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Key strategies and approaches to integrate HIV into broader agency mandate

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remain the world's blueprint for action to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. The response to both HIV and the COVID-19 crisis, as well as the comprehensive 2030 Agenda, demonstrate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda require new ways of working, with innovative and concerted efforts needed to address the social, structural, economic and environmental factors that shape HIV and health inequities.

HIV is integrated in UNDP's six Signature Solutions work across sectors and in all three development settings: poverty eradication, structural transformation and resilience in crisis. In everything it does, UNDP seeks to amplify, accelerate, and connect people and knowledge. UNDP's worldwide presence thought leadership and over 50 years' experience help countries and communities respond to ever-changing, complex development challenges. The [Global Policy Network](#) is connecting UNDP's 17 000-strong workforce to provide [integrated solutions](#) that multiply impact and accelerate progress on the SDGs. UNDP helps countries pursue innovation and scale, while taking care to protect privacy and human rights.

UNDP connects the best knowledge, capacity and solutions from different organizations, fields and countries to share resources and make progress towards the SDGs. UNDP is one of 12 multilateral health, development and humanitarian agencies in the [Global Action Plan on Healthy Lives and Well-Being](#), which is driving enhanced collaboration and efficiency towards supporting countries in accelerating progress towards the HIV and health-related SDG targets. The 12 signatory agencies to this plan channel at least US\$ 12.7 billion annually, or nearly one-third of all development assistance for health, with UNDP and UN Women leading work on determinants of health.

UNDP is also a partner in the [UKRI GCRF Accelerating Achievement for Africa's Adolescents Hub](#), which aims to improve outcomes for 20 million adolescents and children in 34 countries. Researchers from Oxford university work alongside international partners, including UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO, African governments, donors (e.g. Global Fund and PEPFAR), nongovernmental organizations and young people themselves to identify and test service combinations that stretch across HIV and health, education, social, and economic sectors. As part of this work, UNDP has helped to develop an evidence note that highlights programmes, services and provisions that improve health outcomes for adolescent girls and young women in Africa—especially those living with HIV.

Contributing to progress towards the SDGs

In 2018–2019, UNDP supported 138 countries on HIV, health and development issues, including 48 million people reached through UNDP's focus on poverty eradication and resilience in crisis. UNDP is collaborating with partners in new ways across the 2030 Agenda on integrated approaches in line with the UN Development System (UNDS) reforms.

In 2018–2019, UNDP managed 32 Global Fund grants in 19 countries, as well as three regional programmes that cover an additional 24 countries. UNDP supports governments with Global Fund grants to implement large-scale programmes, make health systems more resilient, and strengthen laws and policies in order to reach those in greatest need and leave no one behind. UNDP takes a comprehensive, systematic approach to capacity development for transitioning grants to national partners, having since 2003 successfully transitioned out of 32 national and two regional grants covering 15 countries.

In 2018–2019, the number of lives saved through UNDP's partnership with the Global Fund increased from 3.1 to 4.5 million. In support of national partners, UNDP is currently providing 1.4 million people with antiretroviral treatment, and in 2018–2019 provide counselling and testing for HIV to 13 million people (including for key populations in 25 countries), reached 172 229 pregnant women with ART and successfully treated 61 628 TB cases.

UNDP provided technical assistance and policy support to Global Fund programmes in 31 countries and assisted the functioning of Country Coordinating Mechanisms in 18 countries. For example, in South Sudan, UNDP helped the government triple the number of health centres providing HIV treatment, from 26 in 2016 to 74 in 2019, and used airlifts to supply HIV commodities to centres blocked by violence conflict and poor roads. UNDP supported the HIV national response in Egypt to re-access Global Fund resources.

In contexts of accelerating structural transformation, UNDP addressed major trends of slowing economic growth, declining trust in government and persistent gender inequality. UNDP responded with concentrated efforts, increasingly enabled by emerging technologies, on governance, health, human rights and rule of law, supporting inclusive, accountable institution building.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

UNDP supported countries to promote gender equality and preventing sexual and gender-based violence. Together with UN Women and UNFPA, UNDP supported a gender-justice programme in 20 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, contributing to the repeal of laws in Jordan and Lebanon that allowed rapists to escape justice if they agreed to marry their victims. UNDP worked with networks of women living with HIV to develop a community-led report on violence against women living with HIV in 12 countries in Eastern Europe and

Central Asia, and the barriers they face in accessing services. UNDP helped 17 countries establish frameworks to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, partly due to UNDP's active engagement in "Spotlight", a global multiyear partnership between the European Union and the UN to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030.

