HIV in Zimbabwe: Progress and Challenges

Zimbabwe is one of five African countries that have achieved the ambitious "95-95-95" targets set by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Alongside Botswana, Eswatini, Rwanda, and the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe now ensures that 95% of people living with HIV know their status, 98% of those who know their status are on antiretroviral treatment, and 95% of those on treatment have suppressed viral loads - three key conditions for saving lives and stopping transmission.

Zimbabwe’s healthcare system faces challenges, including unreliable power, limited water access, high attrition of health workers, inadequate pharmacy spaces, and transparency and accountability issues. These challenges can lead to disruptions in essential services, medication shortages, and compromised patient care.

The UNDP and Global Fund Partnership

The UNDP-Global Fund partnership has been a cornerstone of Zimbabwe’s remarkable progress. Since 2003, the Global Fund has invested over US$2.3 billion and has newly approved a 3-year (2024-2026) US$436,970,984 HIV grant to Zimbabwe. The Global Fund support under the Grant Cycle 7 (GC 7) is a continuation of the NFM 3 (GC 6) which will contribute to the achievement of the vision and goals of the Zimbabwe National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (ZNASP) IV Addendum (2021-2026).
The support is aligned to the following three critical opportunities:

- Scaling up HIV treatment, care, and support towards early achievement of the 95-95-95 Fast-Track targets.
- Increasing quality and coverage of community-led HIV prevention interventions, with a focus on key and vulnerable populations, including adolescent girls and young women.
- Strengthening health and community systems with a view towards enhanced efficiency and long-term sustainability.

As interim Principal Recipient (PR) of the Global Fund HIV grant, UNDP Zimbabwe is legally responsible for programme management, financial accountability, procurement of goods & services, and monitoring and evaluation of the grant. The UNDP focus is on empowering local ownership and building long-term capacity. UNDP priority is on strengthening national health systems to ensure their sustainability.

A Snapshot of Our Key Achievements

By the end of 2023, 1,226,400 people living with HIV were on antiretroviral therapy (ART), thanks in part to the UNDP’s procurement of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) for over 710,000 people annually, with support from the Global Fund.

Life skills-based HIV education: Over 47,000 in-school students gained valuable life skills to prevent HIV through comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) delivered through the Sista2Sista peer group model. In 2023 alone, this program also reached over 14,900 out-of-school adolescent girls and young women with essential messaging and skills on HIV prevention.

Implementation of a Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for the health sector to enhance transparency and accountability.

Reliable power for healthcare through clean energy: Over 1,100 health facilities, the Medical Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) and Masvingo warehouse, are now equipped with solar power systems ranging from 5kWp to 450kWp, improving service delivery and reducing reliance on unreliable grid electricity. Additionally, 447 health facilities are now equipped with solarized boreholes.

Support for quality assurance of pharmaceutical products, including upgrades to MCAZ chemistry and microbiology labs to meet the World Health Organisation (WHO) prequalified standards.

Renovation and construction of 360 pharmacy stores to improve storage and medication management.

Sub-Recipients

SDGs Addressed

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