

The Global Fund's HIV/AIDS Work

Global Fund grants are working on the ground throughout the world to turn the tide against the AIDS epidemic. To date, Global Fund financing has provided:

- 3.2 million people with life-extending antiretroviral (ARV) treatment for HIV/AIDS;
- 170 million people with voluntary counseling and testing for HIV;
- 5.6 million AIDS orphans with basic care and support; and
- 1 million HIV-positive women with a complete course of ARV prophylaxis.

Since the first case was discovered in 1981, AIDS has grown to epidemic proportions. Today, there are 33 million HIV-positive people in the world. While continuing to take a particularly brutal toll on countries in Africa, AIDS is now poised to explode in countries including China, India and Russia. The Global Fund, in partnership with organizations on the ground such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), is a leader in the global fight to turn the tide against the AIDS epidemic. Global Fund grants are working to provide treatment and care, as well as education and prevention, to HIV/AIDS patients in low- and middle-income countries around the world.

The Impact of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is a virus that weakens the immune system of infected individuals, leaving them vulnerable to opportunistic infections such as tuberculosis or pneumonia. While this disease is preventable and treatable, it has taken a severe toll:

- In 2007, more than two million people died of AIDS around the world.
- Every day, 5,700 people die as a result of AIDS; another 6,800 people become newly infected with HIV.
- Life expectancy in countries that are heavily affected by HIV/AIDS has fallen by more than 20 years.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 12 million children have been orphaned because of AIDS.
- It costs less than \$4 to prevent the transmission of HIV from a mother to her child, but without this simple treatment some 15-30% of all babies born to HIV-positive mothers will become infected with HIV during delivery.

AIDS is Not Only a Health Issue

In many parts of the world, AIDS and poverty go hand-in-hand. As this disease has spread, AIDS has significantly impacted not just families but entire communities, economies and countries.

- **Children are left without parents** – AIDS is leaving in its wake a generation of orphans to raise themselves, often forcing children to drop out of school and thereby relegating many to life-long poverty.
- **Women are disproportionately affected** – In sub-Saharan Africa, young women between the ages of 15 and 24 are three times more likely to be infected than their male counterparts.
- **AIDS is a security issue** – AIDS has a destabilizing effect on entire regions, weakening governments and creating a less secure world for us all.
- **AIDS affects economies** – AIDS has already begun to have a profound impact on many countries' economies. The loss of productive members of society has uprooted the foundations of many economies, hindering GDP growth by as much as 2%. Governments in countries affected by AIDS experience not only significant drops in revenue but also significant health care resource demands to combat the epidemic. In Asia, for example, HIV causes a greater loss of productivity than any other disease, and it is likely to push an additional six million households into poverty by 2015.