

# AUSTRALIA AND UNAIDS

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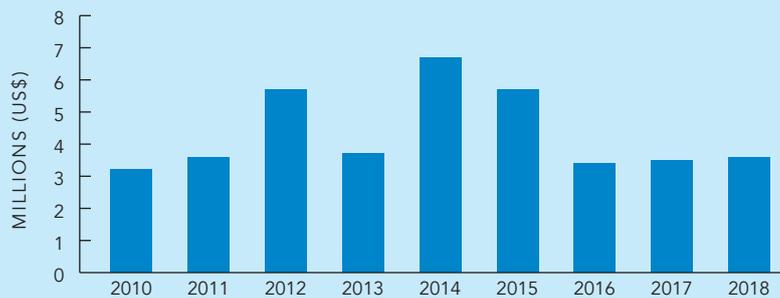
A common goal of ending AIDS

# AUSTRALIA AND UNAIDS

## A common goal of ending AIDS

A long-term partner of UNAIDS, Australia has been at the forefront of the global response to HIV from the beginning of the epidemic, and it chaired the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board in 2014. Focusing on the Asia–Pacific region, Australia prioritizes vulnerable populations, women and girls, innovation in treatment and prevention science, and the role of the community in the Australian Aid Programme and domestically. A model for other countries, Australia provides pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) through its public health system.

Annual core funding to UNAIDS from Australia



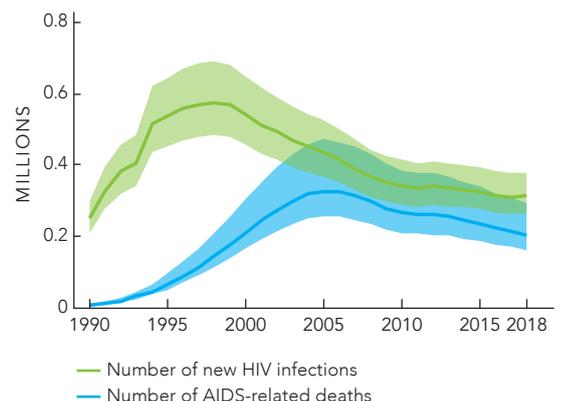
In 2018, Australia contributed US\$ 3.6 million in core funding to UNAIDS as part of a five-year agreement. These funds are used to support work by UNAIDS to overcome barriers to HIV service access and to support countries in achieving time-bound, measurable targets on HIV. UNAIDS greatly values Australia's partnership on shared priorities and its continued commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Collaborative global efforts have ensured that among the 37.9 million people living with HIV worldwide, 23.3 million now have access to antiretroviral therapy. Significant progress has been made in Asia and the Pacific: deaths from AIDS-related illness have been reduced by 38% since their peak in 2005, and new HIV infections have dropped by 46% since their peak in 1998. Together, Australia and UNAIDS have made an important contribution to this unprecedented response to the largest public health threat in modern history.

There is still much work to do. Asia and the Pacific is home to the world's fastest growing HIV epidemic, according to available data. Infections in the region are concentrated in key populations. In 2018, 5.9 million people in Asia and the Pacific were living with HIV, but 2.7 million did not have access to

treatment, and 1.8 million did not even know they had the virus. AIDS is not over—but it can be.

New HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, Asia and the Pacific, 1990–2018



Source: UNAIDS 2019 estimates.

## JOINT PROJECTS: PREVENTION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In addition to its core funding, Australia provided almost US\$ 1 million to UNAIDS over 2017–2019 for a project to scale up HIV prevention in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Papua New Guinea. Key populations in these countries bear the brunt of the epidemic, and prevention efforts for them are lagging behind. As part of this project, UNAIDS supports community capacity-building and develops action plans to overcome barriers to prevention service implementation, including legislative constraints. It provides training to outreach and service delivery workers to establish a peer-led programme for key populations, including gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who inject drugs and transgender people. UNAIDS also engages with national health systems, developing pilot strategies, road maps and plans to initiate and scale up innovative prevention actions, including PrEP programmes.

## SHARED PRIORITIES: INTEGRATING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS AND HIV

In alignment with Australia's priorities, UNAIDS strengthens the synergies between sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV at the policy, programme and service levels, and it advocates for the integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services, including cervical cancer services. Globally, around 300 000 women die of cervical cancer each year, and women living with HIV are up to five times more likely to develop the disease.

UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO) have developed a **joint advocacy brief** that presents scientific evidence on the links between HIV, the human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer. UNAIDS also supports advocacy efforts by civil society and engages with policy-makers, civil society and other partners, making the case for the urgent need to integrate HIV and cervical cancer prevention, screening and treatment services.



As well as being an entertainment worker, this woman is a peer outreach worker, sharing information on HIV prevention and treatment with other entertainment workers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Credit: UNAIDS/ILO/P. Caton

## SHARED PRIORITIES: INNOVATION

With Australian support, UNAIDS developed an innovative **dashboard** on HIV data for the Asia and the Pacific region. The dashboard is a one-stop shop that offers HIV-related strategic information, data analysis products and reference documents that complement the existing products in the **AIDS Data Hub**. It allows users to visualize data and indicators related to HIV epidemiology and the AIDS response in the region through customizable maps, graphs, tables and fact sheets, presented by indicator, country and key population. It also facilitates integrated analysis and gives access to granular data. Accurate and credible detailed data with cutting edge analysis help programmes reach the right people in the right place at the right time.

## MAKING INVESTMENTS WORK

A leader in global health, Australia has contributed more than US\$ 680 million to the **Global Fund** to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund). Support to countries in planning, leveraging and implementing Global Fund investments is a mainstay of UNAIDS country office work. In 2017 and 2018, UNAIDS provided over US\$ 3 million in technical support to Global Fund investments in 27 countries in the Asia and the Pacific region, maximizing the return on Australia's support with a shared focus on resilient and sustainable health systems, human rights, women and girls, national ownership and reaching people most in need.

## UNAIDS: AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENDING AIDS

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As the world takes stock of progress towards the UNAIDS **Fast-Track Targets**, as agreed by United Nations Member States in the **2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS**, UNAIDS is providing the strategic direction, coordination and technical support needed to meet the time-bound targets and ensure that no one is left behind.

By connecting governments with **civil society** and the private sector and making sure that people living with HIV are at the centre of decision-making processes, UNAIDS is helping to ensure that everyone in need has access to life-saving HIV prevention, treatment and care services. As part of this work, UNAIDS' collaboration with UNFPA to establish the **Global HIV Prevention Coalition** is uniting partners to reduce new HIV infections by 75% by 2020.

Through the **90–90–90** treatment targets, UNAIDS is pushing progress so that 90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of people who know their HIV-positive status are accessing treatment and 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads, keeping them healthy and preventing transmission of the virus. UNAIDS is also helping to bring the world one step closer to achieving an AIDS-free generation by keeping the world focused on eliminating new HIV infections among children and keeping their mothers alive through a Super-Fast-Track approach.

UNAIDS is working to end gender inequalities and all forms of violence and discrimination against **women and girls** by providing platforms for their participation and working with partners and governments. Furthermore, its efforts to champion and protect the rights of women, adolescents and **key populations** are ensuring that women in all their diversity, gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs, prisoners and other incarcerated people, and migrants can access the HIV services they need.

UNAIDS is also ensuring that progress towards **universal health coverage** is truly universal by

advocating for progress on equity, inclusion and social justice. Its people-centred, human rights-based approach promotes community-led service delivery and advocates for the need to address the social determinants of health, including pursuing necessary law and policy reforms and removing stigma and discrimination.

Having generated the world's most extensive **data collection** on HIV epidemiology and programme coverage, UNAIDS is the most authoritative and up-to-date source of information on the HIV epidemic—which is vital to informing and guiding an effective response to HIV. UNAIDS works with countries to determine their AIDS investment needs and advocates for increased resources from both domestic and international sources, thus ensuring funds are available and impact is maximized.

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** takes to scale what the AIDS response has been working towards for 30 years: a multisectoral, rights-based and people-centred approach that addresses the determinants of health and well-being. UNAIDS makes the link between the many intersections between the AIDS epidemic and other health, human rights and broader development issues to advance progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The only Joint Programme in the United Nations system, UNAIDS unites the experience and expertise of 11 United Nations **Cosponsors**: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. UNAIDS draws on this experience to engage actively in the United Nations reform agenda, sharing both successes and lessons learned.

UNAIDS has a vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths, and a principle of leaving no one behind. With support from our donors, UNAIDS is working to make this vision a reality.



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