

THE AMCHAM POST

A joint initiative of the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar and L'Express

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4 pages every Saturday

PEPFAR
 "REMARKABLE"
 PROGRESS AS U.S.
 MARKS WORLD
 AIDS DAY
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PEPFAR SUCCESS
 LIFESAVING ANTIRETROVIRAL
 TREATMENT DELIVERED TO
15.7
 MILLION
 PEOPLE



AIDS DAY
 WORLD AIDS DAY AND
 PLANNED PARENTHOOD
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WORLD AIDS DAY

90-90-90 Goals: Why is there so much talk around it?

December, 1st: Tomorrow is World AIDS Day. According to UNAIDS, 37.9 million people were living with HIV in 2018. 1.7 million of them are children aged under 15. Only 79% of those HIV-positive people knew their status. As of end of June 2019, 24.5 million were accessing antiretroviral therapy, up from 7.7 million in 2010.

Even if new HIV infections have been significantly reduces over time, we are still far from the 90-90-90 goals. Even though infected people now have chance to have a near-normal lifespan, difficult access to testing remains a big challenge, especially for developing countries.

UNAIDS: Only 11.6 million – a third of HIV-positive individuals – have viral suppression

The success of the 90-90-90 approach requires a robust health system, including improved and innovative HIV testing access.

Africa is still facing substantial coverage gaps in some regions whereas European countries and Australia are on the right path to reaching the 90-90-90 goals.



ROCK THE RIBBON TOGETHER
 — SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER —

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AMCHAM

Holidays Get Together by AmCham, on Friday, December 13, at Dzama Cocktail Café Ivandry

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EDITORIAL

By Constant-Serge BOUNDA,
UNFPA Madagascar Representative

HIV: SORRY, IT'S NOT A MYTH



As we read it UNAIDS website: "*Ending the AIDS epidemic is more than a historic duty for the 39 million people who have died from the disease.*"

Although Madagascar has one of the lowest HIV prevalence rates in Africa, HIV does exist in Madagascar. Nearly 39,000 people are currently living with this virus, 1,900 of whom are children under 14 years old and 37,000 are young people and adults over 15 years old. Although we do not hear much about it, there is an urgent need to stop the progression of the new HIV infection in Madagascar since the country's new HIV infection has increased by 154% from 2007 to 2017, the highest in East and Southern Africa region.

We are pleased that in Africa and the Indian Ocean, things are moving:

For UNFPA, in the East and Southern Africa region, we have set the goal to achieve zero HIV by 2030. Efforts are being made through various partnerships to make available screening tests and antiretroviral drugs so that each person can live a better quality of life while aware of their status and preventing HIV transmission. This is why we wish to make a call for action and partnership with actors in all fields, whether public or private sector. Preventing HIV transmission is everyone's business, and it is everyone's participation at each level that will ensure the success of this common fight.

That is also the reason why we fully support the Government in its vision of universal health in Madagascar, and contribute to achieve the ambitious universal goal of 90-90-90:

- 90% of people living with HIV are aware of their HIV status.
- 90% of all HIV-infected people tested receive long-term antiretroviral treatment.
- 90% of people receiving antiretroviral treatment have a permanently suppressed viral load.

Taking opportunity of this day to inform is more than a duty. I am making my contribution here to reiterate that access to sexual and reproductive health is your right. This includes knowing your health and HIV status. With only 10 years left before the 2030 deadline, I encourage you to get tested, get antiretroviral treatment if you are HIV-positive and spread the word to fight this scourge.

WORLD AIDS DAY

90-90-90 Goals: Why is there so much talk around it?



AIDS Testing should be available everywhere.

SDG 3.3. aspires to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Two decades ago, HIV positive people would not live more than 12 years. Nowadays, if a young person gets infected, he/she can expect to have a near-normal lifespan with one condition: having access to lifelong, uninterrupted HIV treatment.

