



**For Immediate
Release
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2008 HIV/AIDS IMPLEMENTERS' MEETING ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

*“Scaling Up Through Partnerships” Meeting Information and Abstract
Submission Guidelines Available Online at: www.hivimplementers.com*

Washington, DC – The U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, along with the Government of Uganda; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; UNAIDS; UNICEF; the World Bank; the World Health Organization; and the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, is pleased to announce a call for abstracts for the 2008 HIV/AIDS Implementers’ Meeting.

The HIV/AIDS Implementers’ Meeting will take place June 3-7, 2008 in Kampala, Uganda. This year’s theme is “Scaling Up Through Partnerships: Overcoming Obstacles to Implementation,” recognizing the rapid expansion of HIV/AIDS programs worldwide. Together, implementers will exchange lessons learned and best practices in the scale-up of HIV/AIDS programs, with a focus on building the capacity of local prevention, treatment, and care programs; enhancing quality; and promoting coordination among partners. This forum will facilitate open dialogue about future directions of HIV/AIDS programs, with a strong emphasis on implementation best practices and identification of critical barriers. Through presentations, dialogue and networking, participants will share information that will directly impact HIV/AIDS program implementation in the coming years.

The Conference Steering Committee invites abstract submissions that will provide *information for action* — lessons and best practices that have been identified through real-world implementation and operational research that will support the scale-up of HIV prevention, treatment, and care to reach unprecedented levels of scope, quality, and access.

The final deadline for submissions is February 12, 2008. The organizing committee will accept abstracts beginning in mid-December 2007. More information regarding required abstract format and guidelines for submission can be found online at: www.hivimplementers.com.

What are the abstract themes for this year’s meeting?

The 2008 program will focus on how implementers are meeting challenges that affect the scale-up of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care. Six themes have been identified for the 2008 HIV/AIDS Implementers’ Meeting that cut across all subject matter areas of HIV/AIDS programming:

- Monitoring and Evaluation for Impact Improvement
- Human Capacity Development
- Knowing Your Epidemic and Response
- Coordination and Harmonization
- Linking People with Resources
- Integration of Services

Who is eligible to submit an abstract?

Persons and organizations actively engaged as implementers in HIV/AIDS and related program implementation and evaluation are eligible to submit abstracts for consideration.

Who reviews the submitted abstracts?

Abstracts will be peer-reviewed by a panel of international experts. At least two reviewers will read and score each of the submitted abstracts. The set of scored abstracts will then be submitted for consideration by the program planning group to determine which of the abstracts are best suited for inclusion on the agenda for oral presentation or as a poster presentation display. After a thorough review process, abstracts that best inform on “how to” implement programs and respond to the session themes will be selected.

How can I register for the 2008 HIV/AIDS Implementers’ Meeting?

Please visit the registration page of the meeting website at www.hivimplementers.org/registration.asp for more details.

When will notifications be made and what does it mean to be accepted?

Notification of acceptance will be on or before March 7, 2008. Presenters of accepted abstracts will be able to register for the meeting during a defined registration period (one registration slot per accepted abstract is guaranteed).

If your abstract is not selected and you are still interested in attending the meeting, there are a limited number of ‘Open Enrollment’ delegate slots available for implementers. The application and selection process are described in more detail at www.hivimplementers.org/registration.asp.

Media Contacts:

Kristin Pugh (PEPFAR) +1-202-663-2708; Jon Lidén (The Global Fund) +41-22-791-1723; Sophie Barton-Knott (UNAIDS) +41 22 791 1697; Gerrit Beger (UNICEF), +1-212-326-7116;

Sandra Woods (WHO), +41 22 791 5031

Information about the sponsors of the meeting:

The U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) employs the most diverse prevention, treatment and care strategy in the world, with an emphasis on transparency and accountability for results. The goals of the Emergency Plan’s first five years include support for treatment for two million HIV-infected people, support for prevention of seven million new infections, and support for care for 10 million people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. On May 30, 2007, President George W. Bush proposed that Congress reauthorize PEPFAR for five additional years and \$30 billion additional dollars, which would bring the American people’s 10-year commitment on global HIV/AIDS to more than \$48 billion. For more information about PEPFAR, please visit www.PEPFAR.gov.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a unique global public/private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing additional resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and affected communities represents a new approach to international health financing. The Global Fund works in close collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral organizations to supplement existing efforts dealing with the three diseases. For more information about the Global Fund, please visit www.theglobalfund.org.

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland—with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through UN theme groups, and joint programmes on AIDS. UNAIDS' Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS website at www.unaids.org.

UNICEF is on the ground in over 150 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. For more information, please visit www.unicef.org.

The World Bank is engaged in the fight against AIDS, which is threatening to reverse the gains of development, to further its mission of fighting poverty. The World Bank provides comprehensive and sustainable financing for AIDS programs worldwide and to date has committed more than US \$3.7 billion since 1988. For more information on the World Bank's response to HIV/AIDS, please visit www.worldbank.org/aids.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority on international health work and takes the lead in the United Nations system in the global health sector response to the AIDS epidemic. For more information, please visit www.who.int.

The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) is a global network for and by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV). Its overall aim is to improve the quality of life of PLHIV. The work of GNP+ is guided by the Global Advocacy Agenda, which consists of three key areas: (i) Promoting universal access to HIV/AIDS care, treatment and prevention; (ii) Combating stigma and discrimination; and (iii) Promoting the greater and more meaningful involvement of PLHIV. GNP+ is the only international network representing the diverse voices of all PLHIV. As a network based on emancipation and self-determination, GNP+ nurtured the development of six fully independent regional networks of PLHIV covering Africa (NAP+), Asia (APN+), the Caribbean (CRN+), Europe (GNP+ Europe), Latin America (REDLa+) and North America (GNP+ NA). Elected representatives from these networks form the GNP+ Board. For more information, please visit www.gnpplus.net.

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