

# REVITALIZED MULTILATERALISM: RECOMMITTING TO ENDING AIDS TOGETHER

The AIDS response is at a crossroads: now is the time to recommit toward 2030 and beyond, to end the AIDS pandemic once and for all!



# THE HIV PANDEMIC TODAY

**“There is a path to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, and ensure the health and rights of all people living with HIV for the rest of their lives—long, full, joy-filled lives. And by following the path that ends AIDS, we will help advance all the Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure a safer, fairer, world for everyone.”**

AMINA J. MOHAMMED, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, speaking on behalf of Secretary-General António Guterres speaking at UNGA special session on HIV on 19 June 2024.

# THE URGENCY OF NOW

**The global HIV response is moving at two speeds: relatively swiftly in sub-Saharan Africa, but hesitantly across the rest of the world.**

The global HIV response is transforming the lives of millions of people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV in every part of the world advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promoting the core principle of leaving no one behind. It serves as an exemplary model of global solidarity and multilateralism, contributing to broader health and development efforts. Today—in a world that is still without a vaccine or a cure for HIV profound success has been achieved by the global HIV response: more than 77% of people living with HIV are on lifesaving treatment, compared to 47% just nine years ago; new HIV infections have been reduced by 60% since their peak in 1995; and AIDS-related deaths have plummeted by 70% since the peak in 2004. This extraordinary success is due to global solidarity across countries and sectors—uniting communities, governments, civil society, private sector, and the faith and scientific communities—with countries leading the way and the support and partnership of the Joint United Nations on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, and global, regional and local partners beyond.

Fewer people acquired HIV in 2023 than at any point since the late 1980s. Almost 31 million people were receiving lifesaving antiretroviral therapy in 2023, a public health success that has reduced the numbers of AIDS-related deaths to their lowest level since the peak in 2004. In sub-Saharan Africa, these successes have led to a rebound in average life expectancy from 56.3 years in 2010 to 61.1 years in 2023.

The progress is highly uneven, however. The global HIV response is moving at two speeds: relatively swiftly in sub-Saharan Africa, but hesitantly across the rest of the world. The numbers of people acquiring HIV are rising in at least 28 countries, some of which already have substantial epidemics. Many HIV programmes still neglect people from key populations, exposing them to high risks of acquiring HIV. Programmes are also missing 9.3 million people who need lifesaving treatment, with children and adolescents living with HIV especially affected. AIDS is not over—a great deal of unfinished work lies ahead.

The global AIDS response is at a crossroads: success or failure will be determined by which path leaders take today and what they commit to toward 2030 and beyond. The decisions and commitments leaders make now will determine whether or not countries can achieve the 2030 target of ending AIDS as a public health threat and ensure sustainability of the progress beyond 2030.

<sup>1</sup> The urgency of now: AIDS at a crossroads. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> World population prospects 2022. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division; 2022 (<https://population.un.org/wpp/>).

<sup>3</sup> People from key populations include sex workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people, and people in prisons and other closed settings.

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While progress has been made in providing HIV treatment to over 30 million people, much more effort and urgency is required to accelerate prevention and break down the barriers that prevent people, especially marginalized people, from accessing both HIV prevention and treatment services.

Leaders, community members and programme managers must work together to close the significant gaps that remain in access to HIV services. Progress on HIV prevention lags far behind what is required. HIV services will reach people only if human rights are upheld, if unfair and harmful laws are removed, and if discrimination and violence are tackled. Equitable access to medicines and innovations, including long-acting technologies, is critical.

Now is the time to invest in ensuring that the 2025 targets are met, and a sustainable response is built for the decades to come.

## A CALL TO ACTION

- Leaders and policy-makers must act urgently to provide access to HIV treatment and prevention services to reduce AIDS-related deaths and onward transmission. Significant gaps remain in access to HIV prevention and treatment services, which must be filled. Progress on HIV prevention is far behind what is required.
- HIV prevention and treatment services will reach people only if human rights are upheld, unfair laws against women and people from marginalized communities are scrapped, and discrimination and violence are tackled. States need to enact swift and transformative measures to end restrictive and discriminatory laws, policies and practices, and protect the human rights of their populations.
- Funding for HIV prevention and social enablers is shrinking globally, hindering progress and causing rising epidemics in certain regions. States need not only to address the immediate financial shortfalls but also develop long-term strategies to secure sustainable funding for the HIV response. This includes enhancing domestic revenue generation and reducing reliance on external aid to ensure lasting impact beyond 2030.
- To achieve long-term sustainability, States need to prioritize integrating the HIV response into national health systems in ways which ensure that key and vulnerable populations are adequately supported. This transformation will enhance efficiency, promote equity, and strengthen human rights-based, people-centered health systems.
- The HIV response is at a crossroads. Now is the time to invest in ensuring the 2025 targets are met and a sustainable response is built for decades to come.

# A UNIFIED GLOBAL RESPONSE TO AIDS

With 2030 just six years away, the goal of ending the AIDS pandemic as a public health threat by 2030 is in sight. Leaders and stakeholders from across the world are coming together to recommit to the HIV response and the historic effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Recognizing the global health crisis posed by the HIV epidemic and the progress made over the last four decades, we, the heads of state, government officials, and global partners, reaffirm our commitment to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. Our commitment involves:

- 1. Scaling up HIV prevention and treatment:** we commit to expanding access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment for all, ensuring that 95% of people living with HIV know their status, receive treatment, and achieve viral suppression by 2025.
- 2. Zero new HIV infections:** we will prioritize comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education, support the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and invest in harm reduction strategies to reduce new HIV infections by 90%.
- 3. Ending stigma and discrimination:** we will intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of HIV-related stigma, discrimination, and human rights violations, ensuring full social inclusion and access to services for marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- 4. Investing in research and innovation:** we commit to increasing investment in the research and development of new treatments, vaccines, and potential cures for HIV, including ensuring equitable access to the latest innovations in HIV care.
- 5. Ensuring adequate funding:** we pledge to mobilize and sustain annual financial resources of \$29 billion by 2025 to meet global HIV/AIDS targets, ensuring that no country or community is left behind in the fight to end AIDS.
- 6. Strengthening global health systems:** we will support the integration of HIV services into broader health systems, improving universal health coverage and building resilience against future public health crises.

Through collective global action and partnership, we commit to ending AIDS by 2030, protecting the health and well-being of all people, and ensuring that future generations live in a world free of HIV/AIDS.