

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



HIV/AIDS

The HIV epidemic and other pandemic diseases disproportionately affect the poor and marginalized, leading to devastating consequences for individuals and families as well as undermining development efforts more broadly. While significant progress has been made in slowing new HIV infections and increasing the number of people receiving treatment for AIDS, social exclusion and inequalities continue to drive the HIV epidemic, with a particular impact on marginalized groups and women.

UNDP's response to HIV

UNDP works with countries to understand and respond to the development dimensions of HIV and health, complementing the health sector work of other UN partners. Our approach recognizes that development action outside the health sector – in social protection, gender, governance, human rights, capacity development and related fields – can often contribute significantly to better health outcomes, especially for the poor.

As the largest development agency, 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 founding cosponsor of UNAIDS, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, which brings together the efforts and resources of 11 UN organizations to help the world respond to HIV more effectively. UNDP also has an important partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), helping countries to strengthen their capacity to make effective use of Global Fund financing, and enabling millions of people to benefit from programmes to prevent and treat HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.



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

UNDP's work to address HIV and social determinants of health focuses on three principle areas:

- First, UNDP addresses the nexus between HIV, health and human development by mainstreaming HIV responses into national development plans, gender strategies and initiatives on the Millennium Development Goals.
- Second, UNDP promotes enabling human rights and legislative environments to reduce vulnerability to HIV and strengthens the capacity of governments to inclusively govern and coordinate HIV responses.
- Our third area of focus is strengthening implementation of complex, multi-lateral and multi-sectoral health programmes including those financed by the Global Fund.

Synergies between action on HIV and broader action on health, gender and human development

National HIV responses have proven to be most successful when they have moved beyond addressing HIV as only a health concern, and involved a wider range of sectors and stakeholders. UNDP helps countries to 'mainstream' attention to HIV and health into action on gender equality, poverty reduction and the broader efforts to achieve and sustain the Millennium Development Goals. This includes working with countries to understand the social and economic factors that play a crucial role in impacting health, and promoting specific action on the needs and rights of women and girls as they relate to HIV.

For example, UNDP supported **Cambodia, China** and **Indonesia** to integrate HIV into national social protection strategies. This work benefited from socio-economic assessments of the impact of HIV, which provided the evidence-base for policy action. A regional consultation enabled governments to share their experience and commit to advancing HIV-sensitive social protection. In Cambodia for example, people living with HIV and their families are now clearly defined as a special vulnerable group in the new National Social Protection Strategy for the Poor and Vulnerable.

In **Sierra Leone**, UNDP and the National AIDS Secretariat are supporting community conversations to address cultural norms that foster the spread of HIV, including sexual relations, polygamy and harmful traditional practices. The initiative has shown remarkable shifts in attitudes and behaviours and has been incorporated into the National HIV/AIDS Operational Plan and the national communications strategy.

Strengthening HIV Responses through Law and Human Rights

Protecting the rights of people living with and affected by HIV is essential for halting the spread of the epidemic. UNDP promotes attention to the role of legal environments in facilitating stronger HIV responses, including helping countries to conduct analyses of national legislation, providing assistance for drafting laws, and supporting access to justice programmes to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights. To increase access to low-cost, quality AIDS treatment, UNDP supports the use of flexibilities in intellectual property and human rights law to lower the cost of drugs and diagnostics.

In **Moldova**, significant strides were made in reducing discrimination towards people living with HIV. Following extensive consultations with the Ministry of Health, a working group on Human Rights and Health was created, resulting in amendments to the domestic legal framework to end discriminatory practices such as mandatory HIV testing before marriage, and drafting of amendments to end mandatory testing of non-nationals.

UNDP also works to empower and include people living with HIV and marginalized populations who are disproportionately affected by HIV – such as sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender people – in national and local HIV responses. Convened by UNDP, the **Global Commission on HIV and the Law** launched a groundbreaking report in July 2012 highlighting that punitive laws and human rights abuses are costing lives, wasting money and stifling the global HIV response. The Commission has helped to increase awareness and mobilization on law reform, and UNDP is bringing its recommendations into action by providing support to countries for legal reviews and access to justice initiatives for effective HIV responses.

To strengthen governance of HIV responses, support is provided to national and local AIDS authorities to increase capacity for coordinating action on HIV, implementing district and municipal HIV programmes, and promoting government and civil society partnerships.

For example, in the **Philippines**, UNDP has helped to strengthen local government responses to HIV by working with Regional AIDS Assistance Teams and local HIV champions across 17 regions. The Regional teams have been instrumental in facilitating dialogues between local governments and community groups focused on most-at-risk-populations, including men who have sex with men and transgender people. The impacts have been far-reaching, with the Department of Interior and Local Government becoming the first department in the government to adopt a general workplace HIV policy.

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. As a trusted, long-term partner with extensive operational experience, UNDP supports countries in effective

implementation of complex, multilateral and multisectoral health projects, while simultaneously investing in capacity development so that national and local partners can assume these responsibilities over time.

UNDP's partnership with the Global Fund is an important part of this work, facilitating access to resources for action on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria by countries that face constraints in directly receiving and managing such funding. UNDP partners with countries in crisis/post-crisis situations, those with weak institutional capacity or governance challenges, and countries under sanctions. When requested, UNDP acts as interim Principal Recipient in these settings, working with national partners and the Global Fund to improve management, implementation and oversight of Global Fund grants, while simultaneously developing national capacity for governments or local entities to be able to assume the Principal Recipient role over time.

In 2011, UNDP served as a Principal Recipient for the Global Fund in 32 countries. In **Zambia**, through the elaboration of a capacity development and transition plan for managing Global Fund programmes, the Ministry of Health identified its own capacity strengths and gaps, put in place a Programme Management Unit and standard operating procedures to manage donor funds, and developed a procurement and supply chain quality assurance plan. This has enabled the Ministry to avoid stock-outs of life-saving commodities and has enhanced its ability to attract funding from donors.

UNDP's partnership with the Global Fund has resulted in strengthened implementation of large-scale HIV, TB and malaria programmes and provision of life saving treatment, prevention and care services to millions of people in need. Between 2003 and 2010, through Global Fund programmes managed by UNDP, 47 million people were reached by prevention services, 7 million people received HIV counselling and testing, 1.1 million cases of sexually transmitted infections were treated, nearly 500,000 tuberculosis cases were detected and treated, 32 million cases of malaria were treated, 14 million bed nets distributed, and 403 million condoms distributed. At the end of 2010, 774,000 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment through UNDP projects.

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July 2012



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