

NEXT PCB MEETINGS

Additional documents for this item: *none*

Action required at this meeting—the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:

7. *Agree that the themes for the 54th and 55th PCB thematic segments will be:*
 - a) *Sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond (June 2024)*
 - b) *Addressing inequalities in children and adolescents to End AIDS by 2030 (December 2024)*
8. *Request the PCB Bureau to take appropriate and timely steps to ensure that due process is followed in the call for themes for the 56th and 57th PCB meetings; and*
9. *Approve the dates and venue of the 58th and 59th PCB meetings in 2026 as follows:*
 - a) *58th PCB meeting: 30 June–2 July 2026, Geneva, Switzerland*
 - b) *59th PCB meeting: 8–10 December 2026, Geneva, Switzerland*

Cost implications for the implementation of the decisions: *none*

THEMES FOR THE 54TH AND 55TH PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETINGS IN 2024

1. The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) decided at its 20th meeting in June 2007 that future Board meetings will consist of a decision-making segment and a thematic segment (ref. PCB 20/rec.10a). Further to this decision, the 21st meeting of the PCB in December 2007 discussed the modalities for the identification of themes and agreed on a process whereby; *“the theme for the Programme Coordinating Board thematic segments should be decided by the Board upon recommendation of the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau. This recommendation should be based upon a call for proposals directed to all PCB constituencies and possibly other key actors...”* (ref. UNAIDS/PCB (21)/07.5 para.9).
2. The PCB also agreed that proposed themes should be considered on the basis of four criteria: broad relevance, responsiveness, focus, and scope for action. At its 51st meeting in December 2022, the Board requested to the PCB Bureau to take appropriate and timely steps to ensure that due process was followed in the call for themes for the 54th and 55th PCB meetings (ref. [UNAIDS/PCB \(51\)/22.36](#)).

PROCESS OF SELECTION OF THEMES FOR THE 54TH AND 55TH BOARD MEETINGS

3. Accordingly, the PCB Bureau sent out a call to all Board Members in July 2023 inviting proposals for themes for the 54th and 55th PCB meetings to be held in June and December 2024.
4. At its meeting on [9 October 2023](#), the Bureau considered the 10 proposals (listed below) that were submitted, giving due consideration to criteria in paragraph 1 above, as well as other factors, including: the level and diversity of support; urgency of the issue; whether the issue was being considered elsewhere; inclusion of the theme as a sub issue under a broader or related theme; and, the suitability of the theme to be addressed by the Board at a particular time.
 - **Proposal 1:** Elimination of vertical transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B;
 - **Proposal 2:** Improving actions for care of children living with HIV;
 - **Proposal 3:** Ending AIDS among children: Progress & Strategies;
 - **Proposal 4:** Finding the “missing” men and boys in the HIV treatment cascade;
 - **Proposal 5:** Approaches for making a vaccine for HIV-infection and providing equal access to vaccine prevention services;
 - **Proposal 6:** Scientific innovations in HIV: while a vaccine has not been created yet;
 - **Proposal 7:** HIV and emerging sexually transmitted infections: maintaining sexual health in PLHIV;
 - **Proposal 8:** Addressing inequalities in children and adolescents to End AIDS in 2030;
 - **Proposal 9:** Community Leadership and Community-led Responses: their role in the response to HIV as a central agent in research, monitoring and political advocacy;
 - **Proposal 10:** Sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond.
5. At the PCB Bureau meeting on [9 October 2023](#), members noted the strength and relevance of all submitted proposals. After discussing in detail on the proposed themes, the Bureau agreed on the proposal ***Sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond***. However, the Bureau requested the proposal be strengthened by

integrating elements of proposals 5 and 9 on community leadership, HIV vaccines and a HIV cure. On selection of the second theme for 2024, all Bureau members supported combining the three proposals around HIV in children (proposals 2, 3 and 8) as reflected in the final proposal entitled ***Addressing inequalities in children and adolescents to End AIDS by 2030***.

