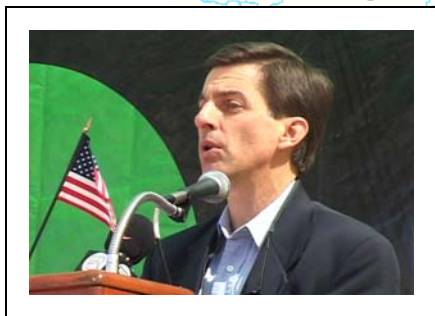




The SafeTStop branding campaign in Djibouti includes a wide range of French-language materials. The two-sided billboard above, adjacent to a major truck park, is visible to both community residents and mobile populations along the transport corridor.



The youth of PK 12 had a strong presence at the SafeTStop launch in Djibouti.



At the launch, Dr. Andrew Sisson, Director of USAID/ECA, discussed the need to address HIV and AIDS from a regional perspective, given the interdependence of nations.



Work continues at the ROADS demonstration farm in Malaba, Kenya. The open-air teaching banda is nearly complete.

Launching SafeTStop in Djibouti: On March 2, 2006, ROADS launched SafeTStop in PK 12, a vulnerable community along the transport corridor linking Djibouti and Ethiopia. PK 12 is a major overnight stop for truck drivers picking up cargo at Djibouti's major international port. HIV prevalence is relatively low in Djibouti compared to neighboring countries, but poverty, illiteracy, mobility, food insecurity and other factors place the country at risk. The launch event, which attracted approximately 400 Djiboutians, was officiated by the country's Minister of Health, The Honorable Abdallah Abdillahi Miguel. The U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti, Ms. Marguerita Ragsdale, and Dr. Andrew Sisson, Director of USAID/ECA, also attended and spoke to the gathering. A wide range of local and international partners are collaborating on SafeTStop in Djibouti, including UNICEF, French Cooperation and the U.S. military, which has a strong presence in the country. SafeTStop is a key element of Djibouti's national effort to curb the epidemic.

Identifying markets for goods produced along the transport corridor: As part of its *Lifeworks* initiative, which harnesses the human and financial resources of the private sector in the fight against HIV and AIDS, ROADS is seeking markets for high-quality goods produced by communities along the transport corridor. A ROADS team has made initial visits to villages near Mariakani, a SafeTStop community in Coast Province, to identify crafts with strong market potential around the world. Some products are ready for export, while others can be refined to increase demand. ROADS is linking with the International Finance Corporation, which is opening a store for such goods at World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC. Crafts will be sold at low overhead to ensure the vast majority of profits are funneled back to communities for local development. The *Lifeworks* initiative supports the ROADS tenet that job creation is a key element of an effective HIV prevention, care and support strategy.

Preparing assessments for SafeTStop in Tanzania: On March 7-8, 2006 ROADS hosted a representative of USAID/Tanzania to discuss plans for SafeTStop in Tanzania. The initial step will be an early April meeting in Dar es Salaam to identify HIV transmission hotspots and select sites for May assessments. USAID/Tanzania, along with local implementers and Tanzanian union leaders, are gathering information to identify critical points where mobile populations interact with local communities.

Training magnet theatre performers along the corridor: During March 8-16, 2006, ROADS trained 56 youth from Malaba and Mariakani, Kenya, in magnet theatre. Magnet theatre performances are designed to attract 200-300 mostly out-of-school youth to specific community venues. Performers model behaviors that audience members can rehearse and perhaps adopt in real life, while harvesting questions and magnifying the importance of healthy behaviors. Trainees in Malaba and Mariakani, drawn from local "cluster" groups, identified specific issues relevant to their constituents. They developed 10 scripts for ready-to-perform dramas.

Building communication skills in East and Central Africa: During March 6-12, 2006, ROADS conducted a training of trainers at the University of Nairobi School of Journalism to enhance HIV and health communication. Participants at the workshop, conducted by Johns Hopkins University, included professionals from a range of university departments. They explored principles of adult learning and communication for social/behavioral change; the basics of HIV and AIDS; participatory facilitation techniques; curriculum design and development; and the basics of communication research, monitoring and evaluation. The workshop, along with a comparable event in Namibia in February, is part ROADS' drive to establish regional Centers of Excellence for health and development communication.

Enhancing food security: Work continues on the 8.5-acre ROADS demonstration farm in Malaba, Kenya. The open-air teaching banda, to be the center of agricultural, nutrition and HIV and AIDS education at the site, is nearly complete. With assistance from the community, ROADS has planted more than 2,000 trees to serve as a live fence around the farm. Approximately 110 people, most from Malaba, are working on the site under job contracts, preparing beds for the planting to begin next month. The community, along with ROADS staff, is reviewing potential names for the site. The name will convey hope for the ART patients, others living with HIV and vulnerable families who will benefit from food and education at the farm.

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