

# SWITZERLAND AND UNAIDS

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A common goal of ending AIDS

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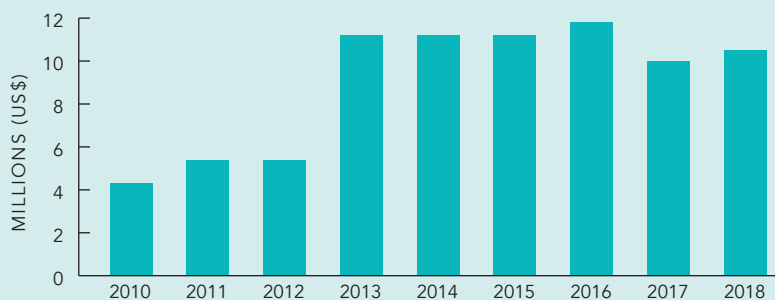
## A common goal of ending AIDS

A valued partner of UNAIDS, Switzerland remains firmly committed to ending AIDS through its global partnerships. In 2015, as vice-chair of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), Switzerland was instrumental in developing the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy. In 2016, while chair of the UNAIDS PCB, Switzerland also co-facilitated the United Nations (UN) General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS.

“Treating drug use as a public health issue has meant that Switzerland has managed to significantly reduce HIV infections among injecting drug users.”

— Valentin Zellweger, Swiss Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva

Annual core funding to UNAIDS from Switzerland



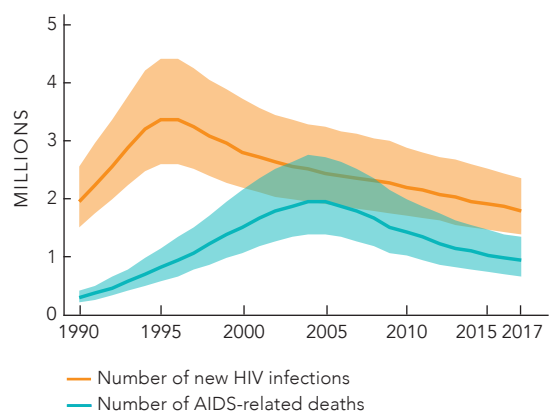
Switzerland contributed US\$ 10.5 million in core funding to UNAIDS in 2018. These funds are used to support work by UNAIDS to overcome barriers to HIV service access and to support countries in achieving time-bound, measurable targets on HIV. UNAIDS greatly values Switzerland’s partnership on shared priorities and its continued commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Among the 36.9 million people living with HIV worldwide, 21.7 million now have access to antiretroviral therapy. Furthermore, deaths from AIDS-related illness 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, Switzerland 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 Switzerland’s 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, worldwide, 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.

## JOINT PROJECTS: YOUTH-LED, DATA-DRIVEN ACCOUNTABILITY

In addition to its core contribution, Switzerland has funded UNAIDS to implement a project in collaboration with the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the **PACT**, a global coalition of more than 80 youth organizations working on HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights. This project, **ACT!2030**, focused on youth-led, data-driven accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the HIV response in 12 priority countries: Algeria, Bulgaria, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Over 600 young people were trained in advocacy, accountability, data collection and research, enabling them to collect their own data about priority policy issues related to young people's health and to use it for activities around advocacy, accountability and informing national HIV responses and voluntary national reviews for the SDGs. For example, in Kenya and the Philippines, the ACT!2030 alliance has been invited to join national health technical working groups to improve adolescent health. Evidence produced by ACT!2030 Zimbabwe informed the country's 2017 SDG Voluntary National Review, and ACT!2030 advocates were invited to participate in the country's official delegation during the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

## MAKING INVESTMENTS WORK

Through their complementary roles, UNAIDS and the **Global Fund** to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) are striving together to end the AIDS epidemic. With six regional offices and a presence in more than 75 countries, support to countries in planning, leveraging and implementing Global Fund investments is a mainstay of UNAIDS country office work. Switzerland has contributed over US\$ 180 million to the Global Fund since 2001. UNAIDS ensures that technical support is available and maximizes the return on Switzerland's investment, with a shared focus on resilient and sustainable systems for health, stronger country coordination mechanisms, improved civil society engagement, and equitable and accessible health care.



Young people at Cebu Plus, a Philippine organization that provides HIV awareness and support services for key populations, including gay men and other men who have sex with men and transgender people.

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

In alignment with Switzerland's priorities, 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, and women living with HIV are up to five times more likely to develop the disease.

UNAIDS and the World Health Organization have developed a **joint advocacy brief** that presents scientific evidence on the links between HIV, the human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer. UNAIDS supports advocacy efforts by civil society and 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.

## UNAIDS AT THE FOREFRONT OF UNITED NATIONS REFORM

In 2017, UNAIDS convened the **Global Review Panel** on the future of the UNAIDS joint programme model, focusing on how UNAIDS works. Supported by Switzerland, the Panel's work was critical to ensuring that UNAIDS is responsive to the needs of countries and effective in its support of their efforts to end their respective AIDS epidemics, and that the UNAIDS joint programme continues to be a model to the entire UN system.

## UNAIDS: AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENDING AIDS

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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.



20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

+41 22 791 3666  
unaids.org

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