DATES AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETINGS

6. The following dates are proposed for the Board meetings in 2026:
- 58th meeting: 30th June, 1st and 2nd July 2026, Geneva, Switzerland
 - 59th meeting: 8th, 9th and 10th December 2026, Geneva, Switzerland

DRAFT DECISION POINTS

The PCB is invited to:

7. *Agree* that the themes for the 54th and 55th PCB thematic segments will be:
- Sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond (June 2024)*
 - Addressing inequalities in children and adolescents to End AIDS by 2030 (December 2024)*
8. *Request* the PCB Bureau to take appropriate and timely steps to ensure that due process is followed in the call for themes for the 56th and 57th PCB meetings; and
9. *Approve* the dates and venue of the 58th and 59th PCB meetings in 2026 as follows:
- 58th PCB meeting: 30 June–2 July 2026, Geneva, Switzerland.*
 - 59th PCB meeting: 8-10 December 2026, Geneva, Switzerland.*

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX 1: PROPOSED THEME FOR THE 54TH PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETING (JUNE 2024)

Title: Sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond

Broad relevance: what is the relevance of the theme to the global AIDS response?

The sustainability of the global HIV response is at a crossroads. Whereas we have seen significant progress, at haltime (in 2023) we are nowhere near halfway the 2030 goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat. There are significant, positive spillover effects of fully financing the HIV response – as demonstrated by [Economist Impact \(2023\)](#) - on health, education, and economic turnaround.

To finish the fight against HIV and AIDS, resource needs remain significant, as are policy and programmatic transformations that leverage scientific advances, including community-led, country-led, owned and supported implementation of science-to-evidence policies, decolonized and localized implementation of evidenced-informed programming and services, and community-led and multistakeholder monitoring and evaluation of these advances. Against the backdrop of COVID-19, commodity price shocks, multilateralism in crisis, shrinking civic space, the growing debt crisis, and multiple conflicts and humanitarian crises, the sustainability of the HIV response –in all its dimensions– is threatened.

It is increasingly clear that sustaining the gains already achieved, and the path to a sustainable impact of the HIV response will not be easy. It requires higher political commitment, as well as meaningful and funded community leadership (in research, monitoring and political advocacy among other key axes), reaching targets, and transforming significantly from a programmatic and institutional perspective the global HIV response. With no functional cure or efficacious vaccine and structural drivers persisting, the gains of the global response must be sustained post-2030. Domestic, international and hybrid financing modalities must be part of the sustainable path. There is a need to examine and explore the options for HIV vaccine development for prevention as well as cure options, with an equity angle, and ensuring a strong community-centered scientific approach, especially for key and priority populations.

Responsiveness: how is the theme responsive to the interests, concerns and information needs of a broad range of actors in the global AIDS response?

The [2023 global AIDS update](#) report presents a path that ends AIDS. Sustainability is central, yet little is known about the pathway itself. This proposed theme provides a deep-dive into a sustainability pathway towards and beyond 2030. This is of interest to the global community - from communities to Governments and international actors, and also private actors: all are committed to a sustainable response, but all also see the challenge and will benefit from a thorough analysis and well-designed segment on the issue.

There is uncertainty regarding what happens post-2030, and how the gains already achieved and projected to that date will be sustained. This theme addresses this concern by charting a clear, actionable sustainability pathway. PEPFAR, the largest HIV donor, is interested in using country-led sustainability roadmaps as basis for its country operational planning for the 2025-2026 cycle, and the Global Fund has similarly expressed interest in this issue. This theme will

provide insights (and corresponding guidance) on elements to be addressed in these roadmaps. Access to health technologies, particularly HIV commodities that on average account for 30% to 40% of the cost of the response are a critical dimension.

Whereas there is no one-size-fits-all, this theme has potential to engage discussions on principles and normative guidelines. Building on and extending the PCB thematic session on “*Shared responsibility and global solidarity for an effective, equitable and sustainable HIV response for the post-2015 agenda*” that set the agenda for the current global AIDS strategy, this thematic segment will help set the last-mile agenda to finish the work and end AIDS as a public health threat as enshrined in the global AIDS strategy 2017 – 2031. As the polycrisis of conflict, climate, and economic challenges including debt is stifling investments, it is increasingly unclear how to sustain the gains of the response, let alone the necessary community systems that have been key to the success of the global response. This thematic segment will offer pragmatic and actionable recommendations to navigate the complexities brought to the fore by a challenging international economic environment and subsequent health financing landscape, including programmatic, policy and financial dimensions, particularly on sustainable community-led HIV response financing such as social contracting, social enterprising, and non-monetary approaches among others.