What is 90-90-90? It is a set of goals introduced by the United Nations' program on HIV / AIDS in 2013. It states that by 2020, 90% of people who are HIV infected will be diagnosed, 90% of people who are diagnosed will be on antiretroviral treatment, and 90% of those who receive antiretrovirals will be virally suppressed. Viral suppression is when a person's viral load – or the amount of virus in an HIV-positive person's blood – is reduced to an undetectable level. What is actually central in this approach is to "test and treat", meaning start serious treatment once people identify their status at an early stage.

UNAIDS: 36.7 million people are estimated to be HIV-positive worldwide. If we follow the 90-90-90 concept, 26.9 million of those

people would have viral suppression. Latest stats show that only 11.6 million have viral suppression though, which is equivalent to almost a third of HIV-infected individuals.

In light of these figures, does the 90-90-90 vision seem realistic? It will largely depend on how accessible the test is. HIV testing should be easily available even in the most remote areas of the world. Once diagnosed, infected people should get ready to start taking treatment for life, which means that there needs to be adequate counselling and support. Antiretroviral drugs need to be available in all places at all times.

Unfortunately, not all the countries of the world are able to realize such ambitious programmes, even developed ones. The success of the approach will need a robust health system, innovation to improve HIV testing access. This means a lot financial investment; governments have to put money into the program, and not only lean on donors.

Africa towards 90-90-90. Botswana is performing well. It is the first country on the African continent to provide

free antiretroviral treatment to people with HIV since 2002. There are still substantial coverage gaps in some regions: in 2013, treatment coverage on the continent ranged from 41% in Eastern and Southern Africa to 11% in the Middle East and North Africa. At least 30 countries in the world account for 89% of all new HIV infections, and at least 18 of these countries are African.

European countries and Australia on the right path. Switzerland, Australia, the UK, Denmark and the Netherlands are well on their way to achieving the target.

At the end of 2018, US\$ 19.0 billion (constant 2016 dollars) was available for the AIDS response in low- and middle-income countries. UNAIDS estimates that US\$ 26.2 billion (constant 2016 dollars) will be required for the AIDS response in 2020. All in all, a lot is still to be done to reach the 20-20-20 target by 2030.

Source: UNAIDS – The Conversation (Publication by Research Professor Glenda Gray)

Edited by Kenny Raharison



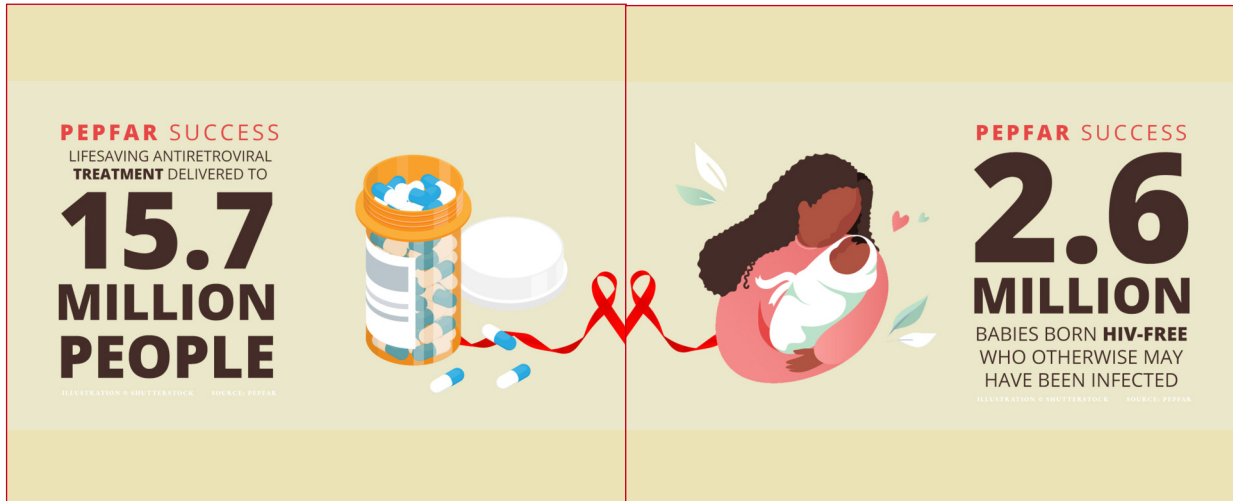
About the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar :
AMCHAM in Madagascar is a non-profit association of American, International, Local businesses and business people, and is affiliated with the US Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors and regions.
For further information about the benefits of membership, please don't hesitate to contact us either via email or phone.
Email: es@amcham-madagascar.org
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AmCham
American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar

Our Charter and Sponsoring Member:  Our Sponsoring Member: 

PEPFAR

"Remarkable" progress as U.S. marks World AIDS Day



U.S. State Department

More than 18 million lives have been saved thanks to a global AIDS relief initiative, new data show.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) continues to do "what many people thought was impossible just 10 years ago," Ambassador Deborah L. Birx, the head of the program, said November 25. PEPFAR remains the largest commitment ever made by a nation to address a single disease. "The pro-

gress is quite remarkable," Birx said at a press conference in the State Department.

PEPFAR was created in 2003 to deliver medical services to countries most impacted by HIV/AIDS — one of the largest pandemics in the world's history.

Countries around the globe, including Cambodia, Namibia, Botswana, Ethiopia, Rwanda and others, are getting control of their pandemic, she said.

PEPFAR's community-based approach to ending HIV/AIDS extends to creating a better world for women and girls through a program called DREAMS, which focuses on education and community involvement. DREAMS is an acronym for the type of women the program hopes to develop: determined, resilient, empowered, AIDS-free, mentored and safe.

For the first time, PEPFAR reported that all 86 districts covered by the

DREAMS program have seen a decline in HIV infections in just three years. And nearly all DREAMS regions have had a 25 percent or greater decline in new HIV diagnoses among adolescent girls and young women, PEPFAR data show.

This year's theme for World AIDS Day is "Controlling the epidemic, community by community," Birx said. "I think that really gives voice to why we are making the progress we are."

Source: ShareAmerica

AIDS DAY

World AIDS Day and Planned Parenthood



Sunday, December 1st is 'World AIDS Day'. This day is an opportunity that comes each year to help spread support and awareness to all those afflicted by HIV/AIDS. The day of recognition has existed since 1988 and has helped end the stigma associated with talking about AIDS. Many beloved family members and celebrities alike have had to suffer with HIV/AIDS. Freddy Mercury (notorious front man of 'Queen') was killed by the disease in 1991. NBA legend Magic Johnson has been battling the disease for more than 20 years and has risen as an inspirational figure for those who have to battle today. Thanks in large part from World AIDS Day, the disease has become increasingly more accepted to be talked about. In addition to the major celebrities mentioned above, 37 million people were estimated to be living with HIV at the end of 2018. Spreading awareness for treatment centers and access to testing has become World AIDS Day's leading mission.

A quick side note on the difference between HIV and AIDS. They are commonly mistaken for one another, and vice versa. According to Healthline.com, HIV and AIDS are two different diagnoses -- but they do go hand in hand. HIV is a virus that can lead to a condition called AIDS. AIDS is also known as "stage 3 HIV." In essence the diseases are intertwined with one another. Either diagnosis was once seen as a death sentence, but in this day and age people are living long and productive lives with the condition.

Every year, World AIDS Day declares a theme for the event. In 2017, the theme was "Know your status." This was referencing the importance for individuals to get tested and find out if they are HIV positive. 1 in 7 people living with HIV do not know they have the disease. More testing leads to more awareness and an ability to lower the spread of the virus. This begs the question: where can I get tested? In the United States, that answer is the politically controversial "Planned Parenthood" clinic. Planned Parenthood alone administered more than 700,000 HIV tests in that same year: 2017. Planned Parenthood is a health clinic originally based in New York City. Over the years it has spread to over 600 locations providing health care across the country at an affordable rate. Clinics specifically focus on reproductive health care and sex education offering a safe space for testing and to educate and answer questions.

