

UNAIDS 2023

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# The World Bank

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**2022 Organizational Report**



# The World Bank

## HIV in the World Bank's mandate

The World Bank provides financial and technical support to help countries end poverty and boost prosperity for the poorest people. The support is guided by three priorities: creating sustainable economic growth, investing in people, and building resilience to shocks and threats that can roll back progress. Ensuring everyone has access to essential services and that the underlying systems are effective, equitable and sustainable is a critical part of this. The World Bank also puts health at the heart of its Human Capital Project to drive more and better investments in people. It prioritized working with countries and global partners to strengthen resilience to shocks and crises, from COVID-19 and other health emergencies to climate to humanitarian crises including situations affected by fragility, conflict and violence. In fiscal year 2022, the World Bank committed over US\$ 60.8 billion towards these goals, and disbursed over US\$ [29.4 billion](#).<sup>1</sup>

The World Bank is a member of the Joint UN Team on AIDS in 24 of the 91 countries where the Joint Programme operates

### Improving HIV outcomes

The World Bank has long recognized the threat HIV poses to development. The breadth and depth of the Bank's portfolio affords particular opportunities to advance the integrated approaches that improve outcomes and the systemic supports needed in the fight against HIV. The World Bank integrates HIV into effective and equitable health systems and into its broader efforts to advance sustainable development for all, including through progress on other key contributors to success such as social protection, education and empowering women, girls, and youth. The Bank places a strong emphasis on sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness—helping countries do "better for less" by using available resources wisely and redesigning their HIV and broader health programming to maximize resource allocation and service delivery and transition to new funding approaches in a rapidly shifting funding landscape. Leveraging data and innovation, including opportunities in digital health and service delivery, is an essential part of this approach. It also supports other areas that improve HIV outcomes such as gender, social protection, education access in fragile, conflict and violence contexts.

## Top results in 2022

**Women and girls empowered.** In 2022, over 60% of the World Bank's operations pushed for gender equality, ending gender-based violence and empowering women and girls through numerous initiatives, many of them highlighting health, education and social and economic empowerment. All those issues are critical for the HIV response. Examples included:

- The Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project, which reached over 2 million girls, with more than 210 000 adolescent girls and young

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<sup>1</sup> This reflects amounts via the International Development Association and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It does not include amounts via World Bank-based trust funds and financial intermediary funds.

- women receiving scholarships and other materials to improve enrolment and retention. Almost 13 400 religious leaders were engaged to promote girls and women’s empowerment, while awareness campaigns on reproductive, child and maternal health and violence against women reached over 4 million people. The number of national and regional legal frameworks supporting sexual and reproductive health, education and the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices doubled to 18;
- The gender-based violence prevention and response project (Democratic Republic of Congo) reached over seven million beneficiaries by July 2022, with 99% of cases of gender-based violence receiving post-exposure prophylaxis within 72 hours; and
  - Projects helped girls enrol and stay in school and empowered women in countries such as Angola, Malawi, and Zambia.

**Enablers, social protection and education leveraged.** The World Bank continued to address key non health enablers that improve HIV outcomes, particularly education and social protection. With a social protection and jobs portfolio of US\$ 12.5 billion, in FY2022 the Bank supported 510 projects, including through US\$ 1.6 billion in new financing to 16 countries. The support reached more than 1 billion people, reducing HIV vulnerabilities and empowering people to protect themselves and access services. As the largest financier of education in low- and middle-income countries (US\$ 16 billion portfolio and programmes in over 80 countries), the World Bank worked to ensure access to education across all levels. Examples in 2022 included:

- Cash transfer payments in Zambia were expanded, covering the school fees of over 90 000 girls;
- the STEP programme aided 5.8 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including 3 million women, through a package of interventions, including US\$ 93 million in safety net measures that reached 530 000 vulnerable individuals;
- the Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographic Project reached over 435 000 adolescent girls and improved their retention rates in secondary schools to 92%; and
- in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a [US\\$ 800-million](#) project for primary education benefitted 2.3 million students and helped the government partly shoulder the costs of free primary education to ensure vulnerable children can enrol and stay in school.

**Resilience to shocks increased.** The Bank redoubled its efforts to help countries maintain essential services and boost the resiliency of the systems the HIV response relies on in the face of multiple, overlapping crises (health emergencies, conflict and climate).