Finally, this thematic session will step into related fields for sustainability, incorporating scientific, programmatic, practical, socio-legal and economic perspectives: the challenges of integration of the HIV response into UHC while balancing provision of equitable, differentiated services, and its contribution to pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR). By strategically positioning the end of AIDS as a global public good, the thematic segment will emphasize the continued centrality of global solidarity and shared responsibility.

Focus: how can consideration of the theme be focused to allow for in-depth consideration in one day (or half day)?

To inform an evidence-based, in-depth consideration of the proposed theme, a background paper shall be prepared, covering, *inter alia*, current conditions, the criticality of sustainable community-led HIV response financing among other key pillars of sustainability; normative guidance on political, programmatic and financial sustainability among other key tenets of sustainability; key enablers, and a way forward with actionable time-bound recommendations for Member States, civil society/communities, donors/multilaterals/private sector, and the Joint Programme.

Once this proposal is approved, a PCB Working Group will be established to discuss and steer the development of the background paper as well as the thematic segment agenda and speakers.

Also, through keynote addresses on the theme by leading authorities on the topic and with at least 3 panel discussions, the segment will help allow for in-depth future-looking consideration. These discussions will include a piece focused on the state-of-the-art scientific advances in research and development, including through community-academic partnership, of and equitable access to a functional cure and efficacious vaccine to move the global HIV response beyond epidemic control (where HIV is no longer a public health threat). Special attention will be paid to the socio-legal, ethical and political contexts for sustainability by focusing on

community leadership's role in research, monitoring and political advocacy for sustainability of the HIV response, including community-led responses and monitoring, and financing among other dimensions.

Lastly, and most importantly, perspectives of UNAIDS PCB Member States, Cosponsors, the NGO delegation and key stakeholders will be participatorily sought and incorporated during the development of the background paper.

Scope for action: how does the theme address possible and necessary action to be undertaken in the response to AIDS, rather than purely theoretical or academic issues?

The global HIV response is at a critical juncture. The unprecedented and challenging fiscal and debt situation of many developing countries, together with the trends in international ODA and other sources of development financing, are placing additional pressures on the resources available for the next stages of the HIV response, that will require a transformation in order to move smoothly towards a sustainable future.

Bold actions taken today will determine the trajectory of the HIV epidemic towards and beyond 2030. Sustainability is therefore central, from epidemiological to financial, that are both interlinked, and requires political leadership -hence the political dimensions of a sustainable AIDS response are essential. Based on lived experiences and on-the-ground evidence, this thematic segment will set a vision for action and provide strategic guidance to support sustainability of the gains of the HIV responses in countries.

Specifically, the areas of (i) sustaining the gains of the AIDS response and (ii) ensuring there is a future looking path beyond 2030 are key to how the 2025-2030 period is focused. The epidemiological, scientific, community, and programmatic considerations and transformations needed make it clear that concerted efforts are urgently required to accelerate the response and progress towards achieving the targets in countries that are lagging behind. Additionally, long-term, deeply entrenched intersectional inequalities, societal and structural barriers that fuel the HIV epidemic and hinder access to lifesaving HIV services remain pervasive across countries. Current backlashes add threatening elements to sustainability, with key and priority populations, such as Indigenous Peoples and people on the move or forcibly displaced by climate change or humanitarian settings, set to be disproportionately affected beyond 2030.

Thus, this thematic segment sets in motion early active engagement that is critical to define and initiate steps that will lead to the HIV response transformations required to protect the gains and sustain impact towards and beyond 2030. This is the basis for evidence and scientifically informed and politically feasible actions. It is expected that this thematic segment will provide a solid foundation for all countries to engage in charting the pathways towards the sustainability of the HIV response impact. Current and future generations depend on actions that will be initiated drawing on guidance from this thematic segment.

ANNEX 2. PROPOSED THEME FOR THE 55TH PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETING (DECEMBER 2024)

Title: Addressing inequalities in children and adolescents to End AIDS by 2030

Broad relevance: What is the theme's relevance to the global AIDS response?

