

SWEDEN AND UNAIDS

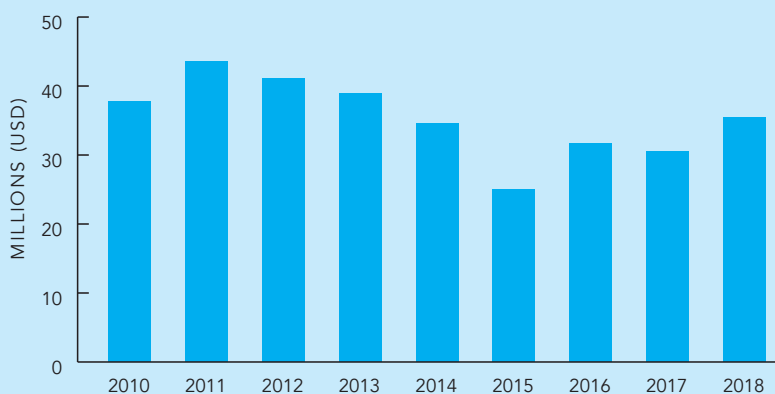
A common goal of ending AIDS

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A valued partner of UNAIDS, Sweden is firmly committed to ending AIDS, and it is actively involved in the planning and implementation of global HIV priorities. Sweden takes a prominent role in the work of UNAIDS as a member of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. In 2017, Sweden co-chaired the Global Review Panel on the Future of the UNAIDS Joint Programme Model, which has been critical in strengthening the unique UNAIDS Joint Programme.

Annual core funding to UNAIDS from Sweden



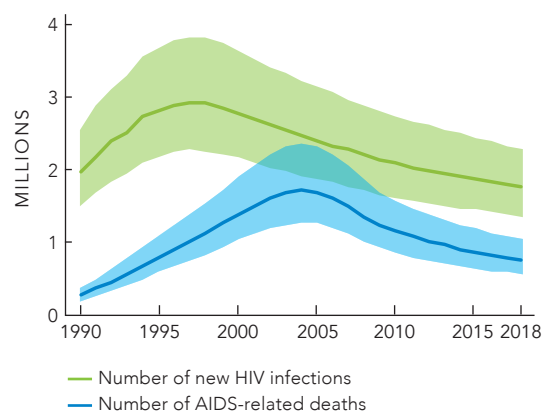
Sweden is UNAIDS' second largest donor: it contributed US\$ 35.4 million in core funding in 2018. These funds are used to support work by UNAIDS to overcome barriers to HIV service access and to support countries in achieving time-bound, measurable targets on HIV. A strong advocate for coordination in development cooperation, Sweden provides additional funding to UNAIDS through joint projects and pooled funding mechanisms. UNAIDS greatly values Sweden'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 37.9 million people living with HIV worldwide, 23.3 million now have access to antiretroviral therapy. Furthermore, deaths from AIDS-related illness have been reduced by 56% since the peak in 2004, and new HIV infections have been reduced by 40% since the peak in 1997. Together, Sweden 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 Sweden's substantial contributions and critical engagement will become even more important to ending AIDS and building sustainable health systems globally. In 2018, 14.6 million people did not have access to treatment, and 8.1 million did not even know they had the virus. Every week,

approximately 6200 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, 1990–2018



Source: UNAIDS 2019 estimates.

GENDER EQUALITY

Sweden is the first country in the world to formulate and pursue a feminist foreign policy that strives to strengthen the rights, representation and resources of all women and girls based on the realities in which they live. UNAIDS works towards ensuring that women and girls everywhere have their rights fulfilled, that they are empowered to protect themselves against HIV, and that all women and girls living with HIV have immediate access to treatment and care.

For example, UNAIDS has developed the **HIV Gender Assessment Tool**, a detailed plan to support countries to assess their HIV epidemic, context and response from a gender perspective. This multipartner process allows countries to identify gaps, develop gender-specific programmes and policies, and include key recommendations in national strategic plans, country investment cases and submissions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund). Gender assessments, which have been conducted in more than 70 countries, ensure that nationally driven and country-owned HIV responses are gender-transformative, equitable and rights-based.

JOINT PROJECTS: EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Sweden supports the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS to provide catalytic support to governments, civil society and communities in eastern and southern Africa to scale up quality integrated services for sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV, and sexual and gender-based violence, particularly for adolescent girls, young people and key populations. A frontrunner of United Nations (UN) reform—and under UNAIDS' commitment to "Deliver as One"—the UNAIDS Joint Programme combines the strengths of these four UN agencies to support governments and other partners to deliver country-level and people-centered results.



A mother and son at a community health centre near Cape Town, South Africa. Photo: UNAIDS/Dwayne Senior.

As part of the project, UNAIDS and partners support the training of health-care workers in eight focus countries to provide integrated services for sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV, and sexual and gender-based violence. UNAIDS and its partners provide technical support to inform policy and programme decision-making and facilitate cross-country study tours and webinars to amplify learning and knowledge sharing on the integration of services for sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV, and sexual and gender-based violence.

The joint project runs until 2021, and Sweden provides US\$ 44.6 million to the participating agencies, of which US\$ 9.9 million is disbursed to UNAIDS.

MAKING INVESTMENTS WORK

Sweden is a leader in supporting and financing global health work and has contributed more than US\$ 1.5 billion to 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 Sweden's investment, with a shared focus on resilient and sustainable systems for health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, key populations and human rights.

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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