

UNAIDS data: Driving the HIV response



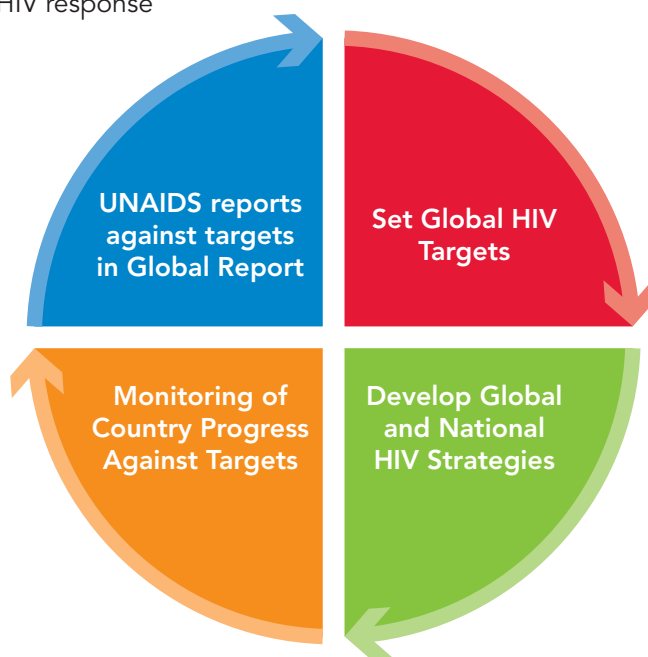
ALIGNING WITH COLLECTIVE GOALS

One of the achievements of the HIV response has been the focus on data to drive an evidence-based response. UNAIDS has led this process through a cycle of agreeing to a set of global targets that countries commit to, adopting those targets in national strategic plans, supporting countries to monitor progress and reporting against those targets to UNAIDS. Finally, UNAIDS shares the progress through Global AIDS Update reports (Figure 1).

UNAIDS data are crucial for the global HIV response as they provide comprehensive, accurate and timely information on the state of the HIV epidemic. These data help countries and organizations understand HIV prevalence, incidence and mortality, and support monitoring of the programmatic response to the epidemic.

As shown in Figure 2, the process that UNAIDS promotes includes: *knowing* the epidemic (including the costs of the response); *knowing* the response; and using those data to inform decisions (Figure 2). By following these steps, countries are empowered to design effective prevention, treatment and care programmes, enabling them and stakeholders to make informed decisions, track progress towards global targets and, ultimately, enhance the effectiveness of the HIV response.

Figure 1. Guiding an evidence-based HIV response



UNAIDS DATA PRODUCTS

Global target setting. Every five years, UNAIDS and partners develop a set of global targets that countries can buy into to move towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. These targets capture the best evidence-based actions that can be taken to reduce new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths. They are then monitored through the Global AIDS Monitoring framework, ensuring the data are comparable, to understand country progress towards those targets and the SDG.

HIV estimates. These are the modelled epidemic estimates that countries produce from their surveillance and programme data.

They include estimates of incidence, prevalence and mortality that are not always possible to measure directly in the population. The results also make it possible to: assess patterns and trends over time; compare the HIV epidemic in multiple countries; and obtain aggregates of regional and global estimates.

Global AIDS Monitoring. UNAIDS requests countries to report on progress towards the 2025 targets, as agreed under the UN Political Declaration 2021 commitments.¹ It also supports countries in collecting, analysing and using the data, including service delivery data, sentinel and routine surveillance of HIV prevalence, bio-behavioural surveillance, and population-based household surveys, and to report these data through the annual global AIDS monitoring process.

Financial data: Strengthening sustainability and accountability

UNAIDS' work on financial tracking and future needs estimates helps countries and global partners monitor and optimize HIV investments. It supports countries through the **National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA) and Commodity Funding Assessments** resource-tracking tool that:

- Monitors HIV-related resource flows.
- Assesses domestic financing at a granular level.
- Identifies funding gaps and areas of underinvestment.
- Tracks dependence on external donors.
- Provides insights into how financial resources align with epidemic needs.
- Provides baseline funding information on HIV commodities and future quantified needs (i.e. demand forecasts).

By integrating cost data with model-based estimates and programmatic data, UNAIDS enables countries to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of interventions and plan future resource allocations. This financial intelligence is key to ensuring sustainable financing strategies and achieving global HIV targets.

Price tag for ending AIDS. UNAIDS produces a global, regional and country-level cost estimates for achieving the 2030 HIV targets, calculating the financial needs to scale up prevention, treatment and health system investments. This provides critical data for policy actions on sustainable financing.

Global AIDS update reports to mobilize the response. Every year, UNAIDS compiles the data submitted by countries to summarize progress in the HIV epidemic and response, at the national, regional and global levels. Complemented by the most recent research, this global AIDS report allows countries and stakeholders to assess progress, identify gaps in the HIV response and agree on the remaining actions required to end AIDS as a public health threat.

