

UNAIDS 2024

Result Area 6: Gender equality

2022-2023 Results report

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Budget and expenditures and encumbrances for all Cosponsors 2022-2023 (in US\$)

Core central and country envelopes		Non-core		Total	
Budget	Expenditures and encumbrances	Budget	Expenditures and encumbrances	Budget	Expenditures and encumbrances
9 227 800	7 146 121	54 805 400	60 291 456	64 033 200	67 437 577

Joint Programme 2022-2023 results

Policy guidance, tools, knowledge and analysis developed, disseminated and their use promoted to integrate gender equality issues into the HIV response and to mobilize women in all their diversity, together with men.

Global norms and standards. The Joint Programme advocated for and supported the adoption and implementation of global norms and standards on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of HIV, a cornerstone for ending the inequalities that drive HIV. UN Women, UNFPA and UNAIDS Secretariat’s policy support to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in preparation for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2022 resulted in the unanimous re-affirmation of the 2016 CSW 60/2 Resolution on Women, the Girl Child and HIV and AIDS by Member States. To facilitate implementation of the resolution and monitor the progress in its implementation, UN Women provided policy guidance to SADC to develop and roll out the gender-responsive oversight model. The regional framework and programme of action tracks efforts to address root causes, such as gender inequality, that increase risks of adolescent girls and young women to HIV. The tool was adopted by Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. Following the adoption in 2019 by the ILO Conference of the first international treaty to recognize the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment, 39 countries have either ratified the Convention or are strengthening their national legislation thanks to ILO support.

Indicator progress on gender equality (RA 6)

- **50 countries** strengthened their gender expertise and capacity to further integrate **gender equality** into the national HIV response, and meaningfully engaged women in all their diversity together with men.
- **In 30 countries**, the Joint Programme provided policy and advocacy support and contributed to **mobilizing partnerships to implement gender-responsive** HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services free of gender-based discrimination and violence.

Gender equality and the rights of women and girls. Promotion of women’s human rights as an essential strategy to address HIV—including women’s rights to health,

security, education and work—continued to be a priority for the Joint Programme. UN Women promoted the participation of women living with and affected by HIV in reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In Tajikistan, the national network of women living with HIV prepared an alternative report to that committee, highlighting discrimination and violence against women in their accessing HIV services and recommendations. The UNAIDS Secretariat supported ATHENA, a global network advancing gender equity and human rights in the HIV response, to launch the “#WhatGirlsWant” campaign for advocacy on HIV prevention and SRHR for adolescent girls and young women. UNDP supported 69 countries to address gender equality and gender-based violence and supported 32 million women in 52 countries to access justice.

Building expertise and capacity for gender-responsive programmes and resources. The Joint Programme strengthened gender equality expertise in AIDS coordinating bodies and HIV programmes. Gender assessments supported by the UNAIDS Secretariat and UN Women in 20 countries gathered evidence on the impact of gender norms in the HIV context, which then informed improvements to national HIV strategies and plans. The Joint Programme worked with governments in 35 countries on planning, budgeting and monitoring related to the gendered aspects of HIV responses. Thanks to UN Women’s policy advice, the new national strategic plans for HIV in Burundi and Lesotho prioritized outcomes on ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women. Kenya’s National AIDS Control Council committed to address the ‘triple threat’ of HIV infections, adolescent pregnancies, and sexual- and gender-based violence. UNODC built the capacity of prison administration and healthcare providers on gender dimensions of preventing vertical transmission of HIV in prison settings in Eastern and southern Africa and Southeast Asia.

Promoting women’s leadership in the response. Women’s leadership and participation is central to transforming the HIV response and increasing gender equality. An advisory group of women living with HIV convened by WHO provided guidance on the integration of gender equality and human rights in the new Global Health Sector Strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections for 2022–2030. The UNAIDS Secretariat supported the International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia-Pacific to strengthen the capacities of women living with HIV to engage in decision-making in subnational, national and regional HIV responses in six countries.

Supported by PEPFAR, UN Women strengthened the leadership skills and engagement of young women in HIV responses across 15 sub-Saharan Africa countries, linking young women with established women leaders as mentors. Following convening of women ministers of health and gender equality and representatives of national AIDS commissions, UN Women launched a multicountry, cross-sectoral, intergenerational collective to address HIV among adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa. UNDP supported the NAWARA Women’s network, which is active in nine countries in the Middle East and North Africa, to develop its first strategic plan and assisted it with resource mobilization.

Preventing violence against women and promoting healthy gender norms. The Joint Programme promoted gender equality and women's empowerment in the HIV response, including for preventing gender-based violence. UN Women's "positive deviance" approach in Kyrgyzstan mobilized young women and men to dismantle stereotypes regarding HIV and transform unequal social norms that perpetuate violence against women and deter young people from seeking HIV testing and prevention services. In Zimbabwe, UN Women piloted a toolkit for faith-based leaders that is focused on preventing violence and HIV at community level and on engaging men as gender equality advocates. In seven countries, UNDP and partners showed that the integration of dedicated gender-based violence activities in other programmes improves treatment retention rates and helps ensure the prioritization of those activities by local governments.

The "SASA!" community mobilization approach to prevent violence against women and HIV was scaled up by UNHCR and UN Women in Uganda and Zimbabwe. Under the "Spotlight Initiative",¹ UNDP facilitated access for about 5000 Ugandan survivors of gender-based violence to legal aid and livelihoods, while ILO supported 2500 women in Zimbabwe to start or build their businesses and access resources for doing so. The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, managed by UN Women, awarded US\$ 3 million in grants to women's organizations, empowering them to demand access to non-discriminatory legal aid, HIV care and support, and other health services. UNODC, with contributions from UNFPA, WHO, UN Women and civil society, published a briefing paper "Addressing gender-based violence against women and people of diverse gender identity and expression who use drugs".

