

UNAIDS 2024

The World Bank

2022-2023 Organizational report

The World Bank

HIV in the World Bank's mandate

The World Bank provides financial and technical support to help create a world free of poverty on a liveable planet. Ensuring that everyone has access to essential services and that the underlying systems are effective, equitable and sustainable is a critical part of that undertaking. The World Bank also puts health at the heart of its Human Capital Project to drive more and better investments in people. It prioritizes working with countries and global partners to strengthen resilience to shocks and crises—from COVID-19 and other health emergencies to climate and humanitarian crises, including situations affected by fragility, conflict and violence. In fiscal year 2023, the World Bank committed US\$ 72.8 billion towards these goals, and disbursed over US\$ [32.7 billion](#).¹

Key World Bank strategy for HIV

Improving HIV outcomes. The World Bank has long recognized the threat HIV poses to development. The breadth and depth of the Bank's portfolio affords important opportunities to advance integrated approaches that can improve outcomes and systemic support for HIV responses. The Bank integrates HIV into effective and equitable health systems and into its broader efforts to advance sustainable development for all, including through progress on key contributors to success such as social protection, education and empowering women, girls and youth.

The World Bank strongly emphasizes sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness, and focuses on helping countries do “better for less”—for example, by using available resources wisely and by redesigning HIV and broader health programming to optimize resource allocation and service delivery and transition to new funding approaches in a rapidly shifting funding landscape. Leveraging data and innovation, including opportunities in digital health and service delivery, is an essential part of this approach. The World Bank also supports other areas that improve HIV outcomes, such as gender, social protection, education and service access in fragile, conflict- and violence-affected contexts.

Top results in 2022-2023

Women and girls were empowered. [Over 90% of World Bank operations are “gender tagged”](#), thereby indicating that they promote gender equality, the end of gender-based violence and the empowerment of women and girls. Many of those initiatives highlight health, education and social and economic empowerment, and all of them also support improved HIV outcomes.

- The Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project reached over two million girls, with more than 210 000 adolescent girls and young women receiving scholarships and other materials to improve enrolment and retention. Adopting a wider

¹ This reflects amounts via the International Development Association and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It does not include amounts via World Bank-based trust funds and financial intermediary funds.

variety of interventions that reduced vulnerabilities, the project reached over 579 000 adolescent girls and improved their retention rates in secondary schools to 94%.

- Almost 14 900 religious leaders were engaged to promote girls' and women's empowerment, while awareness campaigns on reproductive, child and maternal health and violence against women reached over four million people.
- The gender-based violence prevention and response project (the Democratic Republic of Congo) reached over seven million beneficiaries by July 2022, with 99% of cases of gender-based violence receiving post-exposure prophylaxis within 72 hours.
- Projects helped girls enrol and stay in school and empowered women in countries such as Angola, Haiti, Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia.

HIV outcome enablers in social protection and education were leveraged. With a social protection and jobs portfolio of US\$ 26 billion, the World Bank supported over 500 projects, including more than US\$ 1.6 billion in new financing to 16 countries in 2022 alone. The support reached more than one billion people, reducing HIV vulnerabilities and empowering people to protect themselves and access services.

As the largest financier of education in low- and middle-income countries (with a US\$ 24 billion portfolio and programmes in over 94 countries), the World Bank worked to ensure access across all education levels. Cash transfer payments in Zambia (2022–2023) were expanded, covering the school fees of over 130 000 girls. The STEP programme benefited 6.7 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including 3.7 million women, through a package of interventions that included safety net measures valued at US\$ 93 million and which reached over 731 000 vulnerable people. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a [US\\$ 800-million](#) project for primary education benefitted 2.3 million students and helped the government partly shoulder the costs of free primary education to ensure that vulnerable children can enrol and stay in school.

Resilience to shocks was increased. The World Bank redoubled its efforts to help countries maintain essential services and boost the resilience of systems that are essential to the HIV response.

