

# Ending HIV for Every Child, Every Adolescent

An investment opportunity for private and public donors

unicef   
for every child

## The opportunity

Progress on HIV prevention, treatment and care is one of the world's greatest public health accomplishments. Millions of lives have been saved and improved due to the work of governments, UNICEF, and partners, supported by donors like you. In the last 20 years, 1.5 million deaths have been averted among children. We are now in a position where an AIDS-free generation is possible, and we hope you can join us to achieve this goal.

## HIV and UNICEF: Five key messages

1. Every day, almost 300 children and adolescents die from AIDS-related causes, but an AIDS-free generation is possible.
2. There is an unacceptable gap in access to treatment between children and adults: only 57 per cent of children living with HIV are receiving treatment, compared to 77 per cent of adults.
3. UNICEF is committed to ending AIDS by 2030, in line with global targets, and to improving the health and well-being of children, adolescents and pregnant women.
4. Your support can help UNICEF unlock the potential of existing investment in HIV prevention, treatment and care.
5. UNICEF is 100 per cent voluntarily funded, and is seeking your support to deliver ambitious HIV results.

## The challenges

While progress has been made in the HIV response, current data show that progress is stalling, even backsliding, and children and adolescents fare worse than adults in many respects. Only 57 per cent of children living with HIV are receiving ART compared to 77 per cent of all adults living with HIV.

As a global organization with decades of experience of addressing HIV, UNICEF and our experts around the world have the in-depth knowledge to make lasting and effective change. To address the urgent needs of children and adolescents related to HIV and AIDS, we have identified three specific challenges that must be addressed.

- Vertical transmission of HIV continues
- The unacceptable treatment gap for children and adolescents living with HIV
- Adolescent girls and young women remain particularly at risk of HIV



Baurzhan is living with HIV. He leads a peer-driven support group to empower other young people living with HIV. His friend Ayaulym (also pictured) disclosed her positive HIV-status publicly thanks to the support she received from Baurzhan, in Kazakhstan.

## UNICEF's sustainable response

Reaching children, adolescents and pregnant women living with and at-risk of HIV requires urgent action. UNICEF is working with partners at all levels, from governments and global partners to grassroots organizations around the world to end AIDS by 2030. The work focuses on three key priorities:

### 1. Eliminating vertical transmission of HIV:

#### Reaching every pregnant woman living with HIV

We strengthen community systems and work with community health workers – including mentor mothers living with HIV – to support pregnant women and their families. Our expertise and data allow us to focus on the hardest to reach, prevent vertical transmission of HIV and support and care for mothers and their infants in their communities to ensure they stay on treatment.

### 2. Closing the unacceptable treatment gap for children and adolescents living with HIV

We scale up tailored, innovative service packages that meet the unique needs of children and adolescents, as well as their caregivers. This includes rapid testing at point of care which enabling timely diagnosis, facilitating earlier treatment initiation, and saving young lives.

### 3. Addressing the specific HIV-related needs of adolescent girls and young women

We address the underlying, multifaceted factors contributing to adolescent girls and young women's risk and vulnerability to HIV. We work to strengthen and scale up evidence-based multisectoral packages combining biomedical, behavioural and structural approaches to improve sexual reproductive health and well-being among adolescent girls and young women and reduce new HIV infections

## Results

Over the past two decades, UNICEF has made a significant contribution to the global effort to halt the spread of HIV and treat those living with HIV: 3.4 million new infections among children have been averted since 2010. Notably, UNICEF has been providing leadership to dramatically reduce HIV transmission from pregnant women to their babies: between 2010 and 2022, the average rate of vertical transmission of HIV dropped from 24 per cent to 11 per cent, and 17 countries and territories achieved complete elimination of such transmission. While many of these countries have a low prevalence of HIV, their success in eliminating vertical transmission speaks to their efforts to provide integrated health services for all pregnant women.

UNICEF's work on HIV directly supports efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 3.3: *End the epidemic of HIV... by 2030*. UNICEF closely monitors progress on HIV in countries around the world and reports on progress towards the targets in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026, and the SDG targets.

## Why partner with UNICEF

As donors, you deliberately use your resources in the way that creates the best results. At UNICEF, we do the same. With over 75 years' experience, we know how resources can achieve the greatest impact for children. This impact rests on five key comparative advantages, all made possible by donor support: expert staff; leading and pioneering; taking work to scale; meeting children's needs throughout childhood and adolescence; and being there for them before, during and after emergencies.

Jessica (11), Aliyah (11), and Mickayla (12), pictured from left to right, attending the opening ceremony of the St. Thomas Teen Hub, an integrated health and social services centre in Jamaica.





## How you can invest with UNICEF

UNICEF is 100 per cent voluntarily funded. We offer partnership opportunities to meet your mission or passion and achieve our shared ambition for children.

### Option 1 – Invest in Core Resources for Results

If you believe in the compelling mission ‘for every child’, this option may be for you. The unique challenges related to HIV may be of strong interest, but you also recognize that it takes support across all areas of a child’s life to ensure their wellbeing. Core Resources for Results, known within UNICEF as “RR”, is flexible funding and is our most prized resource because it enables three things: predictability for our staff, the maximum flexibility to decide how best to spend funds, and efficiency by maximizing the funds that can go straight to children.

### Option 2 – Invest in a thematic fund for HIV

If you or your institution are dedicated to HIV, then you may want to consider UNICEF’s HIV Thematic Funds. Thematic funds create sustainable, collective impact by strengthening the systems on which children and their communities rely every day. You can designate your contribution to achieving aims globally or in a specific country. A report shared with you each year will highlight a collection of key achievements in our work to combat HIV, learnings, and stories of children’s experiences.

### Option 3 – Invest in specific HIV-related priorities

UNICEF has a long history of developing strategic partnerships to meet partners’ priorities and philanthropic goals. These bespoke partnerships – many that support multiple countries – see donors build lasting relationships with our experts and country offices to develop powerful initiatives that endure and can be scaled up to address HIV-related priorities in the long term.

Here are some indicative ways in which UNICEF’s work to combat HIV can achieve results for children and women.

### US\$12 million

will help close the treatment gap in children and adolescents living with HIV in 12 priority countries. This investment will support finding children and adolescents, linking them to testing, treatment and care, and support a 25 per cent increase in coverage of lifesaving antiretroviral treatment.

### US\$10 million

will support adolescents living with HIV in 3 countries in Southern Africa with the highest HIV prevalence rates globally to have access to treatment and care support, and support for mental health, services to prevent gender-based violence and support programmes.

### US\$1 million

will ensure that thousands of pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV receive and are retained in HIV treatment.

### US\$500,000

will build the capacity of community health workers and other health staff in gender-responsive HIV services in a high-burden country.



Sabi Kere, a 20 year-old pregnant woman receives ART to prevent transmission of HIV to her baby in Burkina Faso.