



# Global AIDS: Social Determinants vs. Vertical Approach

October 10, 2011 By [Sean Strub](#)

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Remember the lively community discussion concerning Roger England's article criticizing UNAIDS several years ago? David Egilman, Tess Bird, Fernando Mora and Nicholas Druar have just published an editorial "[\*The "Perverse" Effects of Aid: Addressing the Social and Environmental Determinants of Health, Promoting Sustainable Primary Care, and Rethinking Global Health Aid\*](#)".

Despite the long title, the editorial is easy to read and provides a helpful backdrop to the ongoing debate over the best approach to global health issues, including HIV/AIDS.

The editorial starts with a startling statement: **"There are Haitians who see a positive HIV test as the easiest--and often the most straightforward--path to survival."**

I strongly recommend reading [the editorial](#) and I especially hope it gets read by all those who felt strongly about England's article a few years back. My thanks to Joseph Sonnabend, MD, for bringing it to my attention.

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