

THE NETHERLANDS AND UNAIDS

A common goal of ending AIDS

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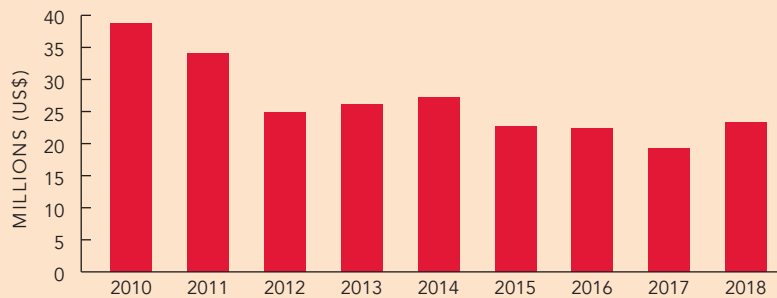
A common goal of ending AIDS

A valued partner of UNAIDS, the Netherlands remains firmly committed to ending the AIDS epidemic through its global partnerships and active civil society engagement. In 2018, the Netherlands hosted the International AIDS Conference, drawing attention to a rights-based approach, efforts to combat stigma and discrimination of key populations, and the decriminalization of sex work and drug use. The Netherlands has achieved the 90–90–90 targets.

“We need to protect young people, girls and boys, decriminalize communities, such as men who have sex with men, sex workers and people who inject drugs; we need to ensure access to treatment, including psychosocial care to all in need; and we need to focus on human rights, gender equality and social acceptance.”

— Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Annual core funding to UNAIDS from the Netherlands



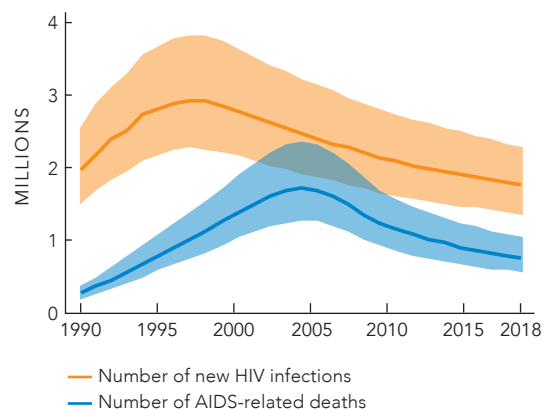
The Netherlands is UNAIDS’ third largest donor, providing US\$ 23 million in core funding in 2018, 12.6% of total core contributions to UNAIDS. In line with the Netherlands’ focus on evidence-informed interventions and inclusive access to prevention and care, UNAIDS uses these funds to collect and analyse data and support countries in achieving measurable targets on HIV, and to support work to overcome barriers to HIV service access.

Collaborative global efforts have ensured that access to antiretroviral therapy is steadily increasing: 61% of the 37.9 million people living with HIV worldwide are now on treatment. Furthermore, deaths from AIDS-related illness have been reduced by 56% since their peak in 2004, and new HIV infections have been reduced by 40% since their peak in 1997.

However, there is still much to do. Globally, 8.1 million people still do not know they have the virus. Every week, 6000 young women become infected with HIV, almost 18% of new HIV infections in 2018. Key populations and their sexual partners account for an increasing proportion of new infections (54% in 2018), while less than half of key populations are reached with combination HIV prevention services in more

than half of reporting countries. Overall, just over half of people with HIV have achieved viral suppression.

New HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths globally, 1990–2018



Source: UNAIDS 2019 estimates.

SHARED PRIORITIES: KEY POPULATIONS

With the support of the Netherlands, UNAIDS and its Cosponsors address the needs of key populations, including gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs and prisoners. For example, estimates show that around half of all sex workers in South Africa are living with HIV. UNAIDS reviews and provides direct inputs into the South African National Sex Worker Plan and other civil society AIDS responses to support target achievement, data collection and reporting, and linkages with other programmes and campaigns. UNAIDS also facilitates participation of sex worker organizations in national, regional and global consultations and forums.

In addition, the Netherlands Regional HIV programme in southern Africa collaborates with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which performs legal environment assessments with respect to punitive laws. When criminalized by law, key populations are particularly vulnerable to HIV, and they frequently experience violence, stigma and barriers to service access.

SHARED PRIORITIES: YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Netherlands places particular focus on adolescent girls and young women, who are more affected by the AIDS epidemic. In sub-Saharan Africa, seven in 10 young women still do not have comprehensive knowledge about HIV. Lack of knowledge, gender inequality and power imbalances must be redressed: the empowerment of women and girls—and the advancement of their sexual and reproductive health and rights—are essential to ending the AIDS epidemic.

To address this imbalance, UNAIDS has developed the **Gender Assessment Tool**, which is designed to support countries to assess their HIV epidemic, context and response from a gender perspective, and to develop recommendations for gender-specific programmes and policies. Gender assessments, which have been conducted in more than 70 countries, ensure that investments are gender-transformative, equitable and rights-based.



Condomize! promotes condom access at the International AIDS Conference, 2018, hosted in Amsterdam. Credit: UNAIDS/Á. Süveg

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

Together, UNAIDS and the Netherlands advocate for the integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services. In addition to its core funding, the Netherlands has invested in Egypt since 2016 to increase the availability of quality, stigma- and discrimination-free sexual and reproductive health services for women living with or affected by HIV. As part of this project, UNAIDS mobilizes partners, engages with the national AIDS programme, discusses HIV and stigma with religious leaders, and reaches young people with awareness campaigns.

SHARED PRIORITIES: PARTNERSHIPS

The Netherlands is one of the largest investors in the AIDS response, through international and nongovernmental organizations, civil society, bilateral programmes and public-private partnerships (including the **Global Fund** to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), giving a voice to youth and key populations at the local, country, regional and global levels. Support to partners in planning, leveraging and implementing investments is a mainstay of UNAIDS country office work. With a presence in 75 countries, UNAIDS ensures that technical support is available, complementing the strengths and maximizing the impact of our partners' efforts, sharing focus on inclusive access to information and means, sexual and reproductive health and rights, human rights, key populations, education, migration 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.



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