

CANADA AND UNAIDS

A common goal of ending AIDS

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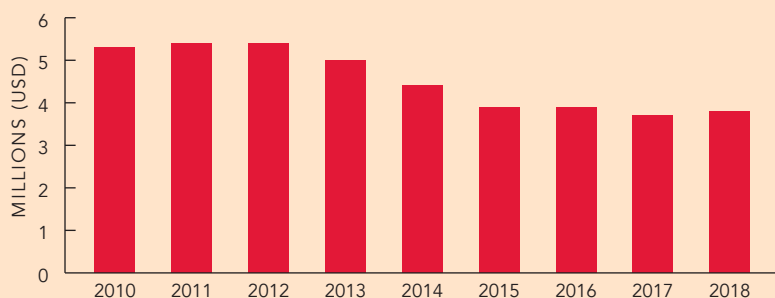
A common goal of ending AIDS

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy places gender at the heart of efforts to end the AIDS epidemic and improve health. Canada recently co-chaired the Equal Rights Coalition, championing the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. Canadian experts pioneered development of the UNAIDS 90–90–90 targets, which are central to the global treatment agenda.

“Gender inequality is fueling the HIV and AIDS epidemic. In the hardest-hit countries, girls account for more than 80% of all new HIV infections among adolescents. Canada will continue to work with key partners, including UNAIDS, to address the gender and human rights dimensions of this epidemic.”

— Maryam Monsef, Minister of International Development and Minister for Women and Gender Equality

Annual core funding to UNAIDS from Canada



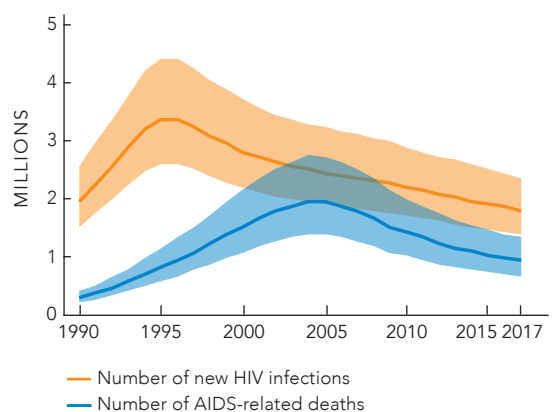
Canada is a steadfast partner of UNAIDS. In 2018, Canada contributed US\$ 3.8 million in core funding to UNAIDS. These funds are used to support work by UNAIDS to overcome barriers to HIV service access and to support countries in achieving time-bound, measurable targets on HIV. UNAIDS greatly values Canada'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 36.9 million people living with HIV worldwide, 21.7 million now have access to life-saving treatment. Furthermore, deaths from AIDS-related illness have been reduced by more than 51% since the peak in 2004, and new HIV infections have been reduced by 47% since the peak in 1996. Together, Canada 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. In 2017, 15.2 million people did not have access to treatment, and 9.4 million did not even know they had the virus. Worldwide, every week approximately 7000 young women aged 15–24 years become infected with HIV. AIDS

is not over—but with the help of Canada's critical support and engagement, it can be.

New HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths globally, 1990–2017



Source: UNAIDS 2018 estimates.

THE 90–90–90 AGENDA

There has been remarkable progress towards the UNAIDS **90–90–90** targets—whereby, by 2020, 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. Some countries, such as Botswana, Cambodia and the Netherlands, have already reached the 90–90–90 targets.

The 90–90–90 approach builds on scientific evidence from Canada’s own experience with HIV treatment scale-up, and it was developed in collaboration with leading Canadian scientific experts.

SHARED PRIORITIES: KEY POPULATIONS

From 2017 to 2019, Canada co-chaired the Equal Rights Coalition, a partnership of 40 countries working together with civil society and international organizations to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. The Coalition has a particular focus on ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of rights by LGBTI persons worldwide. UNAIDS advances the Coalition’s work by providing strategic information to its members, convening LGBTI stakeholders, liaising in-country with embassies and missions, and developing advocacy strategies, such as highlighting the intersectionality of sexual and reproductive health and rights with HIV and women’s and LGBTI movements.

JOINT PROJECTS: HAITI

In addition to its core funding, Canada has committed almost US\$ 19 million over five years (2017–2022) to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS to strengthen the resilience of maternal, neonatal and child health systems in Haiti. Over the duration of the project, UNAIDS will work with the Government of Haiti and partners to produce and disseminate awareness and information tools and build the capacity of community leaders on sexual and reproductive health issues, including HIV prevention.



A woman and child in Jeremie, Haiti, October 2016. Photo: UN Photo/Alexis Masciarelli.

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

In alignment with Canada’s priorities, UNAIDS strengthens the synergies between sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV at the policy, programme and service levels. UNAIDS advocates for the integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services, including those for cervical cancer. 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 WHO have developed a **joint advocacy brief** that presents scientific evidence on the links between HIV, the human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer. UNAIDS supports advocacy efforts by civil society and engages with policy-makers and other partners, making the case for the urgent need to integrate HIV and cervical cancer prevention, screening and treatment services.

MAKING INVESTMENTS WORK

Canada has contributed US\$ 2.4 billion 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. With six regional offices and a presence in more than 75 countries, UNAIDS ensures that technical support is available and maximizes the return on Canada’s investment, with a shared focus on stronger health systems, gender equality, key populations, human rights and innovation.

UNAIDS: AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENDING AIDS

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.



20 Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

+41 22 791 3666
unaids.org

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