LGBTI inclusion and key populations

Advancing inclusion of sexual and gender minorities and promoting their access to HIV and health services is a key priority for UNDP. Regional "Being LGBTI" programmes are building understanding of the issues LGBTI people face and advancing their inclusion in national development efforts. Built on South-South collaboration within and across regions, "Being LGBTI" and related programmes have been rolled out across 53 countries worldwide. For example, UNDP provided support to review and draft transgender inclusion policies in Viet Nam and anti-stigma and discrimination policies in Pakistan. UNDP's Being LGBTI in the Caribbean initiative has conducted the first-ever study on the human rights of intersex persons in the region.

UNDP's 2019 Human Development Report sharpened its focus on the most vulnerable people, hidden behind averages, including people living with HIV and LGBTI, with the aid of new Leave No One Behind project markers to track how we are reaching these groups, and a reoriented approach to social protection. UNDP supported social protection in 62 countries, including establishing HIV-sensitive programmes in 38 countries. For example, thanks in part to support from UNDP, transgender people have now been included in "Poor ID", a national initiative in Cambodia to identify poor households and determine their eligibility for various social protection programmes. Other groups now included in the initiative are people who use drugs, entertainment workers, people living with HIV and persons with disabilities. Each group's unique needs will be heard and considered by the government ministry responsible for the programme.

UNDP organized a South-South exchange for countries to share experiences on advancing human rights and social and economic inclusion for transgender people. Bringing together national and local governments and civil society organizations from 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP has supported implementation of action plans and South-South exchanges focusing on employment, social protection, health, and education.

The [Linking Policy to Programming](#) initiative seeks to improve SRH outcomes for young key populations in Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. UNDP has completed National Legal Environment Assessments reviewing laws, policies and practices pertaining to HIV to inform reform efforts to achieve enabling legal environments for effective HIV responses. National Action Plans were developed to implement the recommendations of the legal environment assessments. Key advocacy achievements with partners include

decriminalization of same-sex relations in Angola in 2019, introduction of legislation to lower the age of consent for sexual and reproductive health services in Zimbabwe, reforms in Madagascar to enable young prison inmates to access HIV and sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) services, and inclusion of key populations issues in police training curricula in Zambia, Mozambique and Madagascar.

Human rights

UNDP supported governments, civil society and UN partner in 89 countries to reform discriminatory laws and policies on HIV, TB and broader health issues. Following the legal environment assessment in Belarus, the government created a working group to propose legislative changes related to HIV criminalization. The government of Sudan repealed a punitive “public order law.” Assessments have also contributed to the inclusion of condoms and lubricants in the national essential medicines list in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, repeal of a law criminalizing unintentional transmission of HIV in Mozambique, and decriminalization of consensual same-sex conduct in the Seychelles.

In July 2018, the Global Commission on HIV and the Law released a Supplement to its 2012 landmark report. The Supplement highlights recent developments in HIV science, technology, law, geopolitics and funding that affect people living with HIV and coinfections and provided clear, actionable recommendations for governments, civil society and other partners. The Supplement noted that while digital health technologies have the potential to support HIV responses, there are serious risks of misuse. UNDP is working with the Secretariat and Cosponsors to promote rights-based approaches to the use of digital technologies and data for HIV and health. In 2020, UNDP will lead the development of inter-agency guidance on digital innovations and HIV-related programming including a framework for protecting the rights of people living with HIV and key populations in digital spaces.

UNDP, in collaboration with the Secretariat and other Cosponsors, provided policy and programme support for the implementation of the Global Fund strategy objective on removing human rights barriers, including the Breaking Down Barriers initiative. UNDP supported country-led assessments of laws and policies related to HIV and TB (Angola, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Senegal and Seychelles through the Africa regional grant on Removing Legal Barriers), audits, national dialogues, research, on-going monitoring, and policy papers and guidance notes for rights based HIV and TB programmes.

