

Headline	More aid to battle AIDS		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	25 Jul 2012	Color	Black/white
Section	World	Circulation	304,904
Page No	39	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	167 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 3,686
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 11,058



# More aid to battle AIDS

## US pumps in extra RM480mil in world fight against disease

**WASHINGTON:** The US is adding an extra US\$150mil (RM480mil) to the global AIDS fight, with a first step toward reaching some stigmatised population.

Despite tough fiscal times, "I am here today to make it absolutely clear the US is committed and will remain committed to achieving an AIDS-free generation," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told the International AIDS Conference on Monday.

That's a big goal: Some 34.2 million people worldwide are living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and 2.5 million were infected last year. But the world's largest AIDS meeting this week is debating how to spread scientific advances in ways to stem spread of the virus to get there.

Key is targeting those tools where they can have the greatest effect. "We need to go where the virus is," Clinton told the meeting.

That means a focus on population at especially high risk: gay and bisexual men, sex workers and injecting drug users. In many countries, stigma and laws that make their activities illegal drive those population away from AIDS programs that could teach them to reduce their risk of infection, Clinton said.

"If we're going to beat AIDS, we can't afford to avoid sensitive conversations," she said.

Included in the new US funding is US\$15mil (RM48mil) for research to identify the best HIV prevention tools to reach those key population in different countries, and US\$20mil (RM64mil) to create a challenge fund to support country-led efforts to put those findings into practice.

Closer to reality is a goal of virtually eliminating transmission of HIV from infected pregnant women to their babies by 2015, by getting the mothers onto anti-AIDS drugs. — AP