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TARGETS UPDATE

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UNAIDS
HIV and COVID-19 – Drawing Lessons from Dual Pandemics,

Eamonn Murphy, Deputy Executive Director Programme Brunch UNAIDS
Inequalities holding back progress

• Primary reason why the 2020 targets were missed were the stark and persistent inequalities.

• The bold new inequalities approach of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2025 reflected in the Political Declaration of 2021 aims to shift focus to people and communities left behind

• The strategy sets out to close the gap for HIV prevention, testing, treatment and support and eliminate HIV related stigma and discrimination.

• Inequalities drive the colliding pandemics of HIV and COVID-19 - - Ending both requires ending inequalities.
Epidemiologic targets

Decline in number of new HIV infections has stagnated. We will miss the 2025 target unless treatment coverage is accelerated and effective prevention efforts re-invigorated and barriers to inclusion are removed.

2021 new HIV infections
1,500,000 [1,100,000–2,000,000]

2021 AIDS-related deaths
650,000 [510,000–860,000]
Disparities in progress toward the treatment cascade persist

- In 2021, we see good progress in women towards the 95-95-95 targets.
- However, men still lag far behind.
- Children however have not seen the gains of adults, with only 41% population level viral suppression, versus 70% among adults.

Source: UNAIDS special analysis, 2021

Source: UNAIDS special analysis, 2022
Variation and progress towards 95-95-95 targets across regions

- No region has achieved the 95-95-95 targets or the 90-90-90 targets.
- The indicator with the largest variation is knowledge of status:
  - 63% in EECA and 91% in WCENA
Scale up in treatment has slowed in eastern southern Africa and increased in western and central Africa

- As countries in Eastern and Southern Africa get to higher levels of coverage the increase in the number of people receiving treatment has slowed
- Western central Africa however had rapid increase in numbers on ART, even during COVID-19 pandemic
- Both regions are estimated to have 78% ART coverage (among all ages)
Inequalities in subnational antiretroviral therapy coverage, selected high HIV prevalence countries, 2021


Countries with lowest coverage have largest inequities
**Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa have made considerable progress in achieving viral suppression among people living with HIV**

The overall target of the 2020 90-90-90 target was to have achieve 73% population level viral suppression.

Countries with >=73% viral suppression among people living with HIV in 2021, among total population:

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<th>Asia and the Pacific</th>
<th>Caribbean</th>
<th>Eastern and southern Africa</th>
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Not in report but available at AIDSinfo.unaids.org
Some countries show lower viral suppression among poorest households

- While not consistent across all countries, this disparity is stark in some countries
- What is it about the countries that have no disparities by wealth
  - What can we learn?


Note: Data for quintile 5 in Cote d’Ivoire is based on 32 individuals.
Colliding pandemics
HIV and COVID-19
AIDS IS NOT OVER…neither is COVID-19

• What is at stake is bigger than AIDS and COVID-19.

• Many actions needed to end AIDS are also urgent to end COVID-19 and be prepared for future pandemics.

• Yet pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response efforts too often overlook critical elements and lessons of the Global AIDS response.

• Today we remain unprepared to end AIDS, COVID-19 and for future outbreaks.

• The key elements of the response need to be fully funded, prioritized and integrated.
What are the critical elements from the HIV response relevant for COVID—19 and future pandemics?

- Community-led and community-based infrastructure—delivering services, building trust and holding leaders accountable.
- Building human rights capacity as part of pandemic response
- Affordable and equitable access to cutting-edge health technologies
- Supporting health workers
- Data systems capable of identifying inequalities so we can act on them.
Adaptations in HIV services during COVID-19

Turning a crisis into an opportunity:

- **Multi-month Dispensing** (ART, PrEP, OST, etc)
- **Differentiated** service delivery
- Innovations and **agile** service delivery: virtual platforms, self testing, community-led systems, etc.

Lessons from HIV and COVID-19 for future pandemics

• Full implementation of available guidelines and implementation tools is key
• Communities’ innovations are powerful and can bring resilience
• Availability and use of near-real time surveillance data can catalyze programme gap analysis and inform programmes
• Use of information technology including virtual platforms are essential for outreach and demand creation to provide and maintain services
• Rapid mobilization of financial resources, enables faster and sustained response
• Conducting research in parallel avoids delay in implementation
• Ensuring equitable access to innovations and technology is essential for sustained pandemic control
• Nothing happens without collaboration