

# UNAIDS and the Global Fund

A life-changing partnership



Over the past three decades, historic progress has transformed HIV from a deadly disease to a chronic condition. Critical milestones have been reached towards universal access: more than 17 million people globally are receiving HIV treatment, and the world is on track to eliminate mother to child transmission of HIV.

Still, more than 2 million people are newly infected with HIV annually. Last year alone 1.1 million people needlessly lost their lives and HIV remains one of the leading causes of death among children under five years old, adolescents and women of reproductive age. Since the beginning of the epidemic, more than 70 million people have died due to AIDS. Despite the extraordinary progress, HIV remains a serious challenge for global health and development goals.

## UNAIDS: With the Global Fund from the beginning

UNAIDS leads and unites the world to end AIDS by bringing together and stewarding the efforts of the UN system, governments, the private sector and civil society.

UNAIDS has led the way in conceptualizing the roadmap for ending the AIDS epidemic. UNAIDS convenes diverse partners and stakeholders at global, regional and national levels; collects and reports the best strategic public health information in the world; and ensures that the UN system's response to AIDS is optimally coherent, coordinated and unified. UNAIDS plays a particularly valuable role in engaging civil society, key populations and the private sector.

UNAIDS was a pivotal advocate for the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, working closely with

the UN Secretary-General in calling for a fund to fight AIDS.

For the Global Fund, UNAIDS is an important interlocutor with governments in addressing HIV and AIDS. UNAIDS opens political doors, promoting inclusive, participatory responses that synergize the contributions of diverse sectors.

UNAIDS leverages its relationships and partnerships to assist countries in securing Global Fund resources, implementing grant programmes and overcoming bottlenecks.

Working together, UNAIDS and the Global Fund have made global health history. The Global Fund helps ensure that the policies and directions charted by UNAIDS are fully resourced, while UNAIDS optimizes the impact of Global Fund grants.

## **UNAIDS has assisted more than 100 countries in mobilizing and effectively using US\$ 16 billion disbursed by the Global Fund for HIV since 2002**

Capitalizing on its unique international legitimacy and expertise, UNAIDS serves as a key bridge between countries and the Global Fund, helping countries access Global Fund grants and translate these resources into national responses that achieve concrete results.

UNAIDS guides and supports countries in developing inclusive and technically sound national strategic AIDS plans and investment cases, which underpin funding decisions by the Global Fund. UNAIDS accompanies and advises countries before, during and after the grant negotiation process.

UNAIDS technical support enhances the capacities of national stakeholders to implement Global Fund grants, identifying and addressing key implementation bottlenecks and closing important gaps in the national response. UNAIDS support ensures that funds support the right interventions, focused on the right locations and populations, and at sufficient scale to achieve the desired health impact through strengthened health systems.

In terms of both dollars and assignments, UNAIDS delivers a major share of the technical support to the AIDS response and Global

Fund processes at country level. UNAIDS technical assistance is provided directly and through three regional facilities which deliver highly responsive and extremely cost-effective, short-term technical assistance. Technical assistance is generally undertaken within 30 days of requests, and costs are a magnitude lower than most bilateral providers.

To help countries make the most of their Global Fund grants, UNAIDS provides a broad range of support, including state-of-the-art epidemic modelling, aid with the design of HIV prevention and treatment programmes, gender and human rights assessments, negotiating lower prices for diagnostics and drugs, and capacity-building for monitoring and evaluation. UNAIDS' work helps ensure that the billions of dollars channelled through the Global Fund achieve their ultimate aims: averting new infections, saving lives, improving health and life outcomes for the next generation, and buttressing national economies.

## UNAIDS strategic information is the global reference

National responses are only as sound as the data on which they are based. UNAIDS, the recognized global reference for HIV epidemic and response information, ensures that national responses are informed by the very best strategic information. UNAIDS designed the global metrics by which the world—and individual countries—measure the state of the epidemic and assess progress in the response.

Modelling by UNAIDS has set the agenda for ending the epidemic by 2030. Protocols, methodologies and technical assistance by UNAIDS enable countries to develop, monitor and adapt national responses based on disease trends, HIV incidence and prevalence, AIDS-related morbidity and mortality, disaggregated service coverage and cost-effectiveness analyses.