- *Pandemics.* The World Bank helped countries improve pandemic preparedness and response in ways that also benefit HIV outcomes with commitments expanded in international development assistance<sup>19</sup> and the new, three-year US \$93 billion IDA20—making it the largest provider of financing for pandemic preparedness and response-specific and -supportive operations (active portfolio of [US\\$ 34 billion in over 100 countries](#) for health system strengthening). It supported over 100 countries for COVID-19 access to vaccines and essential services; undertook the [Africa CDC Regional Investment Financing Project](#) for epidemics and public health priorities; and supported the launch of the Pandemic Fund, a collaborative partnership hosted by the World Bank and with WHO as a technical

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<sup>2</sup> Part of a tripling of the World Bank's health, nutrition, and population portfolio between FY2017 and 2022.

lead. A [report on building resilient health systems in the shadow of COVID-19](#) helped prioritize investments, including ones essential to improving HIV outcomes.

- *Conflict and instability.* Prioritizing efforts to address HIV-related needs in fragile, conflict and violence settings, the World Bank mobilized over US\$ 20.6 billion in emergency financing for Ukraine in multiple areas that improve HIV outcomes. Operations started under [IDA20](#) include US\$ 30 billion in financing for fragile, conflict and violence affected countries, including health services and numerous projects address refugees and host communities health and other needs. A US\$ 53 million health system support and strengthening project grant in Central African Republic supported an essential health services package, including family planning and vertical HIV transmission.

**Sustainability of HIV responses strengthened.** The World Bank addressed fiscal space issues, provided financing for health and human capital, and supported transitions to greater domestic financing and improved efficiency including leveraging innovation:

- *Global and domestic financing.* The US\$ 93 billion IDA20 started operations, supporting the poorest countries including prioritizing investments important to the HIV response. The World Bank also continued to scale up support to countries on sustainable, innovative shifts toward domestically funded HIV responses and produced a report outlining a novel, integrated framework to improve tax systems.
- *COVID-19 fiscal impacts.* Continued support via the COVID-19 facility included over US\$ 30 billion to support health systems and other domestic spending the HIV response relies on. The updated *From double shock to double recovery* publication highlighted the macroeconomic effects on the fiscal space for health financing. As total debt levels rose to a 50-year high, the Bank helped countries improve debt management and bolster their fiscal positions by improving tax compliance, public expenditure effectiveness and domestic resource mobilization.
- *Analytical support.* The Bank supported data-driven HIV investments to boost the impact of available resources and tackle inequities. The Bank conducted efficiency and effectiveness studies, supported key databases and tools to enable more country partners to conduct analytics. This included: (i) a cascade analysis how-to-manual useful for improving HIV outcomes; (ii) an inventory of disease modelling, health planning, budgeting, costing and resource allocation tools, and health information system platforms; (iii) a rapid review of open-access tools, including HIV programme planning and allocative efficiency tools; (iv) an impact assessment review of recommendations from HIV and TB allocative efficiency studies across 11 countries; and (v) Global Financing Facility performance-based financing support in the Central African Republic that helped increase domestic and external resources.
- *Leveraging innovation.* The World Bank helped partners leverage digital health to boost service access and impact with existing resources and conducted digital health assessments for more effective health services, including HIV. The Identification for Development initiative worked to reach the estimated 850 million people who lack an effective form of identification, including many affected by HIV.

**Service access and outcomes improved through greater integration.** The Bank focused on vital areas for health systems strengthening, including HIV integration in universal health coverage and other settings:

- *Integration in health.* The World Bank's health portfolio included over 200 projects helping countries improve outcomes and the strength and resilience of the health systems on which the HIV response relies. A [health system strengthening project](#) in 21 Angolan municipalities saw the percentage of women living with HIV who

deliver at health facilities and receiving antiretroviral therapy rise to 80% (versus 14% in 2021). The [Southern Africa TB and Health Systems Support Project has improved HIV-TB integration](#), and the Global Financing Facility supported the integration of SRH services into comprehensive health benefits packages.

- *Multisectoral integration.* HIV support was integrated into non-health sector Bank projects that affect key populations, such as transportation projects including HIV service components to reach key populations (e.g. in Bolivia, Lesotho, Papua New Guinea and Rwanda).
- *Knowledge.* Analyses that included a health systems resilience road map report and the [health systems flagship programme](#) reached over 1,000 participants to help countries strengthen their systems toward universal health coverage.

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