The company has found itself the center of political debate and discussion over the years. 9 days after the Planned Parenthood founder, Margaret Sanger, opened the country's first birth control clinic in 1916, the clinic was raided and shut down. Sanger preached resilience against such adversity until her death and the company still holds that quality. In the 21st century, lawmakers have repeatedly attempted to "defund" Planned Parenthood and cease its operations. Clinics are often swarmed with protestors speaking out against abortion. This World AIDS Day is hoping to send the message that Planned Parenthood does have a function beyond the debate of abortion. It is their belief that everyone who has access should be tested for HIV and AIDS. This disease is not only affecting Americans and therefore there is a need to strengthen primary health-care across the world. The 2019 theme is "Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Community by Community" looking to educate on a global scale. Planned Parenthood is prime example of the care that is necessary and could be accessible to individuals who need it.

Written by: Timothy Fallon and Fiona Fitzgerald

Sources: Healthline.com, worldAIDSday.com, plannedparenthood.com, istandwithpp.org

The poster features the AmCham logo at the top. The event details are: 'FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019 AT 6.30 PM AT DZAMA COCKTAIL CAFE IVANDRY'. The main title is 'AMCHAM HOLIDAYS GET TOGETHER'. At the bottom, it lists sponsors: 'Charter and Sponsoring Member: ViMa vision madagascar', 'Sponsoring Member: MADAGASCAR OIL', and 'Sponsor of the event: DZAMA'.

ANNOUNCEMENT

AmCham Business Trainings I Call for Trainers

Backed by a strong expertise and solid experience generally focused on business market access, business advocacy and promotion of English speaking, the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar now more than ever understands the role of the private sector in the Malagasy economy; thus is willing to reinforce its strength.

In 2020, the Chamber will open trainings to a larger public of individuals and/or businesses, members and/or non-members, to inhouse businesses or to exporters.

With this in mind, the Chamber calls for Trainers applications in the following fields:

- Finance and Investments
- Business Management
- Project Management
- Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- Personal Development

Applicants should submit their resume, motivation letter, and module proposals at elodie@amcham-madagascar.org

For further information, contact AmCham at 020 26 410 34.

ANNOUNCEMENT

AMCHAM YOUTH

As a reminder, the American Chamber of Commerce is non-profit organization based in Madagascar and dedicated to both US and Madagascar businesses. AmCham started working in November 2008 and was officially recognized by the Government of Madagascar in February 2010.

AmCham's missions are to:

- Strengthen trade relations between United States and Madagascar
- Support the establishment of high-quality standards of commercial practice
- Support the expansion of an English-speaking, Anglophone business community in Madagascar

The American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar is pleased to welcome in 2019 YOUTH INITIATIVES among its members.

As an AmCham Youth member, your organization will have the opportunity to:

- Develop a high level network
- Reinforce your credibility as an organization
- Upgrade your international visibility
- Receive technical support from the AmCham team

Ready to apply? Please verify that your organization:

- Supports at least one SDG goal
- Is led by (a) young person/people aged between 18 and 35 years old
- For startups, is less than 5 years of fiscal activities.

The membership fee is **100 000 Ariary per year**

No individual application allowed

For further information, contact AmCham at info@amcham-madagascar.org or at 020 26 410 34.

MANAGEMENT CORNER

Bouncing Back When You Don't Land Your Dream Job

It's common to get your hopes up about a job that seems perfect — and to feel defeated if it doesn't come through. Taking a moment to wallow is natural. But one of the best ways to overcome the disappointment is to take action. Start by putting your rejection into context. Look back on some of your past disappointments — we've all got them — and reflect on how they made other things possible for you. Then, channel your frustration into motivation. For example, if you were turned down because you lacked certain skills or experience, learn that computer language or get the certification. You can also think about alternate ways to achieve your goal. Is there a competitor who recruits for similar positions? Are there adjacent roles that might still be a fit? Also, make sure to stay on the company's radar. Join their mailing lists or set up a news alert so you know about company events or other job openings. And make it clear to your contact that you remain interested in the company. You never know when a different role might open up.

This tip is adapted from "You Didn't Land Your Dream Job. Now What?," by Dorie Clark

Source: Harvard Business Review

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