

# HOW TO ~~SURVIVE~~ A END PLAGUE



## WORLD AIDS DAY 2012

**When HIV/AIDS was discovered over thirty years ago, there were no effective ways to treat it, and for most, it was a death sentence. However, the genesis of the AIDS epidemic also fostered something else — powerful activism for change.**

In the US, an improbable group of young people, many of whom were HIV-positive young men, started standing up. They organized. They educated themselves. They built a network to train their own in effective advocacy tactics. They gave the epidemic a face and they changed the course of history.

The new documentary, *How to Survive a Plague*, follows the challenges and successes of these AIDS activists in ACT UP and Treatment Action Group (TAG) through the late 1980s and early 1990s. As advocates, they fought for their lives and against all odds took on both Washington and the medical establishment. Their protests, the power of persuasion, and political savvy helped to push for better treatment options. They demanded and earned respect for people living with the disease.

The courageous actions of a few have now helped to save millions of lives. **They survived a plague. Now, we can carry the torch and help end the AIDS epidemic.**

### Your Voice is Needed

According to UNAIDS, globally, there are still 2.5 million new infections and 1.7 million lives claimed every year by AIDS, and an additional 7 million people are in need of treatment. The majority AIDS deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa where poverty and opportunistic diseases like tuberculosis (TB) have exacerbated the epidemic. Thanks to people speaking out, we've achieved stunning scientific advances, effective public health programs, and greater government support for HIV and TB treatment and prevention. The end of AIDS is not just a dream — it can be a reality — but only if we continue to act boldly!

We have the know-how to halt and reverse this epidemic, but we need your voice to make a difference. JOIN RESULTS and ask your members of Congress to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and help bring about the END of AIDS.

### AIDS Treatment is Prevention

In 2011, a study known as HPTN 052 proved conclusively that treating HIV-positive people with antiretroviral therapy (ART) before they get sick can reduce the risk that they transmit the virus by 96 percent. By suppressing the virus, AIDS drugs not only keep people living with HIV healthy and alive, the drugs can prevent the virus from being passed on to others. The research also showed that early AIDS treatment reduced the occurrence of tuberculosis, the leading killer of people living with HIV/AIDS, by 84 percent.

The implications of the study are momentous. We now know that treatment is prevention. When used in combination with other prevention strategies, including the prevention of transmission from pregnant mothers to their children, we can turn the tide against HIV/AIDS. By starting AIDS treatment earlier, improving the quality and access of TB services, and ensuring people living with HIV/AIDS are tested for TB (and vice versa), we can reduce TB-related AIDS deaths by 80 percent by 2015. That would prevent an additional 1 million deaths!

### Investing to End the Epidemic

Recent economic modeling from UNAIDS shows that investing more in treatment efforts now will reduce the cost of the AIDS response in the long run. It's common sense — waiting to address a problem can often make it more expensive. Increasing global spending now would not only save lives and prevent new infections; it would make such an impact on the disease that the total cost of fighting AIDS would start to decrease.

Find out more | [www.results.org](http://www.results.org) | 202.783.7100

**RESULTS**  
the power to end poverty

## The Global Fund Saves Lives

Since its inception in 2002, the multilateral Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria has provided life-saving antiretroviral treatment for 3.6 million HIV-positive people, and has provided other key interventions such as providing treatment to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV to 1.5 million. The Global Fund has also detected and treated 9.3 million TB infections and provided over 270 million insecticide treated bed nets to prevent malaria around the globe. Funded by the US, and many other donor nations, the Global Fund supports the scale up of national strategies to fight diseases of poverty in 151 countries and has proven to be the most effective and transparent funding mechanism for global health.

## US Must Continue to Lead

The global recession has caused a decline in donor funding to fight AIDS, even as new science and economic modeling have shown that we can end this disease. The US must continue to be a leader against HIV/AIDS. Every dollar the US gives to the Global Fund leverages other donor nations to give two dollars to fight the diseases of poverty.

On World AIDS Day last year, the US committed to ending the epidemic. President Obama said,

**“This is a global fight, and it’s one that America must continue to lead. Looking back at the history of HIV/AIDS, you’ll see that no other country has done more than this country, and that’s a testament to our leadership as a country. But we can’t be complacent.”**

As activists have shown, we must hold our policy makers to their promises. More than ever, now is a critical moment to bring together evidence and activism to demand that the U.S. Government embrace the opportunity to invest now in the end of AIDS.

## Join RESULTS!

For three decades RESULTS has been shining the light on critical and effective solutions to poverty through savvy grassroots advocacy. By combining the collective, powerful voices of volunteer advocates in over 100 communities throughout the U.S. with solid research and oversight of U.S. anti-poverty efforts at home and abroad, we have been changing our government’s priorities as well as people’s lives.

The work of RESULTS focuses on building political will and creating champions for the end of poverty in Congress. RESULTS has developed tried-and-true methods that can help you be an effective and successful advocate with decision makers in Washington. One of our tools is writing letters to members of Congress to influence issues of poverty. Take action with us by using this sample letter to write to your member of Congress to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria and the end of AIDS.

**You can find out more on our website [www.results.org](http://www.results.org) and by joining your local RESULTS group today!**



## MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

### Write to Your Member of Congress

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

**Engage:** AIDS has claimed the lives of over 30 million people over the past 30 years, a majority of these deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa. But, new science has shown we can now end the AIDS epidemic if we increase access to antiretroviral treatment and other prevention methods.

**Problem:** But just when the end is in sight, funding to fight HIV/AIDS is under threat. Globally there are still 2.5 million new infections and 1.7 million lives are claimed every year by this disease.

**Inform:** The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria provides 3.6 million HIV+ people with access to life-saving anti-retroviral drugs which can reduce the rate of HIV transmission by 96 percent. By increasing funding to the Global Fund, we are able to treat more people, reduce the transmission rate of HIV, and save more lives

**Call to Action:** Congressperson \_\_\_\_\_, will you support higher funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria and help end the epidemic?