With support, training and tools from UNAIDS, countries report behavioural and biological data annually, and key programme data every six months. These data are used within grant cycles to identify gaps in HIV responses and opportunities for the re-programming of Global Fund resources. The result is real-time optimization of programme performance and greater return on investment.

The Global Fund also relies on strategic information generated by UNAIDS to estimate the impact of its programmes, develop strategies to optimize cost efficiencies, identify opportunities for reprogramming, and inform future funding priorities.

## UNAIDS helps countries make Global Fund investments work

Support to countries in leveraging Global Fund investments is a mainstay of UNAIDS country office work. More than 50% of UNAIDS field staff time is devoted to the Global Fund and its grant programmes. UNAIDS is a key partner on the ground, with six regional offices and a presence in more than 80 countries.

UNAIDS relies on voluntary contributions from government, multilateral institutions, foundations, the private sector and individuals.

**Support for UNAIDS help the Global Fund money work.**

<https://donations.unaids.org/>

## UNAIDS presence

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**6**



Regional Support Teams

**80**



countries with UNAIDS presence

**500+**



staff in the field

## Technical Support 2014–2015

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**50**



countries reviewed, realigned or developed robust national strategies and plans.

**45**



countries supported  
with TS

**110**



technical support  
assignments

**50**



countries supported to  
develop investment cases

**88**



HIV and HIV/TB concept  
notes developed

# UNAIDS field presence and illustrative examples of support

♦ UNAIDS presence region

◆ UNAIDS presence country

## Middle East and North Africa

UNAIDS is closely involved in the Middle East response, targeting countries affected by conflict, disasters and economic crises to increase the impact of their health investments.

UNAIDS helped develop a regional initiative supported by the Global Fund to address the priority needs of key populations through human rights - based approaches and community involvement.

With UNAIDS technical support, the Global Fund developed the Middle East Response (MER) initiative, an innovative approach that will provide essential HIV, TB and malaria services to eligible populations in Syria, and Yemen, and the Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

UNAIDS supported the regional network of sex workers in Latin America to reduce the vulnerability of sex workers to HIV through a multi - country Global Fund grant. Support involved a detailed stigma and discrimination assessment in each country, which led to legislative protections for sex workers in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru and Nicaragua.

UNAIDS supported a positive legal environment for transgender people, including comprehensive health care, in Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

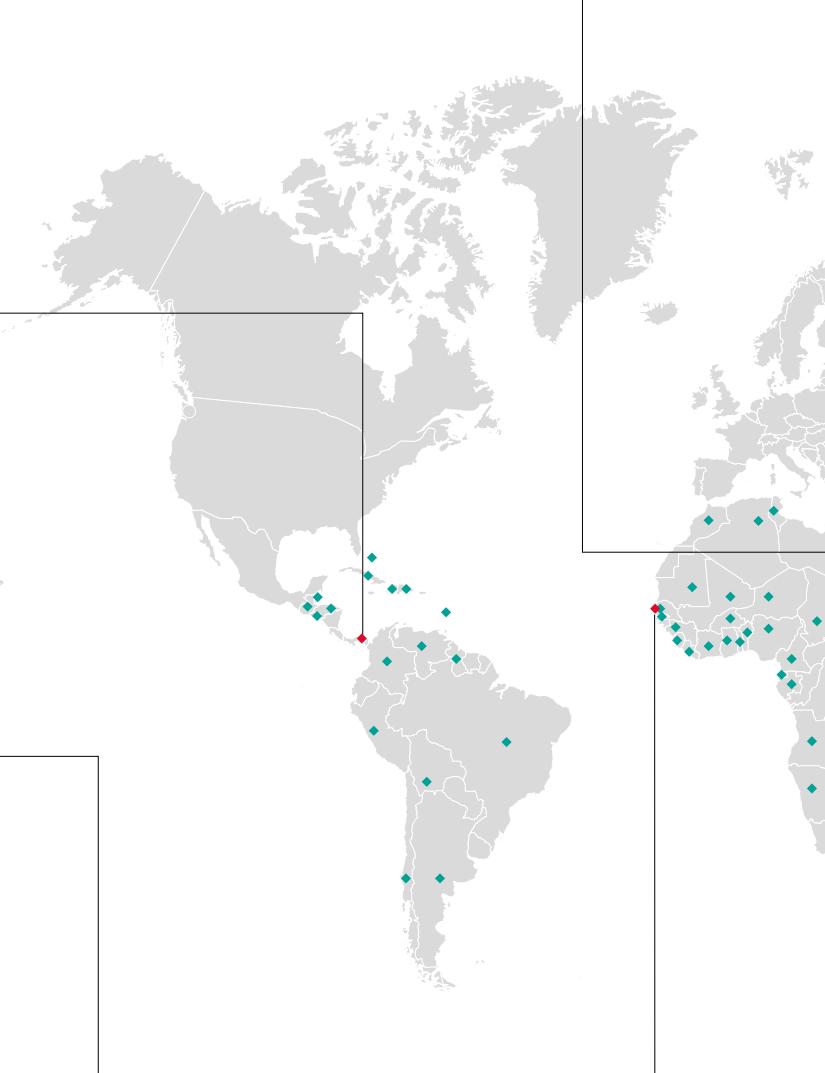
UNAIDS supported a regional network of women living with HIV to address violence against women, discrimination against women living with HIV, gender inequality and barriers to accessing HIV services in 11 countries through a Global Fund grant. This grant is unique in responding to difficult issues facing women and its focus on promoting an integrated response to HIV and violence against women.

