

International Days focusing on TB and HIV

**FIGHT AIDS
FIGHT TB
FIGHT NOW**

If the dual epidemic of TB and HIV is to be tackled effectively it is important for established AIDS programmes to integrate TB messages into their campaigns and to mainstream joint TB/HIV messages into ongoing AIDS advocacy. Examples of this can include HIV organizations incorporating messages and information about TB into campaign materials, health promotion literature, web sites and policy advice.

Equally, TB programmes need to make further connections with HIV and AIDS messages and organizations and seek to include TB/HIV policy-related activity in their own work.

International events are a valuable opportunity to raise awareness about the state of TB/HIV in the world today as well as its prevalence and impact on national and regional levels. The following are annual international events that could appropriately include combined TB/HIV messages:

World TB Day – 24 March

World TB Day, held on 24 March each year, is an occasion for people around the world to raise awareness about the international health threat presented by TB. It is a day to recognize the collaborative efforts of all countries involved in fighting TB. TB can be cured, controlled, and, with diligent efforts and sufficient resources, eventually eliminated.

On 24 March 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced the discovery of the TB bacillus. In 1982, a century later, the first World TB Day was sponsored by the World Health Organization and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

The theme and slogan for the 2004 campaign – aimed principally at the general public and the media – is “Every Breath Counts – Stop TB Now!” There is an inextricable link between the act of breathing, and life itself. Breath and breathing are also closely associated with TB.

Although World TB Day is a worldwide event, different countries and regions choose locally relevant activities and messages. This global call to action is also a way to mobilize political and social commitment.

Contact: advocacy@stoptb.org

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Campaign – 16 May

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Campaign is run by the Global Health Council. It encourages communities and individuals around the world to become involved in HIV and AIDS work by participating in a worldwide memorial that takes place every year on the third Sunday of May. The Global Health Council provides all registered communities with the framework to effectively organize a Memorial in their communities.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Campaign involves all sectors of the local community in the fight against HIV/AIDS: each year, Memorials take place in more than 1500 communities scattered over more than 85 countries.

On Sunday 16 May 2004, communities around the world came together in solidarity to light candles and remember those who have been touched by HIV/AIDS. Local events are coordinated by organizations, individuals, governments, and faith-based communities.

**With effective treatment
TB can be cured,
HIV managed,
and lives saved.**

www.unaids.org
www.stoptb.org

The first International AIDS Candlelight Memorial was held in 1983, when the cause of AIDS was unknown and no more than a few thousand AIDS deaths had been recorded. The organizers wished to honour the memory of those who had died and demonstrate support for those living with AIDS.

For more information about organizing a local event in your area, contact: candlelight@globalhealth.org

World AIDS Day – 1 December

World AIDS Day marks progress made in the battle against the epidemic and brings into focus remaining challenges – including the undeniable need for greater joint TB/HIV programming.

World AIDS Day helps to raise awareness, political commitment and resources for the global effort. It is also a major focus for prevention activities, education and fighting prejudice. World AIDS Day reminds the world that HIV has not gone away, and that much remains to be done.

Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS is the theme for World AIDS Day in 2004.

For more information on the World AIDS Campaign email: wac@unaids.org

Stop TB Partnership



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAIDS
UNICEF-WFP-UNDP-UNFPA-UNODC
ILO-UNESCO-WHO-WORLD BANK



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