

## Press statement

### **UNAIDS mourns the passing of Dr Allan Rosenfield, public health professor and practitioner**

**Geneva, 14 October 2008** – UNAIDS mourns the death of Dr Allan Rosenfield, Dean Emeritus of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and longstanding professor in population studies and family health.

Dr Rosenfield was regarded by his peers as a true leader in global public health and a tireless advocate for women's reproductive health and human rights. He was co-principal investigator of the MTCT-Plus Initiative, the first major multi-country, family centred HIV care and treatment programme in resource-limited settings. Established in 2002, the programme links prevention of mother-to-child transmission in 13 sites in 9 countries with care and treatment for women living with HIV, their children, and their partners.

Throughout his career, Dr Rosenfield led several pioneering studies in developing countries that brought attention to the plight of women during childbirth and the impact of HIV on women and children in communities where vital resources were scarce. Dr Rosenfield promoted the role of non-medical personnel in health services delivery and led discussions on the provision of antiretroviral drugs to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Beyond his involvement in academia, Dr Rosenfield served on the board of amfAR and was an advisor to several national and international organizations focused on the issues he so passionately pursued. He will be sorely missed.

#### **Contact UNAIDS**

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UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland—with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through UN theme groups, and joint programmes on AIDS. UNAIDS' Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS Web site at [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)