UNAIDS 2021

# The World Bank

## Unified Budget Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) 2016-2021

## Organizational report 2020

# Contents

## Key strategies and approaches to integrate HIV into broader agency mandate

The World Bank provides financial and technical support to developing countries with the overarching aim of ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity. Ensuring everyone has access to essential services regardless of ability to pay is a critical part of this drive. The World Bank has placed health in the heart of its flagship Human Capital Project to drive more and better investments in people. This includes making HIV a core component of effective and equitable health systems and our broader efforts to advance sustainable development for all.

The World Bank has long recognized the threat that HIV poses to progress and development and was a founding Cosponsor of UNAIDS. Under the UNAIDS Division of Labour, the World Bank co-leads with UNDP the support for efficiency, effectiveness, innovation and sustainability of the global HIV response. This supports the effort to ensure the HIV response is fully funded and efficiently implemented, based on reliable strategic information and by leveraging technology to maximize the impact of available resources. In collaboration with WHO, the World Bank co-leads the work programme on integrating people-centred HIV and health services in the context of stronger systems for health, particularly the decentralization and integration of HIV-related services. Contribution is also made to other areas, including prevention among key populations and youth; advancing gender inequality and combatting gender-based violence; HIV-sensitive social protection; education, with a particular focus on girls; serviced in situations affected by fragility, conflict and violence.

## Contributing to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The World Bank is dedicated to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 and leveraging opportunities to realize that goal through the framework of the SDGs, including the UHC component of SDG3 and through progress on other key contributors to success such as social protection, education with a particular focus on girls, and empowering women, girls and youth.

The World Bank places a strong emphasis on sustainability, efficiency, and effectiveness in the fight against HIV, helping countries do “better for less” by using available resources wisely and redesigning their HIV and broader health programming to maximize resource allocation and service delivery and to transition to new funding approaches in the context of a rapidly shifting funding landscape. The World Bank uses innovative financing mechanisms and investment to increase the funding available for critical needs across the fight to end AIDS and achieve the SDGs.

The global commitment to provide access to quality, integrated, and people-centred health services—embodied in the commitment to UHC—offers unprecedented opportunity to expand, personalize, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all health services, including HIV services.

The World Bank's flagship global Human Capital Project is built on the understanding that investing in people through fundamentals, including health and nutrition, is the most effective way to end extreme poverty and boost prosperity for all. With over 80 countries participating, including many HIV Fast-Track countries, the Project provides a powerful rallying point for health interventions, including HIV and its integration in UHC and health system strengthening, including for pandemic preparedness and response. At the same time, the World Bank's Africa Human Capital plan supports a strong set of goals by 2023, including drastically reducing child mortality to save four million lives; increasing learning outcomes by 20%; providing social protection to 13 million more people; and reducing adolescent fertility rates by empowering women.

The Advance UHC Multi-Donor Trust Fund supported lower-middle-income countries transitioning from external financing to spending more of their national budget on health, while also sustaining progress towards UHC, including essential HIV-related services. Impacts included numerous health financing systems assessments and in-country technical assistance. A project in Indonesia, with US$ 150 million in Bank financing and additional support from the Global Fund, supported primary care reform, including key service delivery, HIV-related services and support for a social health insurance programme.

The Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents supported country-led efforts to improve outcomes in health, including HIV programming and boost domestic financing for key services. Operating in 36 countries, a major replenishment raised over US$ 1 billion in commitments to expand support to the 50 highest-burdened countries.

To strengthen coordination and maximize impact, the World Bank and the Global Fund have signed a cofinancing framework agreement to accelerate efforts by countries to end HIV, TB, and malaria and build sustainable systems for health and the first cofinancing investment—a US$ 36 million Health and Nutrition Services Access Project in Laos—was announced in November 2020.

