# NEW ZEALAND AND UNAIDS

A common goal of ending AIDS

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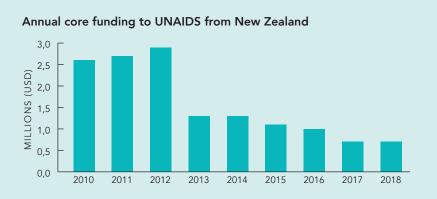
# NEW ZEALAND AND UNAIDS

### A common goal of ending AIDS

New Zealand is firmly committed to ending AIDS through its global partnerships, and it is a valued partner of UNAIDS. New Zealand has been pioneering and steadfast in its support of the AIDS response, particularly in the Pacific region, with a focus on women and children. Since 2018, New Zealand has been providing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) through its public health system for a nominal fee.

## "The world is making progress, but we cannot end this epidemic if we keep AIDS in isolation. We must help countries to address the underlying drivers, like poverty and gender inequality, that put people at risk for HIV."

— Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

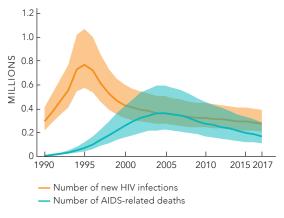


In 2018, New Zealand contributed US\$ 700 000 in core funding to UNAIDS. These funds are used to support work by UNAIDS to overcome barriers to HIV service access and to support countries in achieving time-bound, measurable targets on HIV. UNAIDS greatly values the partnership of New Zealand on shared 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 antiretroviral (ARV) therapy. Major progress has been made in Asia and the Pacific: deaths from AIDS-related illness have been reduced by 53% since their peak in 2005, and new HIV infections have been reduced by 64% since their peak in 1995. Together, New Zealand 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 the region with the fastest growing HIV epidemic, as well as the highest rate of drug resistance. Infections in the region are concentrated in key populations. In 2017, 5.2 million people in Asia and the Pacific were living with HIV, but 2.5 million did not have access to treatment, and 1.3 million did not even know they had the virus. AIDS is not over—but it can be.

New HIV infections and AIDS related death, Asia and the Pacific, 1990-2017



Source: UNAIDS 2018 estimates.



An outreach worker discusses HIV with a group of entertainers and conducts tests at a karaoke bar in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Photo: UNAIDS/N. Axelrod.

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

In alignment with New Zealand's priorities, UNAIDS strengthens the synergies between HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights at the policy, programme and service levels. UNAIDS 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 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.

#### SHARED PRIORITITES: PREVENTION

UNAIDS shares New Zealand's focus on prevention. An example of this is its role as co-chair of 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 which 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 ARV-based prevention.

#### SHARED PRIORITIES: HUMANITARIAN AND FRAGILE CONTEXTS

UNAIDS also shares New Zealand's commitment to humanitarian assistance, and it works to address the needs of vulnerable populations in conflict and humanitarian settings. Access to HIV prevention and treatment services in these contexts is often disrupted, and social networks and protection mechanisms can break down, increasing people's vulnerability to sexual violence and HIV.

In South Sudan, for example, UNAIDS works with the government on an initiative to engage the military and other uniformed personnel in HIV awareness, prevention, testing and treatment, and the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence.

#### SHARED PRIORITIES: MAKING INVESTMENTS WORK

New Zealand is a committed partner 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 is a key partner on the ground.

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 New Zealand's support with a shared focus on accountability, resilient and sustainable systems for health, inclusion of civil society in governance and implementation, private sector engagement, and equitable and accessible health care.

#### 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 rightsbased 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 Visit UNAIDS Transparency Portal at open.unaids.org facebook.com/UNAIDS twitter.com/UNAIDS