

THE UNITED  
KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
AND UNAIDS

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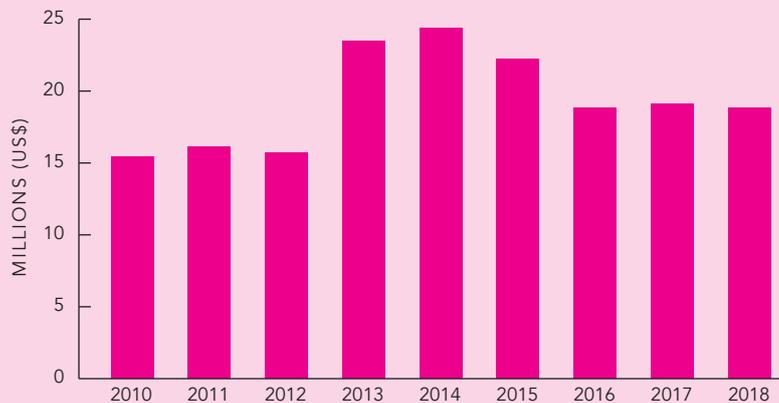
A common goal of ending AIDS

# THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNAIDS

## A common goal of ending AIDS

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is actively involved in the planning and implementation of global HIV priorities, investing energy and resources to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people and communities affected by HIV. As chair of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board in 2018, and one of UNAIDS' most critical donors, the United Kingdom has been instrumental in providing strategic leadership and direction to the UNAIDS Joint Programme.

Annual core funding to UNAIDS from the United Kingdom



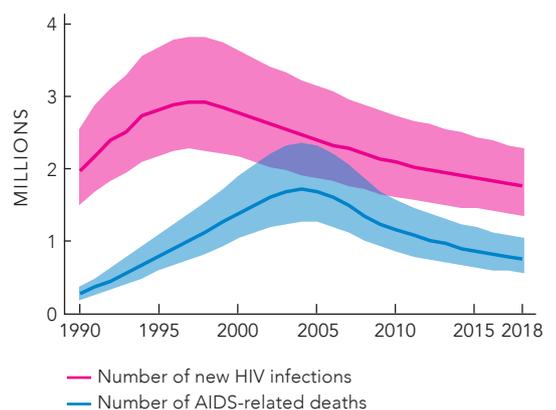
The United Kingdom is UNAIDS' fourth largest donor, contributing £15 million (US\$ 18.8 million) in 2018. The UNAIDS–United Kingdom agreement for 2016–2021 commits up to £75 million (US\$ 94 million) to UNAIDS. These funds are used to support work by UNAIDS to overcome barriers to HIV service access and to support countries in achieving time-bound, measurable targets on HIV. UNAIDS greatly values the United Kingdom's partnership on shared priorities and its continued commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Collaborative global efforts, including work by civil society in the United Kingdom, 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. Together, the United Kingdom 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, and the United Kingdom's results-focused 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. Every week, approximately 6200 young women aged 15–24 years become infected with HIV. AIDS is not over—but it can be.

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



Source: UNAIDS 2019 estimates.

## SHARED PRIORITIES: PREVENTION

The United Kingdom works with UNAIDS to boost HIV prevention efforts and stop new HIV infections. The United Kingdom is a founding member of the **Global HIV Prevention Coalition**, co-chaired by UNAIDS, which strengthens and sustains political commitment for HIV prevention by setting a common agenda among key policy-makers, funders and programme implementers. Twenty-eight countries with high rates of new HIV infections and more than 20 international and civil society organizations have endorsed the **HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map**, which aims to reduce new HIV infections by 75% by 2020. The Coalition has transformed national HIV prevention responses, and there has been good progress in some focus areas, such as voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). However, much more work is required to reach scale at the required intensity for key populations and adolescent girls and young women and their male partners.

## SHARED PRIORITIES: LEARNING

The United Kingdom bolsters UNAIDS' efforts to improve transparency and governance, increase accountability and strengthen organizational learning. The United Kingdom's focus on evaluation has been instrumental in the establishment of an independent evaluation function at UNAIDS. The United Kingdom has also contributed to the UNAIDS evaluation policy.

## MAKING INVESTMENTS WORK

The United Kingdom has contributed more than US\$ 4.4 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 the United Kingdom's investment, with a shared focus on resilient and sustainable systems for health, girls and women, key populations, service delivery to the people and areas that need them most, and results.



A woman with her daughter at a monastery in Myanmar where women living with HIV can receive support. Photo: UNAIDS.

## SHARED PRIORITIES: YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

The United Kingdom's development cooperation places emphasis on adolescent girls, who are disproportionately affected by the AIDS epidemic. Every week, more than 300 adolescent girls die from AIDS-related illness globally, and more than 2600 are newly infected with HIV. Gender inequality, power imbalances and gender-based violence increase vulnerability to HIV and must be redressed. The empowerment of women and girls and the advancement of their sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential to ending AIDS.

UNAIDS has developed the **HIV Gender Assessment Tool**, which supports countries to assess their HIV epidemic, context and response from a gender perspective. This multipartner process allows countries to identify gaps, develop gender-specific programmes and policies, and include key recommendations in national strategic plans, country investment cases and submissions to the Global Fund. Gender assessments, which have been conducted in more than 70 countries, ensure that nationally driven and country-owned HIV responses are gender-transformative, equitable and rights-based.

Within UNAIDS, senior management is committed to eliminating harassment, sexual harassment, discrimination and abuse of authority by ensuring that strong systems are in place for internal justice, staff well-being, diversity and inclusion.

## 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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