The World Bank worked with partners to conduct over 20 allocative and implementation efficiency studies (also including service cascade and prioritization analytics), supporting key databases and knowledge sharing and capacity building. For example, a ground-breaking analytics exercise in Kenya improved HIV resource allocations to and within counties. With local partners, UNDP and the UNAIDS Secretariat, the World Bank published *Tackling the world's fastest-growing HIV epidemic: More efficient HIV responses in eastern Europe and*

*central Asia*, highlighting case studies and efficiency interventions in 11 countries to spotlight the region's growing epidemic.

Country studies on the financial sustainability of HIV interventions in the context of UHC were conducted. These included working with partners to produce Health Financing System Assessments in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and (public expenditure review); Viet Nam (assessing readiness for care integration, including HIV-related services); Colombia (using primary health care to reduce inequities); the Philippines (transitioning to UHC); Malawi (targeting specific districts to close coverage gaps); and a global paper on reimagining primary care, including HIV-related services, in rural and underserved settings.

The World Bank Group is in the midst of a major push to better leverage data and disruptive technology and digital health. For example, building on earlier success in Brazil and India, the International Finance Corporation, launched TechEmerge East Africa, attracting over 50 innovators and healthcare leaders from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda who serve more than 6.5 million patients annually. Seventeen technology companies were selected to partner with East African health-care providers to pilot their solutions in the local market.

By 2030, up to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor will live in settings marked by fragility, conflict, and violence, including many people affected by HIV. The current (19th) replenishment for the International Development Association—the Bank institution dedicated to supporting the poorest nations—includes a record US$ 25 billion for countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence, incorporating an understanding that health, including HIV-related services, must be a central part of the portfolio.

To strengthen collaboration in key areas, including humanitarian response, the UN and the World Bank, working together under a Strategic Partnership Agreement, enables the Bank to provide additional funding for implementation capacity to achieve the SDGs, including health and other objectives critical to the fight against HIV. The World Bank and UNHCR have established the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement to collect, analyse and share primary microdata, including health status.

UNHCR, the UK Department for International Development, and the World Bank established a forced displacement partnership generating evidence on what works in areas central to the HIV response such as health, education and social protection to ensure investments are targeted, prioritized and efficient. The World Bank also hosted the Fragility Forum 2020, joining with government, community and UN partners (including UNCHR, UNDP, WFP and the UNAIDS Secretariat) to use sessions to tackle key issues, including addressing HIV in emergency contexts.

The World Bank prioritizes gender equality and empowering women and girls in development through numerous initiatives—many highlighting issues of health, education, and

empowerment, which are all factors critical for the fight against HIV. Operationally, 60% of operations target gender gaps and the full incorporation of women in economies and societies, including multiple projects addressing gender equality issues, health and HIV.

Through the Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality, the World Bank-funded projects to help close the gap between knowledge and action to advance gender equality. As of 2020, the Facility portfolio included grants for 208 activities in 92 countries. Examples in 2020 included the US$ 675 million Sahel Women's Empowerment project, which has reached over 2 million girls, creating more than 3,400 safe spaces and giving a second chance to over 120 000 vulnerable and out-of-school girls, and a US$ 53-million grant for health system strengthening in the Central African Republic, which targets pregnant women, children under five, and victims of violence against women. As of December 2020, 98 032 women and adolescents had received family planning services and over 312 000 were receiving health services free of charge.

The World Bank has ramped up its efforts to more effectively address gender-based violence risks and needs in its operations. For example, a project in Nepal created a national, integrated service platform for survivors that provided 9,801 integrated services to 15 404 clients, and information and referral services to 12 578. The World Bank also collaborated with UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and others in the Sexual Violence Research Initiative to foster innovations to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through the Development Marketplace Awards.

Recognizing the critical role of education and social protection in the HIV response, both as a prevention tool and as vital support for people living with HIV, the World Bank has over 100 active social protection and labour projects, representing investments of US$ 20 billion. Examples include continued support for the Takaful and Karama cash transfer programmes in Egypt, a multiyear project involving US$ 900 million in World Bank financing. As of late 2020, it had covered more than 3.4 million direct beneficiaries, with COVID-19-related interventions expanding access to 160 000 more households. In Côte d'Ivoire, using tech innovation to expand social protection, about 762 000 beneficiaries received cash transfers and digital payments, accelerating the government's pro-poor spending.

