

# Progress on HIV for children, adolescents and pregnant women

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- 1 Remarkable gains at scale
- 2 Challenges persist for children, adolescents and pregnant women
- 3 Global landscape and opportunities to meet targets
- 4 UNICEF commitment and unique contributions
- 5 Decision points

Afinki Ayuba, a 25-year-old mother who is pregnant, attends antenatal care classes at Ungwa Rimi Primary Healthcare Centre in Nigeria. Supported by UNICEF, the classes aim to enhance care for pregnant and breastfeeding women, including for women living with HIV.  
Photo credit: © UNICEF/UNI610481/Adesegun

# 1. Remarkable gains at scale

Since 2010

AIDS-related deaths among children were reduced by almost **70 per cent**

**2.1 million deaths** averted among children and pregnant women

Half as many adolescent girls (aged 15–19 years) **acquired HIV in 2023**

84% of pregnant women living with HIV have access to ART – **up from 48% in 2010**



**19 countries and territories have been certified for eliminating mother-to-child transmission and 2 high-burden countries are on the path to elimination**



In Uganda, Steven poses for a photo with his child while his wife, Phiona, works as a peer mother supporting other mothers living with HIV. UNICEF and partners support training for primary healthcare and community health workers so they can reach the undiagnosed children of people living with HIV.  
Photo credit: © UNICEF/UN0656122/Schermbrucker

## 2. Challenges persist for children, adolescents and pregnant women



In sub-Saharan Africa,

**9 in 10**

new infections among  
15-19-year-olds are girls.

**Over 40%**

of children and adolescents living  
with HIV **are not on treatment**

Almost half of pregnant women living with HIV in West and Central Africa  
and 1 in 3 of their peers in East Asia and the Pacific and Latin America are

**not receiving ARVs**

Last year,

**250 children died**

from AIDS-related causes each day

Adolescent girls face a

**triple threat**

of early pregnancy, HIV, and  
gender-based violence

Ouk Channy receives a monthly cash transfer through  
a UNICEF-supported social assistance package in Cambodia.  
She is living with HIV and looks after her six grandchildren.  
Photo credit: © UNICEF/UNI698639/Wall

### 3. Global landscape and opportunities to meet targets



Declining resources, reduced attention and competing priorities divert capacity and focus and put our ability to meet targets in jeopardy



Shifts in global health architecture require increased domestic investment and accelerated integration



UNICEF vision to end AIDS among children aligns with the strategy for UNICEF Contributions to Africa's Development Agendas, and other corporate priorities such as the Adolescent Girls' Agenda and Community Health Workers



To meet our commitments, we must fully leverage capacities across sectors and platforms — facilities, schools, and communities



Volodymyr, Veronika and Kateryna in Ukraine, joined UNICEF's UPSHIFT programme and organized a series of workshops for students with the Center for HIV Prevention and AIDS Control. The programme includes a mobile unit that offers free and anonymous rapid testing for HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis.

Photo credit: © UNICEF/UNI651983

A circular photograph of a woman with a blue headwrap and a white tank top, smiling and holding a baby in her arms. The baby is wearing blue and white striped pants. The background is a textured, reddish-brown wall.

## 4. UNICEF commitment and unique contributions

There's much at stake for children, adolescents and pregnant women, and UNICEF has a critical role to play

- **Focus**

on three critical results that will end AIDS: triple elimination, close the treatment gap and prevent new HIV infections among adolescents, especially girls.

- **Scale**

evidence-based interventions and new technologies, such as twice-yearly injections to prevent HIV among adolescent girls; leverage the learning for broader gains towards the 2030 agenda.

- **Equity and Impact**

use disaggregated data to drive and sustain results, including to reach the most vulnerable.

- **Safeguard**

investments of the last decades, advocate for domestic ownership and financing, and continued support from global partners so that progress is sustained.

Assetou Thiombiana, aged 20 years, lives in Côte d'Ivoire with her three-month-old baby, Sadiatou. Through access to services, including HIV testing, Assetou is ensuring her child not only survives but thrives.

Photo credit: © UNICEF/UNI516039/Dejongh

# 5. Decision points

Recommendations and decision points from the UNAIDS PCB meetings include:



## 53rd PCB

- Updates on the HIV epidemic in humanitarian settings
- Ensure the Joint Programme remains sustainable, resilient and fit-for-purpose



## 54th PCB

- Accelerate actions to enhance HIV testing, strengthen prevention and treatment programmes and engage community and civil society organisations

I AM A HEALTH &



**WELLNESS MESSENGER**

Suraparavap Jeeva, R Pravalika and Reeseu Geetha, all 15 years old, pose for a photo at a school in India after performing a skit on HIV. The skit is part of a school health and wellness programme that supports access to essential health services.

Photo credit: © UNICEF/UNI669979/Muthuramalingam

# Thank you.

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[www.childrenandaids.org](http://www.childrenandaids.org)

Cover photo caption: Joanita, 4 years old, takes her paediatric HIV medicine in Uganda.  
Photo credit: © UNICEF/UNI211839/Schermbrucker



Leonie, age 15 years, at the Morant Bay Teen Hub in Jamaica. The Teen Hubs provide essential resources for holistic adolescent and youth development, including health screening, counselling services, career guidance and sexual and reproductive health services and HIV testing. Photo credit: © UNICEF/2024/Gayle