



**For Immediate Release  
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***Media Contacts:***

Ray Castillo (U.S. Embassy Windhoek) +264 81 128 0816, [castillora@state.gov](mailto:castillora@state.gov)  
Julia Hamhata (Government of Namibia) +264 81 243 7511, [jhamhata@mib.com.na](mailto:jhamhata@mib.com.na)

## **Namibian President to Open 2009 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting**

*Windhoek, Namibia and Washington, D.C.* – On June 10, 2009, H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, will welcome more than 1,500 HIV/AIDS implementers from around the globe at the opening of the 2009 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia.

The five-day meeting will be hosted by the Government of Namibia, and co-sponsored by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); UNICEF; the World Bank; the World Health Organization; and the Global Network of People Living with HIV. Namibia was selected to host the 2009 conference in recognition of the country's bold leadership in fighting HIV/AIDS.

This year's conference theme is "Optimizing the Response: Partnerships for Sustainability." From June 10-14, the meeting will bring together practitioners from around the world to discuss best practices and lessons learned during the implementation of multi-sector HIV/AIDS programs. The program will focus on boosting the impact of prevention, care and treatment programs; enhancing program quality; promoting coordination among partners; and encouraging innovative responses.

With the goal of building a sustainable response to the pandemic, the meeting will allow implementers to share information that will directly impact their programs in the upcoming year. The conference is the only meeting of its kind focused specifically on HIV/AIDS program implementation.

To learn more about the Implementers' Meeting, please visit: [www.hivimplementers.com/](http://www.hivimplementers.com/).

### ***Information about the host of the meeting:***

**The Government of Namibia** combats HIV/AIDS through a comprehensive response that includes strengthening the enabling environment; prevention; increasing access to treatment, care and support; mitigating socio-economic impacts; and integrated and coordinated program management. Our guiding principles are: broad political leadership and commitment; promotion and protection of human rights; people living with HIV/AIDS are central; reduction of stigma and discrimination; multi-sector engagement, partnerships and civil society involvement; good governance, transparency, accountability and sustainability; and evidence based action to enhance the continuum of prevention, care and support through a responsive and flexible systems approach. For more information about the Government of Namibia (GRN), please visit [www.grnnet.gov.na](http://www.grnnet.gov.na).

***Information about the sponsors of the meeting:***

**The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)** was launched in 2003 to combat global HIV/AIDS, and is the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history. Working in partnership with host nations, over ten years PEPFAR plans to support treatment for at least 3 million people, prevention of 12 million new infections, and care for 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children. In 2009, PEPFAR Namibia will commit \$US 107 million to fight HIV/AIDS alongside our Namibian partners.

**Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** is a unique global public/private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing additional resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and affected communities represents a new approach to international health financing. The Global Fund works in close collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral organizations to supplement existing efforts dealing with the three diseases. For more information please visit: [www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org)

**UNAIDS** is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland—with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through UN theme groups, and joint programs on AIDS. UNAIDS' Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS Web site at [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

**UNICEF** is on the ground in over 150 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and HIV/AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. For more information, please visit: [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

**The World Bank** is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries. The Bank provides low-interest loans, interest-free credits and grants to developing country governments for a wide array of purposes that include investments in education, health, infrastructure, private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management. In HIV/AIDS, World Bank support helps countries prevent HIV infections while scaling up treatment, care and mitigation support to all who need it. The Bank emphasizes using evidence to develop sound strategies that focus on results.

**World Health Organization (WHO)** is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

**The Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+)** is a global network for and by people living with HIV. GNP+ advocates improving the quality of life of people living with HIV. The central theme for the work of GNP+ is Reclaiming Our Lives! GNP+ programs are organized under four platforms of action: Sexual and reproductive health and rights; HIV Prevention; Human rights; and Empowerment. [www.gnpplus.net](http://www.gnpplus.net)

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