



Media Contact:
Redge W. Norton
415/487-3071; 415/987-4043
Sarah M. McAuley
415/434-3200 ext. 16

Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation Applauds South Africa's Plan to Provide HIV Antiretroviral Drugs as Part of National HIV/AIDS Response

San Francisco based AIDS Organization Provides Key Technical Support to Effort

November 19, 2003, San Francisco, CA – The Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation, the international arm of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, today applauded the South African government's landmark decision to integrate HIV antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) into its HIV care response, an action that included the direct involvement of Pangaea's staff. Over the past several months, Pangaea professionals have collaborated closely with the South African government as it developed a comprehensive strategy to make ARV treatment available to the country's 5.3 million people living with HIV and AIDS.

"The South Africa ARV treatment and care plan is thorough, pragmatic and bold," said Pangaea's Chief Executive Officer Dr. Eric Goosby, who led an HIV treatment and care clinical advisory team as part of the plan's development process. "The plan will enhance not just HIV care but also overall general care delivery across South Africa's national health system."

Working through the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation as part of a multidisciplinary technical assistance team, Pangaea's clinical care and management systems experts collaborated with a select South African government National Task Team to develop a plan that focused on expanding the current public health delivery system to provide comprehensive HIV treatment and care with ARVs.

"To experience firsthand the dedication, professionalism and compassion of our South African colleagues as they grappled with this formidable challenge was an inspiring and highly instructive experience," commented Pangaea's President, Pat Christen, who is also executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Christen worked closely with the National Task Team in providing project management support during the plan's development process. "Pangaea's focus was to link quality HIV treatment and care with sound management systems essential for a durable effort."

"No other country in the world, including the United States, has ever attempted to provide accessible, comprehensive ARV treatment and care on this scale to all of its people in need," said Goosby. "I believe South Africa is more than equal to this challenge."

The Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation is an affiliate of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and was established to broaden access to HIV antiretroviral drugs in the developing world and to support the development of an effective HIV vaccine. To learn more about Pangaea visit www.pgaf.org and www.sfaf.org

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SOUTH AFRICA'S HIV AND AIDS CARE AND TREATMENT PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- ***WHAT WILL THE NATIONAL PLAN PROVIDE?***

- Within five years in South Africa's nine provinces, all individuals needing and desiring care and treatment for HIV and AIDS, including access to HIV antiretroviral drugs, will be able to receive high quality care in close proximity to their homes.
- The plan establishes HIV and AIDS treatment and care guidelines that conform to the best international standards.
- A countrywide continuum of care will be available, providing emotional support counseling, home care, treatment adherence and education support, nutritional support, transportation and other social support services.
- A countrywide HIV and AIDS treatment education program will provide information on treatment options, side effects and challenges for people with HIV and AIDS and caregivers
- The plan calls for a significantly expanded pool of trained health care providers, i.e. physicians, nurses, health care workers and home care providers capable of providing HIV and AIDS- related care and support

- ***HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE HIV TREATMENT AND CARE WITH ARVs?***

- Of South Africa's 5.3 million people with HIV and AIDS, over 3 million people with HIV and AIDS will be receiving care by year five. Between 900,000 and 1.2 million individuals of the 3 million will receive HIV antiretroviral drugs by the plan's fifth year.
- Based on experience gained in other nations providing ARVs, 15-20% of HIV+ persons are clinically in need of antiretroviral therapies. The South Africa plan addresses this level of need.

- ***HOW MUCH WILL THE PLAN COST?***

- Over the plan's first five years, the budget will expand from \$43 million dollars (R291 million) in year one to \$685,000,000 million dollars (R4.5 billion) by year five.
- The expanded funding for HIV and AIDS will also leverage significant improvements in South Africa's overall health care delivery infrastructure.

South African HIV/AIDS Statistics

- South Africa is the nation hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic, with approximately 5.3 million of its 45 million people infected by HIV.¹
- In South Africa, within the age group 25-29 years, an estimated 34.5% of women are HIV positive; women between the ages of 20-24 and 30-34 have infection rates just over 29%.²
- In South Africa, an estimated 26.5% of pregnant women were HIV positive in 2002. An estimated 91,271 infants were born with HIV infection in 2002.³
- The national mortality rates for South African men between the ages of 20 and 40 have increased by more than 150% since 1998, and the mortality rates for women between 20-35 have risen even more. Approximately 600 South Africans die each day of AIDS-related complications.⁴
- Approximately 25% of South Africa's economically-active individuals are HIV positive.⁵
- The overall impact of HIV and AIDS on the health infrastructure and access to care has been significant. The percentage of hospital beds occupied due to AIDS ranges from 26% to 70% among adults in some areas, and from 26% to 30% for children.⁶
- Antiretrovirals (ARVs) to treat the most seriously HIV-compromised individuals could save between 500,000 to 1.7 million lives over a 5-year period, according to a recent government report.⁷
- Almost 25% of all South African children under age 15 had lost at least one parent to AIDS.⁸

¹ South African Joint Health and Treasury Task Team Report, 2003.

