



Official launch of Top Reseau in Fianarantsoa

Fianarantsoa – November 14, 2008: As part of the public-private partnership, Mr. Gerald Cashion, USAID/Madagascar Mission Director, and Mr. Paul Richard Ralainirina, Minister of Health and Family Planning, participated in the official launch of the Top Reseau clinic network in Fianarantsoa in presence of regional and local authorities. The United States Government hereby confirm their commitment to improving youth's health and express the American people's support to STI/HIV control in Madagascar.

Top Reseau is a private clinics network that provides, in addition to ordinary primary health cares, other reproductive health services to the young people and groups of people most at risk, including sex workers and men having sex with other men. To achieve a sustained behavior change, Top Reseau promotes intensive interpersonal communication through peer educators and mass communication with the help of TV and radio channels and mobile video units.

In view of Top Reseau's success in the seven towns where it is implemented, and based on the latest epidemiological data showing some progression of the epidemic, the program has been scaled up to Fianarantsoa to motivate the Fianarantsoa youth at risk to adopt an accountable behavior, i.e. delay first sex, use properly condoms, and quickly treat STIs.

Top Reseau is designed to encourage the youth to ask for health services. Top Reseau ensures confidentiality of information between patient and doctor; Top Reseau staff is friendly; and Top Reseau clinics provide quality low-cost user-friendly services.

USAID through Population Services International (PSI) closely collaborates with local partners, including the Ministry of Health and Family Planning, CLNS Executive Secretariat, Regional Health and Family Planning Management, the Medical Association (ONM), and the Medical Association's Regional Council (CROM).