The ILO, UNAIDS and partners supported the strengthening of legal and policy frameworks against stigma, discrimination and violence in 11 countries. Country outcomes included: the ratification of the convention on the elimination of violence and harassment and its signing by the President (Nigeria); the development of a non-discrimination, violence and harassment policy for the Kyiv region (Ukraine); the adoption of a public sector sexual harassment policy for the elimination of violence, harassment and gender-based violence (Malawi); and the ratification of the convention to eliminate violence and harassment, including gender-based violence (South Africa).

UNESCO and partners (including UNICEF, UNFPA and "Safe to Learn") in 2023 hosted the Asia-Pacific Learning and Sharing Symposium on preventing and addressing school-related gender-based violence. The meeting brought together participants from 22 countries and facilitated the sharing of experiences and practical tools, as well as policy advocacy. A learning brief and an in-depth technical brief on school-related gender-based violence in the Asia-Pacific region were published.

With support from the World Bank's International Development Association, national partners in 15 countries strengthened national policy frameworks to end gender-based violence, prevent new HIV infections and expand access to services. In the

¹ The global "Spotlight Initiative" to eliminate violence against women and girls is a UN initiative in partnership with the European Union and other partners.

Democratic Republic of Congo, these efforts reached over seven million direct beneficiaries (mostly women), with 99% of survivors accessing post-exposure prophylaxis within 72 hours.

Strategic partnerships mobilized to prioritize gender-responsive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services free of gender-based discrimination and violence.

Strategic partnerships to drive progress. The Joint Programme supported the Global Fund to help countries design and deliver gender-transformative HIV programmes, including through normative guidance and mapping of key entry points to support accountability for gender equality actions across the grant cycle.

UNFPA activated the gender-based violence subgroup of the Inter-Agency Working Group for Reproductive Health in Crisis, thus strengthening collaboration on approaches for case management of rape and intimate partner violence. A meeting of ministers of education and health in western and central Africa, convened by the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors, led to commitments to address adolescent and youth health, including unintended pregnancies, early and forced marriages and HIV.

UN Women engaged the Indonesian Ministry of Health, police, social support, civil society partners and other actors to launch special operating procedures that link survivors of gender-based violence with HIV services. In Peru, the UNAIDS Secretariat partnered with the Ombudsman's Office (Public Defender) to increase awareness of gender-based violence and human rights violations among women in all their diversity. The World Bank also collaborated with UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and other partners in a sexual violence research initiative to foster innovations that can prevent and respond to violence against women and prevent HIV (via the "Development Marketplace" awards).

Knowledge generation and advocacy to address structural barriers to HIV services. The Joint Programme documented and addressed inequalities in health care, education and work that hinder women from avoiding HIV infections and seeking HIV services. UNESCO worked with ministries of education in the sub-Saharan region through the "Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future" ("O3") programme to address barriers to girls' education, health and empowerment, including adolescent pregnancy, HIV and gender-based violence.

ILO focused on women's economic empowerment, expanding income generation opportunities for women living with HIV in China (through digital upskilling initiatives) and training women living with HIV in Kenya on business skills and entrepreneurship by using the ILO "GET Ahead" toolkit. In Jamaica, UN Women's analysis of the income security of people living with HIV highlighted the challenges experienced by young women and young mothers living with or affected by HIV and resulted in efforts to increase the gender-responsiveness of social programmes. In India, UN Women worked with the UNAIDS Secretariat, local authorities and women's organizations to provide women living or affected by HIV with vocational and entrepreneurship skills trainings and educational opportunities. The World Bank's Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality helped boost women's empowerment and reduce HIV vulnerabilities across 66 countries. The World Bank's collaboration with

UNFPA and WHO in western and central Africa provided over two million adolescent girls and young women with life skills and improved their access to health services, including for HIV prevention.

Catalytic action to engage men and boys as gender equality advocates. The Joint Programme engaged men and boys together with women and girls in changing the norms and structures that maintain gender inequality and deter both men and women from accessing life-saving HIV services. In South Africa, the UNAIDS Secretariat assisted the men's sector of the National AIDS Council to launch a campaign on HIV and gender-based violence. With support from PEPFAR, the campaign reached over 2800 men and boys through dialogues or one-on-one conversations, and more than 160 000 listeners through local community radio stations. UN Women's "HeForShe" community-based initiative in six countries in southern Africa sought to transform unequal gender norms that perpetuate violence and undermine uptake of services. UN Women utilized the "HeForShe" barbershop toolbox in Malawi to train nearly 2000 male community change agents to promote women's empowerment and stop violence against women, and encourage positive health-seeking behaviours by men, including for HIV services.

Law reform. The Joint Programme supported efforts to reform and implement laws for a more enabling environment for the HIV response. UNDP supported the Central African Republic to revise its family code to prevent child marriage and strengthen the overall rights of women. ILO launched a global campaign for the ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention, which aims to strengthen the legislative framework of countries and increase legal protections for women in key populations and women living with HIV. In Tajikistan, UN Women supported the network of women living with HIV to advocate for reform of the country's criminal code, resulting in a more objective application of the Article 125 on criminalization of HIV transmission and exposure in alignment with international standards.



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