

UNAIDS 2024

UNAIDS Secretariat

2022-2023 Organizational report

The UNAIDS Secretariat

The UNAIDS Secretariat ensures coordinated strategic focus, effective functioning and accountability across the Joint Programme's work to support countries and communities in reaching the objectives and global AIDS targets of the 2021–2026 Global AIDS Strategy and the 2021 UN General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Using an inequalities lens, the Secretariat, working with Cosponsors, exerted leadership to advance the global HIV response—especially to maximize equitable access to HIV services, empower communities and improve the enabling environment and the sustainability of the AIDS response. It did so via five strategic functions:

- thought leadership, advocacy and communication on strategic HIV issues;
- catalytic actions to address HIV-related inequalities through strategic partnerships and innovation for impact;
- excellence in strategic information;
- effective coordination, convening and country implementation support; and
- solid governance and mutual accountability.

Further strategic prioritization focused on saving lives by closing gaps that hinder progress towards the global AIDS targets, especially for children, adolescent girls and young women and key populations. There was also strong focus on intensifying resource mobilization for the Joint Programme and achieving increasing effectiveness and efficiencies through better synergies, innovations and cost reductions.

Top results in 2022-2023

Political commitments to end AIDS and implement the 2021–2026 Global AIDS Strategy were sustained and enhanced through strong leadership and advocacy. The UNAIDS Secretariat leveraged the Joint Programme's strengths to inform 20 high-level political meetings and their outcome documents. These included the UN General Assembly's Annual Review of HIV/AIDS and report of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; the Commission on the Status of Women; the UN Human Rights Council; the General Assembly Omnibus resolution on Drugs; and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as African Union Assembly. UNAIDS's well-coordinated voice and support to the 2023 International AIDS Conference in Africa, the 2023 International AIDS Society HIV on HIV Science, and 24th International AIDS Conference helped sustain global momentum, commitment and knowledge sharing on HIV. Thought leadership for inclusive dialogues on key HIV thematic issues such as PCB sessions on priority and key populations and HIV testing garnered significant interest.

State-of-the-art HIV data and strategic analysis were generated, leading to evidence-informed decision-making for maximum impact. In over 170 countries, representing 99% of the world's population, HIV estimates were produced and publicized in 2022 and 2023. This was made possible by the direct support and guidance of the Secretariat to over 120 of those countries. Up-to-date understandings of the progress and gaps in the global HIV response were enhanced by generating and disseminating the most comprehensive data

and analysis on HIV, including through coordinated reporting against the Global AIDS Monitoring framework by over 150 countries.

The authoritative annual global AIDS update, "[The path that ends AIDS](#)" and the flagship World AIDS report, "[Dangerous inequalities 2022](#)", as well as the [AIDSinfo data platform](#) (which was visited over one million times), provide a wealth of data and analysis on the HIV epidemic and response, finance, laws and policies, and key populations. AIDSInfo also includes an HIV inequality visualization platform. These data and strategic analyses inform optimized impact of national programmes and investments by countries and partners, including the Global Fund and PEPFAR.

Stronger national strategic plans on HIV were leveraged to guide more sustainable programmes and investments, including from Global Fund and PEPFAR. The UNAIDS Secretariat coordinated the Joint Programme's support to over 80 countries to assess and/or update their national strategic plans on HIV (e.g., for modelling and target setting, costings, mid-term reviews and more). Among them, over 30 countries annually received dedicated, multidisciplinary hands-on support.

Through its vital partnerships with the Global Fund and PEPFAR, the UNAIDS Secretariat leveraged and guided evidence-informed and more efficient allocation and use of funding and improved return on investments. This included policy and technical guidance through over 400 support assignments during the biennium, via the UNAIDS Technical Support Mechanism, for more impactful national strategic assessments and planning for data-driven HIV responses, with a focus especially on enhancing prevention, community-led responses and social enablers to optimize impact. The Technical Support Mechanism contributed to the successful submission of 47 Global Fund Grants Cycle 7 funding requests for a total value of US\$ 5.9 billion. New research assessed the trajectory and potential impacts of fully financing the HIV response (e.g., "[A triple dividend: Fully financing the HIV response in Africa](#)"). As well, a new agenda and framework to assess and shape the long-term sustainability of AIDS responses has been initiated.