The Global AIDS Strategy states that one of the most glaring disparities in the HIV response is the failure to meet the needs of children and adolescents living with or at risk of HIV. The 2023 Global AIDS data show the situation in children and adolescents' cascade of care and vulnerability to HIV has barely improved, and even countries that achieved 95-95-95 for all populations are failing to meet the needs of children. Inequities in HIV diagnosis and treatment are widening between children and adults, contributing to poorer health outcomes and early mortality. In 2022, treatment coverage among children living with HIV remained at 57%, compared with 77% among adults, and the percentage of children with viral load suppression was only 46% versus 71% in all populations. While children represented only 4% of people living with HIV in 2022, they comprised 13% of AIDS-related deaths. In addition, 220,000 pregnant or breast/chest-feeding women living with HIV did not receive antiretroviral therapy.

The consistent gaps in progress against pediatric HIV are entirely preventable with sustained, strengthened commitment and by considering children's specific needs. Reviving the earlier momentum requires an understanding of why so many children are still acquiring HIV and political leaders to act accordingly with targeted interventions. Ensuring accelerated access and transition to optimal formulations continues to be a game changer. It is also important to address the vulnerabilities related to poverty, loss of parents, nutrition, and education, which can impact quality of life and susceptibility to co-infections.

Addressing inequities in children and adolescents is critical to achieving an AIDS-Free Generation, ending AIDS, and achieving better health outcomes for all. Delays in addressing this issue in children increase the risk of death and the cost of healthcare due to AIDS morbidity. This thematic segment discusses ways to reduce inequities and poor outcomes across the cascade.

Responsiveness: How is the theme responsive to the interests, concerns and information needs of a broad range of actors in the global AIDS response?

The Global AIDS Strategy includes specific interventions and targets for 2023 and 2025 for children and pregnant women. The United Nations [2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030](#) included specific targets and commitments to end pediatric AIDS, requiring continued political, financial, and advocacy support from a broad range of actors. Sadly, history shows that commitments related to children living with HIV are frequently deprioritized in budget settings.

Leadership across the HIV sector and proper investment in children's health needs are essential to close pediatric inequalities. Ending AIDS in children and adolescents requires scaling-up of proven, community-centered, and led interventions, innovations, and models of care that work for children and their families as well as caretakers. The need to understand the vulnerabilities faced by these children is vital as it will inform interventions that focus on keeping

these potentially vulnerable families together to improve the well-being of both parents and children and to reduce the risk of both generations becoming infected with or transmitting HIV.

Health systems must be well equipped, with well-trained health workers with the capacity to provide adolescent and youth-friendly responsive and differentiated services, including addressing stigma and discrimination related to HIV and gender inequalities to guarantee prompt diagnosis and treatment, ARV access, including through the availability of pediatric ART formulations, and adherence, nutrition care and growth monitoring, proper immunization of HIV-positive children and comprehensive sexuality education to counter stigma and discrimination. Stronger integration of services, including laboratory, community systems, decentralization, and innovative models of care, will build on progress to achieve the global targets on TB and UHC. Access to policies on social protection, encompassing areas such as food security, education, and housing, is crucial in addressing the disparities that disproportionately impact the health of children and adolescents.

The Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children by 2030 was launched in 2022. In 2023, the Government of Tanzania hosted the first ministerial meeting of the Global Alliance. Ministers and representatives from twelve African countries [committed themselves](#) and laid out their plans, to end AIDS in children by 2030, resulting in the endorsement of the [Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on ending AIDS in children](#). A thematic session on children and adolescents would provide an opportunity for PCB members to receive an update and learn what supportive actions are needed at the country and global level. It would also be a chance to discuss barriers to scaling-up proven interventions and opportunities for the next two years.

Translating existing commitments into evidence-based and impactful interventions will require stronger global leadership, strengthened shared responsibility and sustainable funding. Alignment among different UN global declarations, including HIV and AIDS, Malaria, TB, UHC and PPPR and existing health resolutions on children will contribute to an effective and comprehensive approach to children's health. Information sharing and agreed upon priorities will be of critical importance.

