

IRELAND AND UNAIDS

A common goal of ending AIDS

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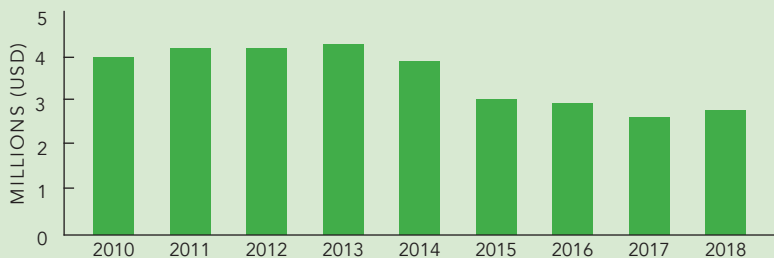
A common goal of ending AIDS

Ireland is actively involved in the planning and implementation of global HIV priorities, and it remains firmly committed to ending AIDS through its global partnerships and active civil society engagement. A valued partner of UNAIDS since 2001, Ireland has invested energy and resources to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people and communities affected by HIV.

“Only a response which eliminates inequalities based on gender, sexuality and race, raises the dignity of all people and meets the demands of social justice will be truly capable of eliminating AIDS and ensuring that those who live with HIV can live lives free of stigma, prejudice and discrimination.”

— Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

Annual core funding to UNAIDS from Ireland



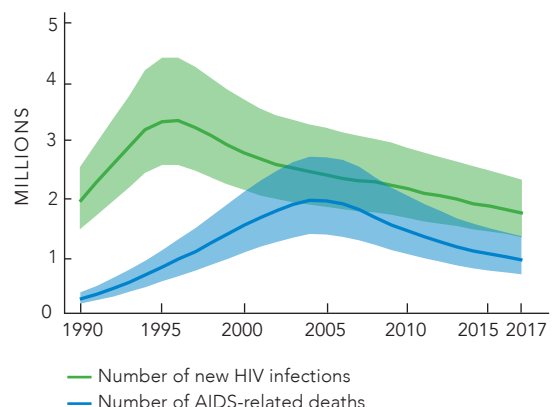
In 2018, Irish Aid contributed US\$ 2.8 million in core funding to UNAIDS. These funds have been used to support work by UNAIDS to overcome barriers to HIV service access and to support countries in achieving time-bound, measurable targets on HIV. UNAIDS greatly values Ireland’s partnership on shared priorities and its continued commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Collaborative global efforts have ensured that among the 36.9 million people living with HIV worldwide, 21.7 million now have access to life-saving treatment. Furthermore, AIDS-related deaths have been reduced by more than 51% since the peak in 2004, and new HIV infections have been reduced by 47% since the peak in 1996. Together, Ireland and UNAIDS have made an important contribution to this unprecedented response to the largest public health threat in modern history.

There is still much work to do, and the catalytic nature of Irish Aid funding will become even more important to ending AIDS and building sustainable health systems. In 2017, 15.2 million people did not have access to treatment, and 9.4 million did not even know they had the virus. Every

week, approximately 7000 young women aged 15–24 years become infected with HIV. AIDS is not over—but it can be.

New HIV infections and AIDS related deaths globally, 1990-2017



Source: UNAIDS 2018 estimates.

“Through our development programmes, Ireland supports the most marginalized in society to access key services so that they can live with dignity. Ireland is pleased to collaborate with UNAIDS to improve the plight of populations that are in most need of timely HIV services.”

— Paul Sherlock, Irish Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania



A family at their home in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania. Photo: UNAIDS/S. Lewis.

SHARED PRIORITIES: INTEGRATING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS AND HIV

With Ireland’s support, UNAIDS strengthens the synergies between sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV at the policy, programme and service levels. UNAIDS advocates for the integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services, including cervical cancer services. Globally, around 300 000 women die of cervical cancer each year. Women living with HIV are up to five times more likely to develop the disease, which is both preventable and curable. Nine out of 10 of these women live in low- and middle-income countries.

UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO) have developed a **joint advocacy brief** that presents scientific evidence on the links between HIV, human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer. UNAIDS engages with policy-makers, civil society and other partners, making the case for the urgent need to integrate HIV and cervical cancer prevention, screening and treatment services.