Human rights and gender equality were championed for an effective HIV response and meaningful community engagement and leadership for decision-making on HIV priorities were promoted. The UNAIDS Secretariat supported the engagement of people living with HIV, key populations, affected women and young people at risk of or affected by HIV and government institutions (in 84 countries in 2023) as well as in the Global Fund's mechanisms. This work included direct support to community-led organizations at various levels; aiding the adoption of more people-centred, inclusive, human rights-based and innovative approaches; and improving effectiveness and accountability for HIV and other health outcomes. The UNAIDS Secretariat's convening of key consultations, including the HIV and Human Rights Reference Group, guided and shared knowledge for the removal of punitive laws and the development of enabling laws for more effective HIV responses. In coordination with other stakeholders, the UNAIDS Secretariat elevated its advocacy and support to respond to the pushback against human rights, especially the rights of the LGBTQI+ community. It did so also through direct support in crisis situations to ensure the safety and security of key populations and continued access to HIV and other health services.

Community-led HIV responses were expanded in more than 80 countries. After leading the adoption of the first international definition of and recommendations for community-led HIV responses, various [new normative guidance, tools, evidence and good practices](#) were shared. Technical and capacity-building support was also provided to actively expand and strengthen community-led services delivery and monitoring (e.g., the progression matrix, network strengthening, costing and resource tracking). The Secretariat led the Joint Programme's overall expertise and support to national and/or other stakeholders for the incorporation and expansion of community-led HIV responses in more than 80 countries. It also facilitated knowledge sharing on community-led monitoring by providing dedicated expert support to over 35 countries annually. The Joint Programme's "[Let communities lead](#)" [report](#), coordinated by the UNAIDS Secretariat, documented and celebrated the critical roles of communities and called on decision-makers to fully support their life-saving work and remove the barriers that stand in their way.

Well-coordinated and effective UN support to countries was ensured. Through effective coordination of Joint UN Teams on AIDS in all regions and countries (91 in 2022 and 86 in 2023), the Secretariat optimized the Joint Programme's strengths to effectively support national HIV responses. It also leveraged the broader power and voice of the whole UN System by ensuring that HIV-related priorities were integrated in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (in over 80 countries), thus further contributing to UN reform for enhanced impact. The Secretariat's convening power enabled dialogues on complex HIV-related issues such as on social enablers and key populations. Furthermore, the UNAIDS Secretariat supported countries to enhance evidence-informed HIV investments across their Global Fund grant cycles through coordination and facilitation, such as for effective and inclusive country dialogues, country coordination mechanisms or other fora.

Global strategic initiatives and other partnerships have shaped accelerated action to close gaps where needed the most. The 38 Global HIV Prevention Coalition focus countries benefited from quality guidance, tools and shared knowledge. This included a South-to-South learning network, peer mentoring, and granular monitoring of progress of implementation of the HIV Prevention Road Map by 2025, as well as a new HIV Multisector Leadership Forum launched in 2023. Twelve countries acted to close gaps for children after joining the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children and 15 countries took actions as part of the Education Plus initiative to support adolescent girls. Thirty-eight countries also acted as members of the Global Partnership for action to eliminate all forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination, taking advantage of enhanced knowledge sharing, guidance, tools and advocacy support. The Fast-Track Cities initiative continued to mobilize political leadership in more than 400 cities with specific support to close HIV services gaps in 15 high-burden cities. The UNAIDS-PEPFAR Faith initiative mobilized faith partners. Sharing of lessons from decades of the AIDS response also informed global discussion on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

Mutual accountability and transparency mechanisms have been ensured. Stronger governance and oversight mechanisms are in place through effective PCB and other fora, including the PCB Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee; quality management, oversight and performance reports; and the UNAIDS [Results and Transparency portal](#). The Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment ([MOPAN](#)) reaffirmed UNAIDS's critical importance and offered useful suggestions to further strengthen

its catalytic role. This led to agreed management actions to ensure a strong Joint Programme for a sustainable global HIV response to 2030 and beyond.

A new UNAIDS resource mobilization strategy is being applied and a multistakeholder task team has guided efforts to resolve the Joint Programme's funding shortfall. UNAIDS remains fully compliant with UN reform implementation, including the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Reform and UN funding compact. Effective implementation of the UNAIDS Evaluation Plan, with seven joint evaluations conducted in 2022–2023, and systematic follow-up of recommendations, yielded important lessons that are progressively being integrated. In addition, the new 2024–2025 evaluation plan was approved by the PCB.

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