- **Pandemics.** The World Bank helped countries improve pandemic preparedness and responses in ways that also benefit HIV outcomes. Commitments were expanded in the 19th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA, the World Bank's arm for the poorest countries)² and the new, three-year US \$93 billion IDA20—making it the largest provider of financing for pandemic preparedness and response-specific and -supportive operations (including over [US\\$ 30 billion to strengthen primary care and public health](#)). It supported over 100 countries to enhance access to COVID-19 vaccines and essential services; undertook the [Africa CDC Regional Investment Financing Project](#) for epidemics and public health priorities; and supported the launch and operations of [the Pandemic Fund](#), a collaborative partnership hosted by the World Bank and with WHO as technical lead. A [report on building resilient health systems in the shadow of COVID-19](#) helped prioritize investments, including ones that are essential for improving HIV outcomes.
- **Conflict and instability.** The World Bank mobilized over US\$ 21.6 billion in emergency financing for Ukraine, including for multiple areas that also improve HIV outcomes. Operations started under [IDA20](#) include US\$ 30 billion in financing for fragile, conflict-

² Part of a tripling of the World Bank's health, nutrition, and population portfolio between FY2017 and FY2022.

and violence-affected countries, including health services and numerous projects that address refugees' and host communities' health and related needs. A US\$ 53 million health system support and strengthening project grant in Central African Republic supported an essential health services package, including family planning and vertical HIV transmission.

Sustainability of HIV responses was strengthened. The World Bank addressed fiscal space issues; provided financing for health and human capital; and supported transitions to greater domestic financing and improved efficiency. Examples include:

- **Global and domestic financing.** The US\$ 93-billion IDA20 started its operations supporting the poorest countries, which included prioritizing investments important to the HIV response. The World Bank also continued to scale up support to countries on sustainable, innovative shifts toward domestically funded HIV responses.
- **COVID-19 fiscal impacts.** Continued support via the COVID-19 facility included over US\$ 30 billion to support health systems and other domestic spending on which the HIV response relies. The updated “From double shock to double recovery” publication highlighted the macroeconomic effects on fiscal space for health financing. As total debt levels rose to a 50-year high, the World Bank helped countries improve debt management and bolster their fiscal positions by improving tax compliance, public expenditure effectiveness and domestic resource mobilization.
- **Analytical support.** The World Bank conducted efficiency and effectiveness studies, supported key databases and tools to enable more country partners to conduct analytics. This included: (i) a cascade analysis how-to manual useful for improving HIV outcomes; (ii) an inventory of disease modelling, health planning, budgeting, costing and resource allocation tools, and health information system platforms; (iii) a rapid review of open-access tools, including HIV programme planning and allocative efficiency tools; (iv) an impact assessment review of recommendations from HIV and TB allocative efficiency studies across 11 countries; and (v) the Global Financing Facility performance-based financing support in the Central African Republic that helped increase domestic and external resources.
- **Leveraging innovation.** The World Bank helped partners leverage digital health to boost service access and impact with existing resources and conducted digital health assessments for more effective health services, including HIV. The Identification for Development initiative worked to reach the estimated 850 million people who lack an effective form of identification, including many affected by HIV.

Service access and outcomes were improved through greater integration.

- **Integration in health.** The World Bank's health portfolio included over 200 projects which supported countries to improve outcomes and strengthen the health systems on which HIV responses rely. For example, a [health system strengthening project](#) in 21 Angolan municipalities saw the percentage of women living with HIV who deliver at health facilities and receive antiretroviral therapy rise to 60% (versus 17% in 2021). The [Southern Africa TB and Health Systems Support Project has improved HIV-TB integration](#), while the Global Financing Facility supported the integration of SRH services into comprehensive health benefits packages.
- **Multisectoral integration.** HIV support was integrated into non-health sector Bank projects that affect key populations, such as transportation projects that include HIV service components to reach key populations (e.g., in Bolivia, Lesotho, Papua New Guinea and Rwanda).
- **Knowledge.** Analyses that included a health systems resilience roadmap report and the [health systems flagship programme](#) reached over 1000 participants to help countries

strengthen their systems toward universal health coverage.

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