavioral messages to the local epidemic context: "A" behaviors include abstinence; "B" includes faithfulness to one partner or reducing the number of sexual partners; "C" emphasizes correct and consistent condom use, where appropriate.

Following the ABC model, PEPFAR supports activities that target high-risk populations with a comprehensive package of prevention services which include peer outreach and education, condom promotion and distribution, counseling and testing, sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening and treatment, referral to substance abuse and treatment services, and referral to treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

PEPFAR's priorities for the prevention of sexual transmission of HIV in groups at high risk include:

Implementing community-based approaches to behavior change — including peer education and outreach targeted at hard-to-reach groups (i.e., persons in prostitution, persons who use drugs, and men who have sex with men);

Distributing condoms and promoting correct and consistent condom use;

Supporting initiatives to promote counseling and testing — including innovative strategies, such as provider-initiated counseling and testing, and rapid testing in non-clinical settings;

Promoting STI screening and treatment for all persons at high risk for HIV and STIs as a part of HIV prevention, treatment and care;

Promoting and supporting substance abuse prevention and treatment programs that target HIV-infected individuals;

Strengthening linkages between HIV prevention and HIV treatment and care services;

Promoting male circumcision as part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce HIV transmission.

