

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2023

Statement on the 20th Anniversary of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

January 28, 2023

Twenty years ago today, President George W. Bush declared that preventing and treating HIV/AIDS was a foreign policy priority of the United States. At a time when nearly 30 million people were HIV positive, but very few were receiving lifesaving medicines, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) transformed the global AIDS response and laid a marker for America's commitment to countries that were impacted the hardest by the AIDS epidemic. Helping lead the bipartisan effort in Congress to authorize PEPFAR is among my proudest achievements from my time in the Senate. To this day, PEPFAR remains a powerful example of America's unmatched ability to drive progress and make life better for people around the world.

Since 2003, PEPFAR has saved more than 25 million lives and dramatically improved health outcomes in more than 55 partner countries. AIDS-related deaths have declined by 68 percent since their peak in 2004, and new HIV infections are down 42 percent. PEPFAR investments have ensured that 5.5 million babies have been born HIV-free. And two decades of investment in partner nations' health systems played a critical role in countries' ability to respond to other health crises such as COVID-19, Mpox, and Ebola.

Today, PEPFAR continues to support 20.1 million people around the world with HIV/AIDS treatment, and my administration is committed to continuing to lead the global HIV/AIDS response. We will build on our decades of progress to reach the sustainable development goal of ending AIDS by 2030, work to eliminate the stigma and inequities that keep people from accessing care, and keep the voices of people living with HIV/AIDS at the center of our response. I look forward to working with Congress on PEPFAR's reauthorization this year.

Categories: Statements by the President : President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, 20th anniversary.

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