

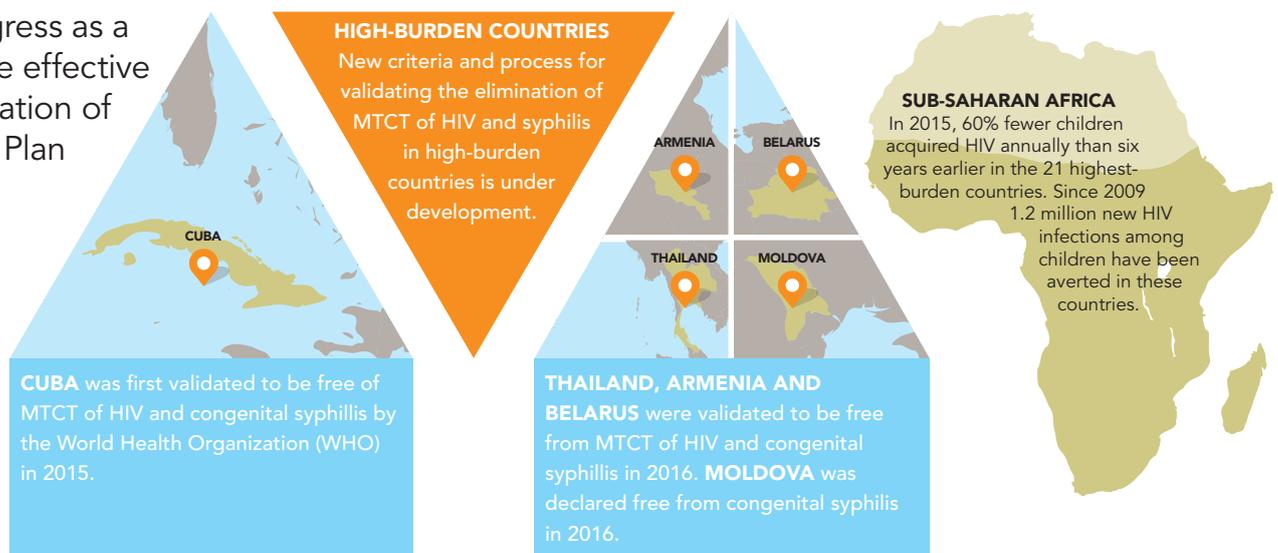
Eliminating new HIV infections among children and adolescents and accelerating treatment



As a result of the unprecedented efforts of the Global Plan towards the Elimination of New Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping Mothers Alive (Global Plan), new HIV infections among newborns globally declined by 51% since 2009 and the risk of mother to child transmission (MTCT) was reduced by 50% by 2015. In 2016, UNAIDS and PEPFAR have

built on the achievements of the Global Plan by introducing a new framework called “Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free”. It involves three main blocks of activities related to stopping new HIV infections among children, ensuring that adolescents remain HIV-free, and ensuring that children and adolescents who acquire HIV are placed on treatment as soon as possible.

Major progress as a result of the effective implementation of the Global Plan



LEADING ON GLOBAL GOALS

The “Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free” framework provides a menu of policy and programmatic actions designed to enable countries and partners to close the remaining gaps in HIV prevention and treatment for children, adolescents, and young women, as well as among pregnant and breastfeeding women.



ADVOCATING FOR eMTCT

UNAIDS continues high-level political advocacy for rights-based prevention and treatment of HIV among children and adolescents, in order to meet the ambitious targets set out in the “Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free” framework.



GENERATION AND USE OF STRATEGIC INFORMATION

UNAIDS support has increased availability of high-quality data in order to facilitate implementation of programmes, resource mobilization, accountability, and political support.



PROVISION OF GLOBAL AND COUNTRY GUIDANCE

In 2016, WHO issued global guidance recommending prompt provision of antiretroviral medicines for all persons diagnosed with HIV. This expanded on Option B+ for prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT). This Treat All recommendation pays particular attention to children and adolescents, who are less likely than adults to receive treatment.



CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

UNAIDS has mobilized partners and advocated for increased availability of pediatric treatment within the “Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free” initiative. The framework calls for governments, industry, civil society, and partners to super-fast-track identification and investment in efficient and cost-effective solutions that maximize programme outcomes. In particular, it calls for partnerships with communities and with networks of women living with HIV.



PROMOTING INNOVATIONS

The Global Plan led to country innovations and new ways of implementing PMTCT services, that “Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free” framework is building on. WHO and UNICEF continue to lead on the development of optimal formulas for pediatric ART and TB drugs, diagnostics (e.g. self-testing and point-of-care infant diagnosis), pre-exposure prophylaxis, and treatment of discordant couples in the context of PMTCT.

