

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



HIV and AIDS

The AIDS epidemic is both a public health challenge and an unparalleled development crisis. HIV often strikes people during their most productive years, pushing families and communities deeper into poverty. When teachers die and orphans drop out of school, hard won gains in literacy and enrolment are lost. And because women and girls are more vulnerable to the virus and its social burdens, AIDS also has an impact on gender equality. The effects of HIV can even threaten effective governance and the very fabric of society in the most affected countries -- as the epidemic claims the lives of trained, talented workers and community leaders, strains national budgets, and erodes governments' capacity to provide essential services.

UNDP's Response to AIDS

The UN system shares a commitment to reversing the spread of the AIDS epidemic. As a cosponsor of UNAIDS, UNDP's response to AIDS stems from our human development, poverty reduction and governance mandates. It recognizes that AIDS impacts the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and particularly targets relating to poverty, gender, education, and child and maternal mortality.



Training for children orphaned by AIDS. UNDP/Burkina Faso.

Reversing the AIDS epidemic requires an unswerving commitment to results, a significant change in attitudes towards HIV, and greater attention to human rights and gender concerns, including stigma, discrimination, and inequitable access to prevention, care, and treatment. As the largest development agency in the world working through

our network of 166 country offices, UNDP provides strategic support to countries to address the social and economic factors that drive the HIV epidemic, as well to mitigate the impact of AIDS.

UNDP is a trusted development partner and a founding cosponsor of UNAIDS, which brings together the efforts and resources of 10 UN organizations to help the world respond to AIDS more effectively. We lead the UN response in addressing HIV in three principle areas.

First, UNDP addresses the nexus between AIDS and human development through mainstreaming HIV responses into national development plans, and by developing strategies to assess and mitigate the socio-economic impacts of AIDS.

Second, UNDP strengthens the capacity of governments to inclusively govern and coordinate the AIDS response by helping to align UN system and donor support to national programs.

Our third area of focus is promoting human rights and gender equality -- including for sexual minorities -- to reduce HIV-related vulnerability, strengthen the involvement of people living with HIV in national responses, as well as address stigma and discrimination.

In addition, UNDP contributes to broader public health and development partnerships, through collaborations with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Roll Back Malaria and special programmes on human reproduction and infectious diseases that disproportionately affect poor populations.

Addressing Links between Poverty and HIV

UNDP recognizes the role of effective policies in mitigating the impact of HIV on human development. UNDP promotes innovative, holistic responses at national and local levels. In partnership with the World Bank and the UNAIDS Secretariat, UNDP provides technical support to 25 countries so that they can more effectively integrate HIV concerns into poverty reduction strategies. UNDP also provides assessment tools to measure the socio-economic costs of AIDS, and mitigates AIDS' impact at sectoral, community and household levels

In **Cambodia, China** and **Indonesia**, UNDP is undertaking strategic socio-economic studies to assess the impact of HIV on income, employment, education of children, and responsibilities of women and girls in affected families. The studies are also addressing stigma

and discrimination, relationships within the family and community, and impacts on social security. The studies will be used to develop programmes that respond more effectively to the needs of HIV-affected households.

In **Rwanda**, UNDP, the World Bank and the UNAIDS Secretariat supported the preparation the country's poverty reduction strategy, helping to ensure that AIDS was incorporated into all 12 sectors of the strategy, including health, education, social protection, and justice, law and order. This process encouraged and benefited from the participation of multiple stakeholders, including civil society and people living with HIV.

Promoting Human Rights, Advancing Gender Equality

Protecting the rights of people living with HIV and achieving gender equality are essential for halting the spread of the epidemic. UNDP helps countries protect the rights of people affected by HIV by conducting analyses of national legislation and providing assistance for drafting laws to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights. UNDP helps national partners to effectively integrate gender-specific analysis and programming into AIDS responses. In collaboration with the UNAIDS Secretariat, UNIFEM and other partners, UNDP has developed gender guidance for national AIDS responses, which is being utilized to support country AIDS programmes. In **Ethiopia**, UNDP and UNIFEM worked with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to train judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers on HIV and women's inheritance and property rights. In the **Arab States**, UNDP supported representatives from 13 countries, including parliamentarians, judges, and government ministry officials, to formulate a model law on rights of people living with HIV.

UNDP also works with the UNAIDS Secretariat and cosponsors to promote HIV programmes for men who have sex with men and transgender persons, who are particularly vulnerable to HIV but routinely underserved by HIV programmes. In **China**, UNDP supported the government as it addressed the issues of men who have sex with men and HIV. Action in the country aimed at strengthening local community ownership and engagement in HIV prevention, counselling and testing.

In addition, UNDP supports countries in expanding access to low-cost, quality AIDS medicines. UNDP helps governments in drafting the public health related aspects of intellectual property legislation, supports UN initiatives on innovation, technology transfer and increased access to treatment, and assists countries in implementing best practices with respect to intellectual property policy -- using a focus on south-south cooperation.

Strengthening Coordination of the AIDS Response

Effective strategies for addressing AIDS require careful planning to ensure a coordinated response by a diverse group of partners. The global community and developing countries in particular face the difficult task of responding to the exceptional proportions and complexities of the epidemic.

To address these challenges, UNDP helps national and local AIDS authorities coordinate action on HIV, including through harmonization of assistance from the UN and other donors.

As steward of the UN Resident Coordinator system, UNDP helps to ensure that UN Country Teams have common processes, to increase effectiveness of programs and minimize costs. UNDP also addresses human resource capacity challenges, and supports participatory decision-making, by involving people living with HIV in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of responses to AIDS. We also help organizations of people living with HIV to increase their effectiveness and capacity.

With the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, UNDP developed a handbook for parliamentarians on HIV and in 2007 convened a **global parliamentarians summit** to increase awareness and action on AIDS at the national policy level.

In **Burkina Faso**, UNDP supports PAMAC, the national network of people living with HIV, to reach out to communities across the country. PAMAC channels UNDP technical and financial resources to help local groups manage HIV programmes in their communities. The project supports 142 community organizations and has trained more than 400 representatives on issues relating to voluntary counselling and testing, prevention, access to communal care, and organizational management. More than 350,000 people have benefited through increased access to information and testing services. The project also offers regular support to over 20,000 people living with HIV, including home and hospital care, workshops on treatment options, and legal services.

Public Health and Development Partnerships

While countries are receiving more funding for AIDS responses than ever before, there is a greater need to make the money work to achieve sustainable results. UNDP is helping countries make more effective use of resources through its partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. UNDP has worked with the Global Fund to support 44 countries to improve management, implementation and oversight of Global Fund grants. In certain cases where there are no suitable entities to act as principal recipients for the grants, countries have requested UNDP to assume that role. In 2009, UNDP is providing oversight for Global Fund grants for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 27 countries.

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