

Global Access to Treatment

Background

- 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2003
- 95% of people living with HIV/AIDS live in developing countries
- 300,000 people in developing countries now have access to antiretroviral treatment

Why do so few people have access to treatment?

- High cost of patented drugs
- Poor health infrastructures
- Inadequate political will
- Disparities in Per Capita Income: \$25,732 in rich countries versus \$440 in sub-Saharan Africa and \$500 in South Asia
- Disparities in Per Capita Health Spending: \$1500 in North America vs. \$204 in Africa and Asia
- Other priorities: clean water, adequate housing and nutrition, and decent schools and highways
- Other serious epidemics, such as tuberculosis and malaria
- The Market for Drugs; Africa accounts for just 1%.

What is being done about it?

- Reducing the high cost of patented drugs:
 - Distribution Pipelines: United States-Venezuela Air Bridge.
 - Bulk Buying: has reduced prices in the countries of the Caribbean.
 - Technology Transfer: Building local infrastructure.
 - Amendment to Canadian Patent Legislation—issues: right of second refusal, limited list of drugs
 - Production of generic drugs: Brazil, India
- Combating inadequate political will
 - WHO 3by5
 - Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS TB and Malaria
 - President Bush's Initiative
 - Clinton Foundation

What Can You Do?

- GTAG, or the Global Treatment Access Group, is a working group of Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) sharing information and developing joint campaigning activities aimed at improving access to essential medicines and other aspects of care, treatment and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries.
- GTAG focuses its efforts on both the Canadian government and international actors.
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