Ending AIDS in children and adolescents is a human rights issue and a cost-effective investment in health. It requires a holistic approach that considers not just the medical but also the socio-cultural, economic, and political dimensions of the epidemic. Achieving an AIDS Free Generation by 2030 needs to engage all stakeholders, including governments and public-private health agencies, local communities, pharmaceutical companies, civil society and advocacy groups as well as donors and funding agencies, research, academia and beyond.

Focus: how can consideration of the theme be focused to allow for in-depth consideration in one day?

This thematic segment would build on the past [2019 "Reducing The Impact Of Aids On Children And Youth" thematic segment](#) discussion, and commitments as a starting point, while focusing on the new epidemiology and global health context impacting children's health. This thematic segment would cover the following areas:

- I. Progress towards global commitments to end AIDS in children, including *the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026*, and the *2021 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS*.
- II. Strategies to accelerate access to HIV prevention, treatment, protection, respect for self-determination, care and support for pregnant people, young mothers and parents, children, orphans, and adolescents of both sero-statuses. Including strategies to respond to the impact of and recovering from COVID-19 and socioeconomic inequalities.
- III. Successful rights-based, Family and community-centered experiences and best practices from countries to ensure access to and sustainability of quality services for children, tailored to a particular epidemiological and socio-cultural/legal contexts.
- IV. Accelerating access to innovations adapted to children and pregnant people and implementation of community-centered and led approaches based on recent scientific advances, new technology and emerging innovations that support improved implementation of HIV prevention, care, and treatment for pregnant women, children, and adolescents.
- V. Responsiveness of health systems to the needs of pregnant women, - children, and adolescents to prevent new HIV infections and improve the quality of life of those born or living with HIV.
- VI. Global leadership and investments to End AIDS in children and adolescents by 2030, including community-led policies, interventions, programming , services, and community-led monitoring on children, orphans, and adolescents of both serostatuses by 2030 (elevating meaningful engagement of parents, children, adolescents and kins in kinship care models through co-partnerships with civil society leadership at all levels, cohesiveness among existing initiatives, strengthening community engagement and capacities for a sustainable response).

Scope for action: How does the theme address possible and necessary action to be undertaken in the response to AIDS, rather than purely theoretical or academic issues?

This thematic segment would be a critical space for re-creating momentum and urgency towards the end of pediatric AIDS while ensuring holistic approaches are available to address the needs of children, single and double orphans, and adolescents in HIV prevention, as well as differentiated care and retention approaches to support those born or living with HIV. Bringing together high-level leaders from governments, donors, communities and people with living experiences, civil society, multilateral entities, and more will allow space to explore ways to create the political momentum and commitments necessary to end this epidemic and achieve better health for children overall.

This thematic segment would focus on actionable discussions with multistakeholders leading to concrete political actions. It would result in recommendations that would support global and national initiatives to end new HIV infections in children, and improve the quality of life for children, orphans and adolescents living with HIV. Particularly around:

1. Ensure multistakeholder accountability towards the 2025 commitments. Identify programmatic and policy successes and gaps since 2021 and develop and implement a mutual accountability framework around shared targets and commitments.

2. Stimulate rights-based innovation and technical excellence within and among countries by promoting the sharing of knowledge and experience by and among affected communities and country programmes and across relevant sectors.
3. Reflect on ways to accelerate access, especially by members of affected communities to innovations and new technologies adapted to children and families, and adolescents.
4. Reflect on ways to develop multisectoral approaches to improve the care and treatment of children and adolescents born or living with HIV.
5. Mobilize leadership and provide high-level political advice to the Global Alliance for the next phases to accelerate the AIDS response in children, and adolescents, including addressing the seamless transfer of differentiated HIV care of adolescents to young adults.
6. Better understanding of funding needs and call on increased political commitments leading to an action plan and sustainable, community-led funding for pediatric AIDS that is meaningfully supported and guided by members possessing living experiences of affected communities. This thematic segment will also be an opportunity to discuss funding needs and expenditures on HIV in children and adolescents. This thematic segment would be a unique platform to understand where money is being invested, where gaps persist and find opportunities to fill those gaps.
7. Advocate for establishing a designated funding mechanism for countries to use to advance and implement their plans. The mechanism will fund innovative strategic actions.

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