UNDP, UN Women, the Secretariat, and GNP+ co-convene the Global Partnership for Action to eliminate all forms of HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination. Of 30 countries invited to express interest in the Partnership, 20 are now developing action plans to undertake activities to address stigma and discrimination in their three chosen priority settings such as the justice system, health-care settings, and emergency and humanitarian settings.

UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS, Georgetown University, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union launched the [Universal Health Coverage Legal Solutions Network](#) to help governments, parliaments, and other stakeholders to craft and carry out laws to provide universal health coverage (UHC).

Investments and efficiencies

UNDP works with countries to develop investment cases, detailed analyses of how government investment in health can save money and lives. UNDP policy and technical support to 10 countries in eastern Europe and central Asia increased and optimized HIV investment, supporting Montenegro's decision to earmark domestic funds to NGO-provided HIV-related services and Serbia's development of minimum HIV services packages for key populations.

UNDP supported inclusive, accountable and responsive national and local institutions. Efforts to combat corruption helped ensure that resources were efficiently managed and available for the public good. In 2019, UNDP, the Global Fund and WHO launched the Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability Alliance for Health to address the US\$ 455 billion global losses annually from health-care fraud and abuse.

Case study: Empowering adolescent girls, young women and female sex workers for improved SRH and prevention of HIV and sexual and gender-based violence in Angola

In Angola, girls aged 15-19 years are three times as likely to become infected with HIV as boys the same age. UNDP, the Global Fund and partners, including *Obra da Divina Providência*, Management Sciences for Health and MWENHO, train young activists to serve as peer educators on sexual and reproductive health. Groups for teen girls and young women, called "bancadas femininas," host discussions and social activities, and use theatre, music and other creative methods. Peer educators have reached over 33 000 young women with HIV prevention services.

Gender-based violence and discrimination against female sex workers is also fuelling new HIV infections. Under the Global Fund grant, UNDP partners with civil society organizations to provide psychosocial and clinical support to victims of gender-based violence, with a focus on female sex workers. This includes empowerment group meetings led by peer educators, during which participants are also provided with condoms and lubricants. The programme provided a package of prevention services to 4724 female sex workers with a package of prevention services, with 85% tested for HIV, resulting in a positivity rate of 5.1%. Of those who tested positive, 71% started ART.

The groups have also contributed input into the national strategy for key populations. Complementary to this process, with the Luanda municipality, UNDP has helped to sensitize police departments through gender-based violence workshops.

Knowledge products

	<p>HIV and the Law: Risks, Rights & Health—2018 Supplement. This Supplement highlights developments since 2012 in science, technology, law, geopolitics and funding that affect people living with or at risk of HIV and its coinfections</p>
	<p>What Does It Mean To Leave No-One Behind: A UNDP discussion paper and framework for implementation? This paper advances a framework that governments and stakeholders can use to act on their pledge to leave no-one behind and has informed the UN Sustainable Development Group's guidance on leaving no one behind.</p>
	<p>The ayKP Toolkit is the result of a collaboration between UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, and the UNAIDS Secretariat), adolescents and young people from key populations, and other partners to help plan and scale up HIV prevention programmes with adolescents and young people from key populations.</p>
	<p>The Sustainable Development Goals: Sexual and Gender Minorities. This discussion paper highlights promising policy and programme approaches to protect the human rights of sexual and gender minorities and strengthen their inclusion in sustainable development.</p>
	<p>International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy A reference tool for those working to ensure human rights compliance while taking into account their concurrent obligations under the international drug control conventions.</p>
	<p>Inter-sectoral co-financing: Financing across sectors for universal health coverage in sub-Saharan Africa describes lessons learnt from the piloting of an innovative approach developed by UNDP and STRIVE to support efficient resource allocation for integrated planning and budgeting for UHC and the SDGs.</p>
	<p>Universal Health Coverage for Sustainable Development This issue brief outlines UNDP's contributions toward supporting countries to remove barriers to health and improve the affordability, accessibility and quality of health care and systems.</p>
<p>LGBTI Inclusion Index Methodology</p>	<p>Framework using 51 indicators to assess LGBTI people's experiences of stigma and discrimination in areas of life ranging from political participation to personal security, with the aim of providing a strong evidence base to advocate for greater inclusion.</p>

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