



HIV/AIDS Among Top 10 Crises of 2009

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HIV/AIDS makes the Doctors Without Borders top 10 list of humanitarian crises of 2009, the [Associated Press](#) reports. A funding shortage could leave an estimated 10 million HIV-positive people without treatment in the developing world.

The medical humanitarian group assembled the list to alert policymakers not to ease off the fight against HIV/AIDS, despite the invention of life-sustaining drugs.

“In some countries, doctors are turning patients away, advised to wait until other patients die,” said Sophie Delaunay, executive director of Doctors Without Borders. “What’s going to happen is that patients are going to show up at the door of our clinics and there is a high possibility of us getting overwhelmed.”

Many countries, including the United States, announced plans to reduce or limit funding, even though they pledged to support universal treatment by 2010, Delaunay said.

Some of the other crises on the list include governments preventing access to lifesaving assistance in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Sudan; a lack of respect for civilian safety and aid efforts in Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo; and inadequate international funds to fight neglected diseases and malnutrition.

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