These data products inform critical global efforts, such as those supported through the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and

¹ Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030. 74th Plenary Meeting, 8 June 2021. United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/75/284. New York: UN; 2021.

Figure 2. UNAIDS process for generating and using data



Malaria and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) programme.

UNAIDS supports governments in meeting their data needs through a comprehensive and collaborative approach, including the following:

- 1. Strengthening data systems.** UNAIDS works with countries to enhance their information systems, ensuring accurate and reliable data collection. This includes conducting data quality reviews and providing ongoing support. In addition, UNAIDS provides guidance on best practices for data collection and use. This helps countries align their data efforts with global standards and improve the overall quality of their HIV response.
- 2. Capacity strengthening.** UNAIDS conducts training workshops and regional meetings for epidemiologists, data managers and other stakeholders. These sessions help build local capacity to understand and use HIV data effectively, as well as to apply the models that allow them to develop epidemic estimates, understand historical impacts and make future projections.
- 3. Collaborative data reviews.** UNAIDS facilitates data reviews, that bring together various stakeholders to analyse and interpret data. This collaborative approach ensures that the data are comprehensive and reflect the perspectives of all relevant parties
- 4. Information on policies and laws.** Policies and laws have important consequences for the HIV response and epidemic. By collecting information on them, UNAIDS helps countries interpret their impact on the HIV epidemic. These data can then be used by policy-makers and civil society to drive necessary change in the country.

Through this support, UNAIDS ensures that countries have the information needed to make informed decisions and end AIDS as a public health threat.

PEPFAR relies on UNAIDS for several data products, including the following:

- 1. HIV estimates.** PEPFAR uses the HIV estimates published by UNAIDS to report to the United States Congress on the impact of US resources. These reports are also used to determine the reauthorization of the PEPFAR programme. In addition, they are used to develop country and regional operational plans and to assess the progress that countries make towards epidemic control.
- 2. Global AIDS Monitoring updates.** These data provide information to PEPFAR on service coverage, outcomes and barriers to service access and utilization. They ensure that the support provided by PEPFAR is having the desired impact.
- 3. Financial data.** UNAIDS financing data are used by PEPFAR to assess domestic resource mobilization, report to Congress for the reauthorization of the PEPFAR programme and monitor key performance indicators. UNAIDS and PEPFAR, along with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), have collaborated on resource alignment aimed at enhancing HIV resource tracking, harmonization and alignment. This collaboration has facilitated the sharing of timely, consistent and high-quality data on HIV investments across partners to strengthen programme planning, decision-making, efficiency and sustainability of the HIV response. UNAIDS also provides estimates of the financial resources required to achieve global HIV targets through its Price Tag and Future Financing Needs Estimation work. These estimates help the United States Government and country partners assess long-term funding requirements and develop strategies for sustainable financing of the HIV response.
- 4. Policy and guidance.** UNAIDS provides recommendations and shares best practices on HIV surveillance and data use. This guidance is adopted by PEPFAR so that its programmes are aligned with the latest scientific and public health knowledge.

These data products can help global partners such as WHO, UNICEF, Global Fund and PEPFAR ensure that their efforts are well-coordinated, scientifically informed and focused on the most effective interventions.

The Global Fund relies on UNAIDS for several data products, including:

- 1. HIV estimates.** Every stage of the Global Fund's work is informed by the UNAIDS epidemic and response estimates. This includes the replenishment investment cases which rely on the HIV estimates to determine the potential impact of the replenishment, the development of funding proposals by countries, decisions on eligibility for Global Fund grants, and measuring progress against key performance indicators. These data help the Global Fund understand the scope and scale of the epidemic in different countries and make Fund-wide decisions.
- 2. Global AIDS Monitoring.** Country progress reports are used by the Global Fund to assess the progress made by countries towards the key performance indicators.

- 3. Financial data.** Financing data compiled and analysed by UNAIDS are used by the Global Fund to monitor key performance indicators, such as co-financing requirements, funding for different programmatic interventions and expenditure levels. These data are also used for the Global Fund investment case and for replenishment campaigns.
- 4. Overall strategic information.** UNAIDS works with other partners and countries to agree on a set of global indicators. Harmonizing the indicators reduces the burden on countries as they work with different donors. The Global Fund relies on UNAIDS to determine which indicators to use to monitor progress in its HIV response, to evaluate the effectiveness of its investments, and to guide future funding decisions.

UNAIDS

UNAIDS is responding to ongoing developments by mobilizing partners, governments and communities to assess and mitigate the impact of the pause on the continuity of essential HIV services. It has established a portal to provide real-time, global and country information, data, guidance and other resources related to the impact of these developments across 55 PEPFAR supported countries and the global HIV response. For more information, please visit www.unaids.org