KENNETH COLE

UNAIDS INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

On the Fast-Track: accelerating action to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 Reaching everyone, everywhere



Kenneth Cole, UNAIDS International Goodwill Ambassador

"I am confident that if people are put at the centre of the AIDS response, we can realize one of this century's greatest humanitarian achievements—the end of the AIDS epidemic. I am honoured by this appointment as a UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador. It is my hope to help intensify the efforts to end the epidemic for everyone, everywhere."

Kenneth Cole, UNAIDS International Goodwill Ambassador

"We are entering a crucial phase of the response to HIV and I know that Kenneth can make a significant and powerful contribution towards our shared vision of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. His commitment, compassion and resolve will magnify our efforts to include everyone and to ensure that no one is left behind."

Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS

ENDING AIDS BY 2030 REQUIRES GLOBAL Commitment to bold targets for 2020

The world has committed to ending the AIDS epidemic as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The extraordinary accomplishments over the past 15 years have inspired global confidence that the world can meet this target. To reach it, the UNAIDS Fast-Track Targets must be met by 2020, which include the 90–90–90 treatment target—whereby 90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of people who know their HIV-positive status are accessing treatment and 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads—and the elimination of HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

The Fast-Track approach to AIDS includes substantially increasing and front-loading investment over the next five years to accelerate scale-up and establish the momentum required to overcome within 15 years one of the greatest public health challenges of this generation.

The Fast-Track approach to HIV treatment is working. The successes of the response to HIV show that exceptional results can be achieved when there is broad leadership and consistent financial commitment. Global consensus and leadership have driven greater investment of financial and human capital, and mounting clinical experience and research, improved treatment regimens and diagnostics and reductions in the price of medicines have created gains in efficiency and effectiveness. The continuing momentum reinforces the determination to achieve the 90–90–90 treatment target by 2020.

EXPANSION OF LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT

The latest UNAIDS data demonstrate the gains already made. Scale-up of antiretroviral therapy is on a Fast-Track trajectory that has surpassed expectations. Global coverage of people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy reached 53% at the end of 2016. A record 19.5 million people have access to antiretroviral therapy.

In eastern and southern Africa, new HIV infections decreased by a third in just six years, as a result of the combined effect of a rapid scale-up of treatment and existing HIV prevention interventions.

THE NEED TO REACH EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

While marked progress has been made, the job is not over. In 2016 alone, 1.8 million people became newly infected with HIV and 1 million died from AIDS-related illnesses. A growing number of countries have committed to achieving the 90–90–90 treatment target by 2020. This coalition of the brave needs to expand to a global commitment, and that commitment must translate quickly into even greater innovation and investment.

Reinvigoration of HIV prevention is also needed. In 2016, there were 1.8 million new HIV infections worldwide. An array of effective HIV prevention tools is available, including condoms, harm reduction, voluntary medical male circumcision, pre-exposure prophylaxis, cash transfers for girls and structural approaches that promote gender equality and access to secondary education. Communityand peer-based approaches to sharing prevention tools are proven effective. The key is to combine these tools into combination HIV prevention packages that address the specific needs of populations that are being left behind, and to establish enabling environments that allow these populations to access HIV, health and social services without fear of violence, arrest or persecution.



An opportunity to improve the lives of so many people must not be missed. Action must be quick and bold and the resources must be found to reach everyone, everywhere. This is how together we will end AIDS by 2030. In July, 2017, Kenneth Cole founded the End AIDS Coalition which he launched during the 9th International AIDS Conference on HIV Science in Paris, France. This Coalition, which brings together leading AIDS experts, scientists, clinicians, policy-makers, faith leaders, business leaders and activists, will help amplify efforts to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.



Sources: Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting (GARPR) 2017; UNAIDS 2017 estimates.

Key facts



The number of people living with HIV worldwide.



The number of people living with HIV accessing antiretroviral medicine.

1.8 million

The number of new HIV infections annually.

1.0 The number of AIDS-related deaths annually.

70% The percentage of people living with HIV who know their status.

48% The percentage by which AIDS-related deaths have fallen since the peak in 2005.

US\$8 The return for every additional dollar invested in AIDS.

ALL DATA FROM THE END OF 2016.