## Western and central Africa

UNAIDS has invested heavily to support and Fast-Track the AIDS response in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria, the two biggest epidemics in West and Central Africa. With more than US\$ 840 million mobilised through Global Fund resources for HIV and TB, UNAIDS is deeply engaged in efforts to strengthen data and management to ensure resources invested yield a high impact.

UNAIDS supported Guinea to review the country's National HIV Care & Treatment Plan and to develop an operational plan for scaling up provision of antiretroviral therapy. A revised plan for 2015-2017 was developed and validated by national stakeholders, and it is currently being implemented.

Complementing the Global Fund, UNAIDS has launched a new initiative to close the paediatric treatment gap. UNAIDS worked hand-in-hand with national leadership in Côte d'Ivoire to promote this critical action.





### **Eastern Europe and central Asia**

UNAIDS supported a joint assessment of the national HIV response in Moldova, which informed a well prioritized, successful application to the Global Fund, changing the life of key populations in Moldova.

UNAIDS supported Ukraine in technical negotiations to optimize service packages and service delivery leading to standardized prevention packages for key populations and significant efficiency gains. Optimizing models of care has contributed towards sustainability of services in Ukraine during times of economic stress.

### **Asia and the Pacific**

UNAIDS has supported a number of civil society partners in the Asia Pacific region to develop a domestic HIV financing plan to sustain the work of key populations and civil society in countries transitioning from Global Fund resources.

UNAIDS supported development of Thailand's investment case with strategic use of antiretroviral medicines as part of combination prevention, community-based service delivery and inclusion of HIV services within Universal Health Coverage. As Thailand prepares for transition from Global Fund support, UNAIDS continues its assistance to sustain domestically funded integrated disease responses that effectively engage and support key populations and fragile communities.

### **Eastern and southern Africa**

In Kenya, UNAIDS provided extensive support to governance and oversight of the Country Coordinating Mechanism to ensure successful implementation of the Global Fund grant.

UNAIDS supported South Africa to develop an investment analysis of programmes, policies and targets, building the case for ending the HIV and TB epidemics. This case served as the basis for South Africa's proposal to the Global Fund.

UNAIDS provided leadership and support to Malawi, contributing to the repositioning and reform of the country's HIV response. This included the revision of the national strategic plan and the development of a new prevention strategy, which were used to inform the development of the Global Fund concept note. Renewed confidence in accountable and efficient use of funds has followed reforms. Today Malawi, the poorest country in the region, is well on track to tackle its epidemic and has one of the biggest per capita Global Fund grants in the world at US\$ 616 million.



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