JOINT PROJECTS: UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

In addition to its core funding, Ireland pledged US\$ 455 000 to UNAIDS in 2018 for a project to support vulnerable populations’ access to HIV prevention, treatment and care in the United Republic of Tanzania. UNAIDS convenes government and civil society partners and provides legal literacy programmes to ensure that people living with or affected by HIV are aware of their rights.

SHARED PRIORITIES: HUMANITARIAN AND FRAGILE CONTEXTS

Ireland supports UNAIDS to address the needs of vulnerable populations in conflict and humanitarian settings. Access to HIV prevention and treatment services in these contexts are often disrupted, and social networks and protection mechanisms can break down, increasing people’s vulnerability to sexual violence and HIV.

For example, in the Central African Republic—where HIV prevalence among uniformed personnel is estimated at 7.8%, double that of the general population—UNAIDS works with the government to reduce HIV rates among uniformed services by facilitating access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment, and by providing training to prevent gender-based violence. The initiative provides training and services to the military, police, customs officials, water and forestry officers, and their families.

MAKING INVESTMENTS WORK

Ireland has contributed over US\$ 200 million to the **Global Fund** to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund). Support to countries in planning, leveraging and implementing Global Fund investments is a mainstay of UNAIDS country office work. With six regional offices and a presence in more than 75 countries, UNAIDS ensures that technical support is available and maximizes the return on Ireland’s investment, with a shared focus on resilient and sustainable health systems, human rights, women and girls, national ownership and reaching people most in need.

UNAIDS: AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENDING AIDS

As the world takes stock of progress towards the UNAIDS **Fast-Track** Targets, as agreed by United Nations Member States in the 2016 **Political Declaration on Ending AIDS**, UNAIDS is providing the strategic direction, coordination and technical support needed to meet the time-bound targets and ensure that no one is left behind.

By connecting governments with **civil society** and the private sector and making sure that people living with HIV are at the centre of decision-making processes, UNAIDS is helping to ensure that everyone in need has access to life-saving HIV prevention, treatment and care services. As part of this work, UNAIDS' collaboration with UNFPA to establish the **Global HIV Prevention Coalition** is uniting partners to reduce new HIV infections by 75% by 2020.

Through the **90–90–90** treatment targets, UNAIDS is pushing progress so that 90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of people who know their HIV-positive status are accessing treatment and 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads, keeping them healthy and preventing transmission of the virus. UNAIDS is also helping to bring the world one step closer to achieving an AIDS-free generation by keeping the world focused on eliminating new HIV infections among children and keeping their mothers alive through a Super-Fast-Track approach.

UNAIDS is working to end gender inequalities and all forms of violence and discrimination against **women and girls** by providing platforms for their participation and working with partners and governments. Furthermore, its efforts to champion and protect the rights of women, adolescents and **key populations** are ensuring that women in all their diversity, gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs, prisoners and other incarcerated people, and migrants can access the HIV services they need.

UNAIDS is also ensuring that progress towards **universal health coverage** is truly universal by

advocating for progress on equity, inclusion and social justice. Its people-centred, human rights-based approach promotes community-led service delivery and advocates for the need to address the social determinants of health, including pursuing necessary law and policy reforms and removing stigma and discrimination.

Having generated the world's most extensive **data** collection on HIV epidemiology and programme coverage, UNAIDS is the most authoritative and up-to-date source of information on the HIV epidemic—which is vital to informing and guiding an effective response to HIV. UNAIDS works with countries to determine their AIDS investment needs and advocates for increased resources from both domestic and international sources, thus ensuring funds are available and impact is maximized.

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** takes to scale what the AIDS response has been working towards for 30 years: a multisectoral, rights-based and people-centred approach that addresses the determinants of health and well-being. UNAIDS makes the link between the many intersections between the AIDS epidemic and other health, human rights and broader development issues to advance progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The only Joint Programme in the United Nations system, UNAIDS unites the experience and expertise of 11 United Nations **Cosponsors**—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. UNAIDS draws on this experience to engage actively in the United Nations reform agenda, sharing both successes and lessons learned.

UNAIDS has a vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths, and a principle of leaving no one behind. With support from our donors, UNAIDS is working to make this vision a reality.



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