United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)

HIV in UNFPA’s mandate

1. UNFPA strives for a world in which every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled. Approved in 2021, the UNFPA 2022–2025 Strategic Plan includes key shifts of scaling up the provision of high-quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services (inclusive of HIV), as part of universal health coverage plans; incorporating the multisectoral needs of women, adolescents and youth along the continuum of care; and addressing structural inequalities, such as discriminatory gender and social norms, that hinder achievement of UNFPA’s three transformative results.

2. Actions include scaling up national interventions on equity in access and the quality of comprehensive SRH care by supporting national efforts to implement the essential sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) package. That includes, inter alia, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and the prevention and treatment of HIV and other STIs. In addition, action is taken to identify marginalized and vulnerable populations who experience inequities in access to comprehensive SRHR information and services along the continuum of care.

Key UNFPA strategy for HIV

3. UNFPA’s approach to HIV and other STIs is part of ensuring good sexual health and wellbeing, a foundation for good reproductive health. The promotion of sexual health is part of UNFPA’s Strategic Plan for 2022–2025 and it contributes to the 2021–2026 Global AIDS Strategy. Using an integrated approach, the upcoming strategy on HIV/STI and sexual health positions the work within UNFPA’s comprehensive framework on SRHR across the life course.

Top results in 2022

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<tr>
<th>Averted 117 000 new HIV infections, 13.3 million unintended pregnancies and 5.14 million sexually transmitted infections</th>
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<td><strong>Logistic information system.</strong> 39 countries with partial or full electronic logistic management system for reaching &quot;the last mile&quot;.</td>
<td><strong>Adolescent girls.</strong> 6.4 million marginalized adolescent girls were empowered through health, social and economic asset-building programmes.</td>
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<td><strong>In-school sexuality education.</strong> 65 countries operationalized in-school CSE.</td>
<td><strong>Out-of-school sexuality education.</strong> 64 countries delivered out-of-school CSE.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth policies.</strong> 64% of countries integrated SRHR into national youth policies and plans.</td>
<td><strong>Participation.</strong> 88 countries promoted youth-led innovative solutions related to the three transformative results.</td>
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<td><strong>Gender and social norms.</strong> 41% of countries had a national mechanism to address discriminatory gender and social norms.</td>
<td><strong>Social movements.</strong> 79 countries had social movements that advocated against harmful gender and social norms.</td>
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<td><strong>Gender-based violence.</strong> 79% of countries experiencing humanitarian crises had a functioning inter-agency coordination</td>
<td><strong>People with disabilities.</strong> 347 000 women and young people with disabilities benefited</td>
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mechanism or platform to address gender-based violence. from services related to SRH gender-based violence and harmful practices.

- **Preparedness.** 53 countries integrated SRH into emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction plans.
- **Service provision.** 30 million adolescents and youth benefited from SRH services.
- **Legal frameworks.** 47% of countries had laws and regulations that support the realization of universal access to SRH.
- **Universal health coverage.** 61 countries integrated SRH into universal health coverage-related policies.
- **Climate policies.** 18% of countries integrated SRH into policies related to climate change.

UNFPA co-convened the Global HIV Prevention Coalition and Global Prevention Working Group, which strengthened HIV prevention programming and policy in 28 focus countries (accounting for almost three quarters of annual new HIV infections globally in 2020) and beyond. Launched at the 2022 International AIDS Conference, the HIV Prevention 2025 Roadmap\(^1\) outlines a people-centred and precisely focused approach to combination prevention for and with key populations, young people and women and men in areas with high HIV incidence. It proposes a ten-point action plan which defines transformative country-level actions to ensure success and requiring governments, communities and implementers to come together and build a stronger HIV prevention movement than ever before. At the end of 2022, UNFPA, the UNAIDS Secretariat and partners held a meeting of national AIDS commissions, managers and ministry of health’s prevention focal points from the 28 focus countries to discuss the operationalization of the 2025 Road Map in ways that meet country needs and realities. A summary report provides further detail on findings, challenges and proposed actions and commitments.

UNFPA supported in- and out-of-school CSE in over 70 countries, including at least 28 countries where it supported national strategy, policy, curriculum, standards and/or guideline development and implementation.

- With support from UNFPA and UNESCO, CSE technical guidelines were released in China after four years of development. They serve as a technical resource for policymakers, sexuality education practitioners, educators, programme managers, youth development professionals and young leaders in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of quality CSE curricula and programmes.
- In Zambia, in close collaboration with the Ministry of General Education, 618 teachers in UNFPA-supported provinces were trained to deliver CSE at the classroom level, through both face-to-face and online training. Over 729 000 learners across the 228 schools accessed CSE lessons and 136 schools established CSE clubs using the enter-educate approach out-of-school CSE framework to reinforce the knowledge and skills acquired from the lessons.
- As of 2022, 193 125 teachers in the Philippines have been trained on CSE.
- In Argentina, support was provided to various institutions including the National Programme for Comprehensive Sexuality Education and the Mercosur Youth Parliament of the National Ministry of Education. The guide "El VIH y el sida desde el enfoque de la educación sexual integral: guía para docentes sobre prevención y cuidados en el ámbito educativo" was published at the end of 2022 by UNFPA, the UNAIDS Secretariat and other partners to promote a pedagogical approach for the development of institutional projects at the secondary education level.

In line with the Joint Programme’s division of labour, UNFPA’s support to prevention efforts focuses on HIV prevention for key populations and adolescent girls and young women, with a strong technical focus on condoms and other reproductive health commodities. Examples include:

- With direct support from UNFPA, in Sudan the Association of People Living with HIV conducted about 250 peer outreach sessions in 18 states. A total of 2,082 people living with HIV were reached with "positive health dignity and prevention" packages, along with STI services and information on family planning and services.
- Nearly 130,000 people were reached in Cuba through four educational campaigns (including "Let’s talk about sexuality" and the 15th Cuban Campaign against homophobia, transphobia and other forms of discrimination) aimed at the recognition and exercise of the rights to gender equality of LGBTI+ people, adolescents and young people, carried out by the National Center for Sex Education, with UNFPA’s support.
- UNFPA and UNAIDS supported implementation of the Global Fund’s Strategic initiative for condom programme stewardship (2021–2023) in Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia to heighten a country focus on condoms as a priority for HIV prevention and contraception. Globally, UNFPA continues to procure billions of condoms for HIV, STI and pregnancy prevention.

UNFPA works in over 150 countries, with HIV forming part of an integrated package of SRHR services. These interventions follow a life-course approach, with a focus on equity in access, quality of care without discrimination, and accountability.

- Building on a vision that all people in the eastern and southern Africa region are empowered and supported to exercise their SRH rights and can access quality, people-centred integrated SRHR, HIV and gender-based violence services, over the past four years the comprehensive eastern and southern Africa regional programme, 2gether 4 SRHR (combining the strengths and contributions of UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and the UNAIDS Secretariat) has supported ten countries to strengthen legal environments and test and scale up models of integrated SRHR services, including with key populations. The experience of these countries was shared extensively in 2022 and is being used to support other countries to also explore models and approaches to integrate SRHR services.
- In Kyrgyzstan, SRH and HIV service delivery at the primary health-care level was formalized through the signing of trilateral memoranda of understanding between the 18 pilot health-care settings at the primary health-care level, AIDS centres and NGOs working at oblast level.
- Strategies for providing SRH services for people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, particularly adolescent girls and young women with children, were developed and implemented in Benin. About 575 peer educators and service providers were trained and they provided targeted family planning, psychological support and information campaigns to over 9,300 people.