

**AFRICA: "AIDS Funding Squeeze Puts Lives at Risk"**  
**Reuters (05.27.10):: Kate Kelland**

HIV care in Africa is beginning to "deteriorate" as traditional funding sources dry up, says a new report from Doctors Without Borders (DWB).

"There is a real risk that many will die within the next few years if necessary steps are not taken now," said Mit Philips, DWB's health policy analyst and one of the report's authors.

The DWB analysis of eight countries - Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho, Kenya, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo - indicates a turnaround in long-standing funding commitments to care for those needing HIV treatment and services. The UN estimates that more than half of the 9.5 million people who need AIDS drugs go without, and that an estimated 33 million people worldwide have HIV.

The United States, the World Bank, UNITAID, and backers of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria are among major donors that have stalled or retreated in their funding of HIV treatment in the past 18 months, according to the report. A Global Fund "replenishment" conference is slated for October 2010, but donors have signaled that the fund should "lower its financial ambitions," the report says.

"How can we give up the fight halfway and pretend that the crisis is over?" Philips asked.

The United States is reducing its contribution to the Global Fund and cut its 2009-10 budget for AIDS drugs provided through the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the report says.

South Africa, Uganda, and DRC already are feeling the effect of the cuts, as the treatment slots available for antiretroviral therapy have been reduced six-fold, DWB says.

The report also notes that donors have shifted funding to other health issues, "disregarding the proven cross-benefits of effective HIV/AIDS intervention on healthcare in general."

To view the report, visit:

[http://www.msf.org.uk/UploadedFiles/HIV\\_report\\_No\\_Time\\_To\\_Quit\\_May\\_2010\\_201005273105.pdf](http://www.msf.org.uk/UploadedFiles/HIV_report_No_Time_To_Quit_May_2010_201005273105.pdf).