

New Program Will Double the Number of Children with HIV Receiving Treatment in Two Years



At the US-Africa Leaders Summit yesterday the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), in partnership with the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), launched *Accelerating Children's HIV/AIDS Treatment* (ACT). ACT is an ambitious \$200 million initiative to double the total number of

children receiving life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART) in ten priority African countries over the next two years.

In 2013, 3.2 million children under the age of 15 were living with HIV globally – 91 percent of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet, just 24 percent of these children are receiving ART. Children living with HIV are one-third less likely to receive ART compared to adults. Without ART, half of the children living with HIV will die before their second birthday, and 80 percent will die before their fifth birthday.

This investment will enable 300,000 more children living with HIV to receive ART

"This situation must be changed," said Ambassador Deborah L. Birx, M.D., U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator. "Together, we must act swiftly, and with a focus on impact and geographic efficiency, to hasten the day when no child dies of AIDS. PEPFAR is committed to helping achieve an AIDS-free

generation, and ACT is a bold step in that direction.”

ACT will target the countries with the highest burden of pediatric HIV, the lowest access to pediatric treatment, and the greatest disparity in treatment coverage for children compared to adults living with HIV. The PEPFAR-CIFF partnership will jointly invest \$200 million in ACT, \$150 million from PEPFAR and up to \$50 million from CIFF.

“Thanks to Ambassador Birx and CHIFF for caring enough about children to finally address the treatment gap that has existed for far too many years,” said CAF President Anita Smith.

“This is a bold move that shows true leadership.”