



Looking Back on Bush's Fight Against AIDS

January 12, 2009

[The Associated Press \(AP\)](#) on January 11 examined George W. Bush's AIDS legacy in Africa, where his President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has helped provide antiretroviral treatment to more than 2 million people living with the virus.

Bush launched the \$15 billion initiative in 2003 to fight AIDS in 15 countries—12 of which are in Africa, a region that accounts for more than half the world's estimated 33 million HIV cases. Last year, Congress passed legislation tripling PEPFAR's budget to \$48 billion over the next five years, a move that both Republicans and Democrats supported.

"It's the largest international health initiative in history for a single disease," PEPFAR ambassador and U.S. global AIDS coordinator [Mark Dybul](#) told the AP. "In any other circumstances, [Bush] would be getting a Nobel prize."

According to a recent Gallup poll, most Americans gave Bush positive ratings for PEPFAR, despite giving him largely negative feedback for the war on global terrorism and the flagging domestic economy, [United Press International](#) reports.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/pepfar-bush-legacy-aids-15932-7508>