

UNAIDS WELCOMES UK £116 MILLION TO FIGHT AIDS AND PROMOTE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, today welcomes the announcement made by Hilary Benn, UK International Development Secretary, of increased funding to UNAIDS and to UNFPA to help tackle the global AIDS epidemic and improve sexual and reproductive health for women and young people in developing countries.

36 million pounds (66 million US dollars) is being allocated to UNAIDS over four years to support UNAIDS in helping heavily affected countries make most effective use of donor AIDS programmes and funding. The United Kingdom is allocating 80 million pounds (147 million US dollars) to UNFPA.

Applauding today's announcement, Dr Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS said, "This increased funding to UNAIDS will help strengthen our coordination role in developing countries, which is vital to scaling up an effective AIDS response."

UNAIDS also welcomes the new UK contribution to UNFPA, one of the ten Cosponsors of UNAIDS. Dr Piot added, "HIV and sexual and reproductive health are closely linked. Nearly fifty per cent of all infections are in women and girls."