UNAIDS 2025

# United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

## 2024 Results Report

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UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories to protect the health and rights of every child.

**HIV in UNICEF's mandate**

UNICEF works across sectors to integrate HIV services into primary healthcare, including by building community systems to improve health. Through technical and other assistance, it helps to ensure that national HIV programmes serve the needs of women, children and adolescents; enhance access to quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services; and empower communities to shape and participate in programmes and drive change.

Key UNICEF strategies for HIV

UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2022–2025 prioritizes fast-tracking the end of AIDS in children and adolescents, and actions for HIV are integrated throughout UNICEF's Strategy for Health 2016–2030. UNICEF's global Gender Action Plan and Adolescent Girls Programme Strategy 2022–2025 prioritizes HIV and promotes the leadership of adolescent girls.

**Top results in 2024**

As the global custodian of HIV data on children, UNICEF ensures that highly granular analyses inform development of context-specific strategies to reach the most vulnerable children and their families. UNICEF supports governments to maximize results for children from global and domestic HIV investments; increase domestic ownership and financing; and work towards integration of HIV services in primary healthcare. UNICEF also works to protect women, children and adolescents in humanitarian contexts from acquiring HIV and to ensure access to treatment and care to people living with HIV. UNICEF implements evidence-based interventions that are focused on three critical results: (a) elimination of vertical transmission of HIV and advancing progress towards the triple elimination of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B; (b) closing the HIV treatment gap for children and adolescents; and (c) prevention of new HIV infections among adolescents, especially girls.

Towards elimination of vertical transmission of HIV and achievement of the triple elimination goal

**The evidence and normative basis for action to eliminate vertical transmission was bolstered.** UNICEF provided guidance and technical support to countries to develop and implement evidence-based national plans for the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B. To date, 19 countries and territories have been validated for reaching eliminating the vertical transmission of HIV and/or syphilis, and two high HIV-burden countries are on the path to elimination. Globally in 2023, 91 of 123 reporting countries had national plans for eliminating both HIV and syphilis, and an additional 21 countries had a plan for eliminating the vertical transmission of either HIV or syphilis. In 2024, UNICEF collaborated with WHO to develop global guidance for programming to eliminate vertical transmission. UNICEF supported 14 African countries that are on the path to triple elimination to strengthen their national health management information systems and boost their capacities to track and demonstrate programme impact.

**HIV outcomes for pregnant and parenting adolescents improved**. Transforming Futures, which was launched in 2024, is a US$ 10-million investment case for donors to expand and scale up peer community models to help break the cycle of unwanted pregnancies, new HIV infections and poor maternal and child health outcomes in 12 countries in eastern and southern Africa. In 2024, which is the African Union's Year of Education, UNICEF's high-level advocacy with governments and implementation partners built awareness and commitment on keeping and returning pregnant and parenting adolescents to learning.

Closing the treatment gap for children and adolescents living with HIV

**Political commitment, action and resourcing increased to close the treatment gap**. UNICEF and partners continued extensive global advocacy and coalition building for the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children and supported the roll-out of country action plans, thus contributing to greater progress towards eliminating AIDS in children in Global Alliance countries compared to non-Alliance countries. Fifteen young "community champions for children" were appointed in 2024 by the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+), and International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) across seven of the 12 Alliance countries.

**Age-appropriate interventions and tools for HIV case finding in children improved**. In 2024, UNICEF, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a Technical Brief on Paediatric HIV Case Finding to help programmes identify children who may have been missed by early infant diagnostic testing efforts, who were never tested after breastfeeding, or whose mothers were not enrolled in care.

**Paediatric treatment optimized**. UNICEF, WHO and partners continued to support countries to roll out a new, superior HIV treatment regimen for children based on a combination of the dolutegravir, abacavir and lamivudine antiretrovirals (ARVs). To date, 102 countries are procuring dolutegravir, up from 33 countries in 2021.

**Integration of HIV services for children into health systems improved**. To date, 33 of UNICEF's 37 HIV-priority countries have implemented a comprehensive package for paediatric HIV treatment within primary health care systems.

Preventing new infections among adolescents, especially girls

**Accessibility and quality of HIV prevention and treatment for adolescents and young key populations enhanced**. UNICEF committed US$ 5.8 million to improve HIV and SRH outcomes for adolescent girls and young women in 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. UNICEF and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine published a systematic review of gender-transformative HIV and SRH programme approaches for adolescents and young women. UNICEF also continued to support the Adolescent and Young Key Populations Partnership, which in 2024 launched the LEGACY toolkit, a compilation of youth-led resources with programming recommendations.

**Adolescents empowered and youth leadership supported in the HIV response**. As part of the "2gether4SRHR" initiative in eastern and southern Africa, UNICEF focuses on strengthening the engagement and leadership of adolescent girls and young people. In western and central Africa, UNICEF supported Joint Programme efforts to institutionalize the region's first consolidated network of adolescents living with and affected by HIV. UNICEF and partners adapted a toolkit on HIV and SRH for

adolescents and young people, in collaboration with Y+ Global. Resource documents that are available in this toolkit are intended for further adaptation and use across multiple offline and digital platforms that promote social behaviour change. The UNITED! Movement amplified youth-led advocacy at country and regional levels, supporting 130 young advocates to engage in key high-level advocacy forums and reaching over 9,000 users through strategic media and social media engagement.

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