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## US unveils five-year plan to fight AIDS worldwide

**WASHINGTON:** The United States last Tuesday unveiled a five-year strategy for fighting AIDS worldwide, shifting the focus from emergency response to sustainable programs in countries worldwide.

Marking World AIDS day, the administration of President Barack Obama outlined the next phase of the widely-hailed President's Emergency Plan for AIDS

Relief (PEPFAR), which was launched in 2003 under then president George W. Bush.

"We're going to begin transitioning from an emergency response to a sustainable one through greater engagement with and capacity-building of governments," said Ambassador Eric Goosby, the US global AIDS coordinator.

Goosby told reporters that the administration hopes,

for example, to encourage a country's health, education and finance ministries to take over management of the program and eventually increase funding of it.

"The country needs to manage these programs. The population that these programs are serving are in and of the country," Goosby said.

He also said that the administration will next focus on prevention. - AFP