UNAIDS Secretariat

2022 Organizational Report
The UNAIDS Secretariat

HIV in the UNAIDS Secretariat’s mandate

The UNAIDS Secretariat ensures coordinated strategic focus, effective functioning and accountability across the Joint Programme’s work to support the implementation of the 2021–2026 Global AIDS Strategy and the 2021 UN General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Using an inequalities lens, the UNAIDS Secretariat, in concert with Cosponsors, supported and strengthened the global HIV response through five strategic functions:

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

Top results in 2022

Generated state-of-the-art HIV data and strategic analysis leading to more granular understanding of inequalities and better-informed decision-making, including through stronger national capacities and community-led monitoring. Direct guidance and support for the generation and analysis of HIV estimates in 139 countries and coordinated reporting against the Global AIDS Monitoring framework in 155 countries enabled UNAIDS to remain the leading source of comprehensive data and analysis on HIV. The data and analysis are widely shared through the Global AIDS update and dedicated data platform, called AIDSinfo, was reached over one million times. Overall, 172 countries, representing 99% of the world’s population, produced HIV estimates in 2022. The flagship Global AIDS update and wide use of evidence helped further optimize the impact of national programmes and investments by countries and partners, including the Global Fund and PEPFAR. A new framework and toolkit for understanding and addressing HIV-related inequalities was launched by the Joint Programme and piloted in five countries.

Sustained and enhanced political commitments to end AIDS and implement the Global AIDS Strategy through strong leadership and advocacy. The UNAIDS Secretariat leveraged the Joint Programme’s strengths to inform 18 high-level political meetings and their outcome documents. These included the UN General Assembly’s Annual Review of HIV/AIDS and report and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; the 66th Commission on the Status of Women; the UN Human Rights Council; the General Assembly Omnibus resolution on Drugs; and the 65th Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The 24th International AIDS Conference was also supported to sustain global momentum, commitment and knowledge sharing on HIV.

Updated evidence-informed national strategic plans on HIV, aligned with the Global AIDS Strategy, to shape national HIV responses and leverage sustainable
investments, including Global Fund and PEPFAR investments. The UNAIDS Secretariat supported over 30 countries to review, assess and update national strategic plans on HIV with dedicated multidisciplinary hands-on support. It also coordinated Joint Teams’ broader support to 83 countries to assess and/or update their national strategic plans on HIV (such as for modelling and target settings costing, mid term reviews etc.). Through its critical partnerships with the Global Fund and PEPFAR at global, regional and country levels, the UNAIDS Secretariat leveraged and guided evidence-informed allocation and use of funding and helped improve return on investments. This included providing policy and technical guidance through over 160 support assignments, via the UNAIDS Technical Support Mechanism, for more impactful national strategic assessments and planning for data-driven HIV responses, with a focus on prevention and optimizing Global Fund investment.

Technical programme managers, country stakeholders and consultants working in 30 countries in Africa are better prepared to develop high-quality and prioritized funding requests and maximize the Global Fund 2023–2025 allocations after attending workshops organized by the Technical Support Mechanism initiative in October (Nairobi, Kenya) and December 2022 (Saly, Senegal).

With support from the Technical Support Mechanism, 14 countries developed and submitted their HIV or TB/HIV funding requests to the Global Fund by 20 March 2023, for a total value of approximately US$ 2.06 billion. Once recommended for grant-making, it is expected that these additional funds will contribute to filling critical gaps—especially for community-led responses and resources for key and underserved populations—and strengthen the national HIV responses in the recipient countries.

Reduced HIV-related inequalities and ensured meaningful engagement and leadership of people living with HIV, key populations, affected women and young people at risk of or affected by HIV and government institutions in 89 countries. Through partnerships with communities and key stakeholders, and four global strategic initiatives, the UNAIDS Secretariat boosted HIV prevention, highlighted intersecting inequalities and promoted societal enablers need to end AIDS by 2030. Furthermore, the Secretariat supported engagement of young people at risk of and affected by HIV in 71 countries, women and girls at risk of and affected by HIV in 66 countries and people living with disabilities in 30 countries.

Convened and leveraged, in concert with Cosponsors, global strategic initiatives and other partnerships for focused attention and action to meet the global AIDS targets. Key global and partnerships brought multiple further benefits, especially for accelerated action and knowledge sharing. Twenty-eight countries are part of the Global Prevention Coalition, 12 countries have joined the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children, 13 countries are part of the Education Plus initiative, and 34 countries participate in the Global Partnership for action to eliminate all forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination. The Fast-Track Cities initiative continued to mobilize political leadership in more than 400 cities and the UNAIDS-PEPFAR Faith initiative mobilized faith partners in 6 countries and provides a health platform to over 2,500 members.

Advanced the incorporation and expansion of community-led HIV responses in more than 80 countries. The UNAIDS Secretariat led the adoption of the first international definition of and recommendations for community-led response to a pandemic. It developed
normative guidance and shared strategic information to actively promote stronger community-led responses focusing on network strengthening, community-led monitoring and service delivery. The UNAIDS Secretariat also facilitated community-led monitoring through dedicated expert support to almost 40 countries. More broadly, it led the Joint Programme’s overall expertise and support to national and/or subnational government and other stakeholders for the incorporation and expansion of community-led HIV responses in 84 countries.

**Ensured a well-coordinated and effective UN support to countries.** Through effective coordination of Joint UN Teams on AIDS in six regions and 91 countries, the Secretariat optimized the Joint Programme’s strengths and support to national HIV responses. It also leveraged the broader power and voice of the whole UN system through ensuring HIV related priorities’ integration in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (in 87 countries). Furthermore, the UNAIDS Secretariat supported 68 countries in optimizing 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.

**Ensured mutual accountability and transparency mechanisms.** 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, the updated UNAIDS Results and Transparency portal on results and investment. A Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment is ongoing. UNAIDS has shown high compliance with UN reform implementation, including the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Reform and UN funding compact. A new, ambitious UNAIDS Resource Mobilization Strategy and a multistakeholder task team guided efforts to resolve the Joint Programme’s significant funding shortfall. Effective implementation of the UNAIDS Evaluation Plan, with four new joint evaluations and two new ones initiated in 2022, and systematic follow-up of recommendations yielded many important lessons.