

UNAIDS 2024

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)

2022-2023 Organizational report

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HIV in UN Women's mandate

As a UNAIDS Cosponsor, UN Women supports the governance of the HIV response by:

- ensuring that national HIV policies, strategies and budgets are informed by sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender analysis;
- scaling up effective approaches for tackling the root causes of inequality, including through mainstreaming HIV in efforts to end violence against women and promote women's economic empowerment; and
- supporting the leadership of women and girls in all their diversity, particularly women living with HIV, to meaningfully engage in decision-making at all levels in HIV responses.

Key UN Women strategy for HIV

The [UN Women Strategic Plan \(2022–2025\)](#) sets out how UN Women will leverage its triple mandate—encompassing normative support, UN System coordination and operational activities—to mobilize sustained action to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of HIV, and to support achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDGs 3 and 5. The UN Women Strategic Plan prioritizes this vital work through HIV-dedicated indicators and inclusion of HIV as one of the five “leave-no-one-behind” programming categories.

Top results in 2022-2023

Global norms and standards setting on gender equality and HIV were supported. To facilitate implementation of the [2016 CSW 60/2 resolution](#), UN Women provided policy support to the Southern African Development Community to adopt and roll out a gender-responsive oversight model which entails a regional framework and programme of action to monitor implementation of the resolution. The model promotes efforts to address the compounded gender inequalities that increase adolescent girls' and young women's vulnerability to HIV. It was adopted by Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Gender-responsive HIV policies and institutions were advanced to meet UNAIDS 10–10–10 targets. In 2022–2023, UN Women strengthened gender equality expertise and increased the availability of and access to gender analysis and knowledge on the gender dimensions of the HIV epidemic among national AIDS coordinating bodies and HIV programmes in 35 countries. To inform national planning and budgeting, UN Women supported gender assessments of the HIV responses in 11 countries. This resulted in the identification of persisting inequalities, which in turn informed the integration of efforts to address gender inequality issues in national HIV strategies and plans, budgetary allocations and development of gender-responsive indicators to track progress.

The UN Women-supported gender and human rights assessment of Indonesia's Global Fund grant request provided principal recipients with key policy recommendations. In Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi and Uganda, UN Women mobilized networks of women living with HIV to engage in mid-term reviews of national HIV strategic frameworks in order to ensure that gender equality priorities were included in priority actions and resource allocations. As a result of UN Women's technical guidance, the new national strategic plans for HIV until 2027 in Burundi and Lesotho prioritized outcomes on ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women.

Support was provided for repealing discriminatory HIV-related laws and practices. As a co-convenor of the Global Partnership for action to eliminate all forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination, UN Women created spaces for and mobilized women living with HIV to identify and reduce gender-based stigma and discrimination and repeal discriminatory laws and practices in Indonesia, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Tajikistan, Uganda and Viet Nam. In Tajikistan, UN Women supported the network of women living with HIV and other partners to advocate for reform of the country's criminal code, particularly Article 125, which criminalizes HIV transmission. Although not removing the Article, a new Supreme Court resolution has called for its application to be aligned with international standards, including the U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable) approach.

To meet the unique HIV-related needs and priorities of transgender people, UN Women collaborated with the Ministry of Health of Viet Nam and other partners to draft and promote a new gender affirmation law. In Indonesia, Malawi, Uganda and Viet Nam, UN Women worked with women's organizations to strengthen legislation to prevent and respond to violence against women, which heightens HIV risk for women and girls. Across 13 countries, [UN Women mobilized traditional and faith-based leaders](#) to promote positive social norms and women's empowerment, and prevent HIV and violence against women, including early and forced marriage.

Unequal gender norms were transformed to prevent violence against women and HIV in order to accelerate progress towards the UNAIDS 95–95–95 targets. In 2022–2023, UN Women scaled up evidence-based interventions to transform unequal gender norms in 21 countries to prevent violence against women and prevent HIV acquisition. As part of implementation of the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, UN Women scaled up the implementation of the "SASA!" community-based initiative in Uganda and Zimbabwe to prevent HIV and violence against women. [In Zimbabwe, UN Women invested in strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Women Affairs](#), the National AIDS Council and several HIV and women's rights organizations to continue implementation of the "SASA!" approach across multiple districts. [UN Women's "HeForShe" community-based initiative](#) in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe transformed harmful social and gender norms that perpetuate violence, and facilitated access to HIV testing, counselling and, where needed, HIV treatment and care.

Women's equitable access to HIV and violence against women services, goods and resources was promoted. In 20 countries, UN Women worked towards ensuring that no women and girls are left behind in the HIV response, by strengthening access to HIV information, testing, treatment and care services and gender-based violence services for women living with and affected by HIV, including women in key populations. To implement the ["RESPECT" framework](#) in Indonesia, UN Women supported the Ministry of Health to develop special operating procedures that reflect the needs and priorities of women living

with HIV who are also survivors of violence. An app, “DeLiLa” (“listen, protect, report”), developed by the national network of women living with HIV, now routinely collects cases of violence against women living with HIV and refers them to relevant health services.

Women’s voice, leadership and agency in the HIV response were amplified. In 2022–2023, 30 000 women living with HIV across 34 countries directly benefited from UN Women’s work to increase advocacy skills and opportunities, expand access to decision-making spaces and improve uptake of HIV treatment and care services and livelihood support. In partnership with [PEPFAR](#), UN Women developed feminist leadership skills for 185 young women in 15 sub-Saharan African countries,¹ matching young women in mentoring relationships with established women leaders. In 2022, UN Women convened several Ministers of Health, Ministers of Gender and/or women’s affairs, representatives of National AIDS Commissions and young women leaders. The convening resulted in an unanimously agreed set of actions. To promote the sustainability of the effort, UN Women’s Executive Director [launched a multisectoral, cross-country, intergenerational collective](#) to address the high rates of HIV among adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa.

Catalytic support was provided for organizing and mobilizing women living with HIV. UN Women invested in the institutional capacities of networks of women living with HIV in Cambodia, China, El Salvador, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, South Africa, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. In South Africa, UN Women supported young women to organize themselves into the [Young Women for Life Movement](#). The movement has grown to over 3,000 members and has reached tens of thousands of other young women with information on HIV prevention, treatment and care services. The network is now expanding to Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia. With technical and financial support from UN Women, associations of women living with HIV in El Salvador and Nigeria developed and adopted new strategic plans and engaged in reviewing national HIV strategic frameworks, while the national network in China expanded its institutional capacity and reach at provincial level.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, managed by UN Women, awarded over US\$ 3 million in grants to local women’s organizations that work directly with women living with HIV, women who use drugs, and sex workers, to facilitate their access to non-discriminatory legal aid, HIV care and support and other health services. In 2023, the Fund partnered with 191 organizations in 68 countries and territories across the world, reaching over seven million women and girls who have survived or are at high risk of violence.

¹ Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

UNAIDS

20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

+41 22 791 3666

unaids.org