

FACT SHEET: THE GLOBAL AIDS PANDEMIC

GLOBAL CHALLENGE

- In developing countries, HIV/AIDS is decimating entire communities. The virus not only affects people who are infected, but their entire social and economic networks, including friends, family and work.
- Over 40 million people worldwide live with HIV/AIDS, and 95 percent of those people live in the developing world. Communities suffering high incidence of HIV/AIDS have a harder time lifting themselves out of poverty.
- Less than 15 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries have access to life-saving antiretroviral medications.
- Young people under the age of 25 are estimated to account for half of all new HIV infections worldwide.

GLOBAL PROGRESS

- AIDS medications, which are widely available in the U.S. and other wealthy countries, allow people living with the virus to lead healthy, productive lives. Using large-scale production, AIDS medication could be produced for as little as \$200 per person per year (about 55 cents a day for each person).
- The *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* was created to raise resources to help frontline programs in developing countries address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic with local solutions.
- Access to antiretroviral therapy in low and middle-income countries has expanded from 240,000 people in 2001 to 1.3 million people in 2005.
- The United States' *President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)* was created to assist the 15 countries hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. This program has pledged to provide \$9 billion over five years to these countries and to offer treatment to two million people living with AIDS.

TAKE ACTION!

Project/Event:

Date(s):

Location:

Contact information:



NetAid

Definitions

HIV is a virus that multiplies in living cells and can cause disease. If someone is HIV-positive, they carry the virus that can cause AIDS.

Properly treating a person infected with HIV can allow them to live many years without developing AIDS.

AIDS is a medical diagnosis based on a collection of symptoms or the onset of illness and infection.

Learn More

To learn more about the global AIDS pandemic and how you can get involved, visit:

- UNAIDS (www.unaids.org)
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (www.theglobalfund.org/en)
- NetAid (www.netaid.org)