² National HIV and Syphilis Antenatal Sero-Prevalence Survey in South Africa, 2002.

³ Ibid.

⁴ South African Conference on AIDS, Aug. 2003. Univ. of Natal, Quarraisha A. Karim, et al.

⁵ Kaiser Family Foundation Daily HIV/AIDS Report, 6 October 2003.

⁶ UNAIDS, Sub-Saharan African Fact Sheet, 2003

⁷ South African Joint Health and Treasury Task Team Report, 2003

⁸ Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, 2002. *Hitting Home; How Households Cope With the Impact of HIV/AIDS Epidemic, A Survey of Households Affected by HIV/AIDS in South Africa.*

PANGAEA GLOBAL AIDS FOUNDATION

Started in May 2001, Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation (Pangaea) is an affiliate of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF). Pangaea's purpose is twofold: 1) to broaden access to effective HIV treatment and care in developing countries, and 2) to support the development of and access to an effective HIV vaccine.

SFAF founded Pangaea in accordance with its mission, which is to end the pandemic and human suffering caused by HIV. In late 2000, SFAF's board of directors underscored the agency's need to address the global impact of HIV and established Pangaea as a dedicated entity for international HIV/AIDS work.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation was founded in 1982 in response to the HIV crisis and has been an internationally recognized leader in developing effective HIV-related programs and services.

PANGAEA PROGRAMS AND OBJECTIVES

Since its launching, Pangaea has moved quickly to establish "scale-up" HIV treatment access partnerships in developing countries. These partnerships involve working with existing health care delivery systems to incorporate comprehensive HIV treatment and care services linked to HIV prevention programs. This includes treatment of the full spectrum of HIV-related illnesses, management of HIV antiretroviral drugs and delivery of a range of psychosocial and practical support programs and risk reduction support as part of patient care.

Thus far, Pangaea has engaged in treatment access and capacity building initiatives in Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda. Pangaea's work has been organized around the following objectives:

- To work with host country partners to design and test community-based "scale up" models that can effectively deliver comprehensive HIV treatment and care, including delivery of antiretroviral drugs within existing health care infrastructure;
- To integrate proven HIV treatment and care models into existing local, regional and national health care delivery systems; and
- To expand training capacity to increase the pool of physicians, nurses and other health providers for the delivery of HIV treatment and care.

Rwanda

In February 2002, Pangaea began a partnership with the Government of Rwanda, specifically the First Lady's Office of the President and the Ministry of Health to develop

models for delivering comprehensive HIV treatment and care, including delivery of HIV antiretroviral (ARV) therapy within existing hospitals and community clinics. In partnership with the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation, Pangaea has also been working with the Rwandan Government to develop a national plan for providing comprehensive HIV treatment and care with ARVs throughout the country's health care delivery system. The plan was completed and approved by the Rwandan Cabinet in May, 2003.

South Africa

In April 2001, Pangaea launched an HIV treatment and care access initiative in South Africa with a focus on HIV antiretroviral drug access. This work has involved partnering with a collaboration of South African academic institutions, hospitals and clinics in the provinces of Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and the Western Cape. The initiative's goal has been to support the development of South African models of HIV treatment and care with ARVs that can be replicated and scaled up throughout the country's existing public health care delivery system. Most recently, through an invitation from the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation, Pangaea has been working directly with the Government of South Africa in its effort to develop a national plan for providing comprehensive HIV and AIDS care and treatment, including access to ARVs, throughout the country.

Uganda

In July 2001, Pangaea became the grantee and fiscal agent for an \$11 million grant provided by Pfizer Inc and The Pfizer Foundation to support the construction and operation of the Infectious Diseases Institute, an HIV/AIDS clinical care and training facility at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. The project is a collaborative initiative among Pfizer, the Academic Alliance for AIDS Care and Prevention in Africa, and Pangaea. Pangaea's role is to oversee construction of the 30,000 square foot facility and to provide fiscal and administrative support for the development and operation of the institute's core programs.