DENMARK AND UNAIDS

A common goal of ending AIDS
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Denmark is a committed partner of UNAIDS and one of seven countries to have achieved the 90–90–90 targets. Denmark prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable people and communities affected by HIV, with a focus on human rights, gender equality, prevention, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and combating discrimination.

Collaborative global efforts, including work by civil society in Denmark, have ensured that among the 37.9 million people living with HIV worldwide, 23.3 million now have access to antiretroviral therapy. Furthermore, deaths from AIDS-related illness have been reduced by more than 56% since the peak in 2004, and new HIV infections have been reduced by 40% since the peak in 1997.

There is still much work to do, and Denmark’s engagement will become even more important to ending AIDS and building sustainable health systems globally. In 2018, 14.6 million people did not have access to treatment, and 8.1 million did not even know they had the virus.

An estimated 1.7 million people became infected with HIV in 2018. Meeting the UNAIDS HIV prevention Fast-Track Target of fewer than 500 000 new infections by 2020 will not only require the expansion of existing options such as voluntary medical male circumcision and pre-exposure prophylaxis, but also the development of innovative new products, including long-acting antiretroviral-based prevention options and a vaccine. AIDS is not over—but it can be.

Denmark contributed US$ 6.2 million in non-earmarked funding to UNAIDS in 2018. 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 Denmark’s partnership on shared priorities and its continued commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
SHARED PRIORITIES: PREVENTION

In alignment with Denmark’s focus on prevention, UNAIDS co-chairs the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, which strengthens and sustains political commitment for HIV prevention by setting a common agenda among key policy-makers, funders and programme implementers. Among the 28 countries that have endorsed the HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map, the Coalition has transformed national HIV prevention responses, which are now consistently aligned to appropriate HIV primary prevention pillars: adolescent girls and young women, key populations, condoms, voluntary medical male circumcision and antiretroviral-based prevention.

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

In line with Denmark’s priorities, UNAIDS strengthens the synergies between SRHR and HIV at the policy, programme and service levels, and it advocates for the integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services, including those for cervical cancer. 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 engages with policymakers, civil society and other partners, making the case for the urgent need to integrate HIV and cervical cancer prevention, screening and treatment services.

POLICY ADVOCACY: YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

Sharing Denmark’s focus on gender equality, UNAIDS actively engages with international bodies such as the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women to ensure that HIV-related rights—particularly of those left behind in the HIV response, such as key populations and women and girls—remain high on the political and development agendas. UNAIDS works with governments on resolutions and organizes and participates in high-level side events to ensure policies and commitments promote access to prevention and treatment services without discrimination.

SHARED PRIORITIES: RIGHT TO HEALTH

Denmark, a member of the Human Rights Council for the 2019–2021 term, is a key advocate for human rights, including the right to health. UNAIDS promotes the integration of the AIDS response into overall strengthened health and community systems and development efforts. For example, in line with the wider drive for universal health coverage, the UNAIDS Fast-Track Strategy emphasizes people-centred, community-engaged and local context-sensitive services, and the importance of social protection programmes. UNAIDS champions multisectoral efforts to address the root causes of vulnerability to HIV, including human rights, discrimination, gender-based violence, education and social protection, in addition to broader health issues.

SHARED PRIORITIES: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Engagement and partnerships with communities of people living with and affected by HIV and key populations—such as gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, sex workers, prisoners and youth—enable UNAIDS to stay alert to the real needs, issues and resources of individuals, communities and countries affected by the epidemic. Informed by that knowledge and understanding, UNAIDS is better able to support countries and mobilize communities in scaling up effective multisectoral, evidence-informed, human rights-based and sustainable responses to the epidemic. A front runner in United Nations reform, UNAIDS prioritizes and supports community and civil society engagement and leadership on the UNAIDS governing board, in national AIDS bodies and in country coordinating mechanisms of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund).
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.


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.