The World Bank is the largest financier of education in the developing world, and as of September 2020, its educational portfolio totalled US$ 20.6 billion, with programmes in over 80 countries. The investments are largely concentrated across sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and help to provide adolescent girls with access to quality education at the secondary level and ensure they remain in school, by using scholarships and conditional cash transfers.

As of 2020, as part of the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project, which empowers girls and young women in nine countries with key life skills and improved access to quality health services, including integrated HIV services, more than 160 000 girls

and adolescents had received scholarships or other material support to go to school and stay there. As of November 2020, a World Bank project in Zambia had over 100 000 women with and girls beneficiaries from extremely poor households. The project covered school fees for 28 000 girls and over 75 000 women have received livelihoods packages. In Punjab in Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Sahel, Bank-supported projects provided stipends benefitting almost 500 000 girls and worked to shift social norms around girls' education.

## Contribution to the COVID-19 response

In the context of COVID-19, the World Bank Group leverages resources to help countries mitigate health and development impacts, maintain essential services, and rebuild better in ways to benefit people affected by HIV. In 2020, the World Bank worked consistently and creatively to realize strategies to end the AIDS epidemic and integrate the response into the broader development agenda, including the SDGs, and support effective responses to the twin pandemics of HIV and COVID-19.

To help countries address COVID-19, maintain essential services, including those critical to people affected by HIV, and build back better, the WBG worked on multiple fronts, including an initial US$ 6 billion, fast-track health-centred response facility later supplemented with US$ 12 billion in additional funding to support countries' access and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines—all part of a WBG commitment to make up to US$ 160 billion in financing available over a 15-month period to help countries mitigate impacts and maintain essential services. By the end of 2020, the Bank was supporting related projects in over 110 countries.

With the WHO, the World Bank co-convenes UHC 2030—a multistakeholder platform focused on strengthening health systems. In 2020, the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development co-hosted the fifth-annual UHC Financing Forum, this year exploring financing resilience in the face of COVID-19.

The Identification for Development initiative supports digital development, social protection, health, and gender to reach the estimated one billion people who lack an effective identity document, including many affected by HIV. Results in 2020 included supporting the launch of Philippines Identification System to redesign registration processes to reduce COVID-19-related public health risks and toprioritize low-income households for access to financial services.

To address the negative impacts of COVID-19 on learning, including girls' access to and completion of education, the World Bank supports 80 projects, totalling US$ 2.6 billion in 54 countries, providing targeted support to mitigate impacts, including support for remote learning at scale and systematic education reform to prepare schools to meet students' needs upon return.

COVID-19 created additional stresses on financing for HIV, health systems, and social support critical to the HIV response more broadly. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined 3.5% in 2020, and the pandemic threatens to push 150 million people into extreme poverty. The WBG mobilized a fast-track facility, including US$ 6 million to support health systems and US$8 billion in International Finance Corporation (IFC) private-sector financing to support livelihoods and the economies on which domestic spending on health and social supports, including HIV-related services rely. This was later supplemented by US$12 billion more to help countries acquire and distribute COVID-19 vaccines, which is all part of a WBG commitment to make available up to US$ 160 billion in financing to help countries mitigate impacts, maintain essential services, and rebuild better. As part of this effort, to support the poorest countries, the International Development Association (IDA) is mobilizing up to US$ 55 billion between April 2020 and June 2021 to empower countries to prepare for a resilient and inclusive recovery.

Public debt affects the ability of governments to allocate funding to meet HIV-related needs—an even more pressing concern in the context of the advent of COVID-19. The World Bank worked to help countries better understand and manage debt, and with the International Monetary Fund, implemented the revised Debt Sustainability Framework following a collaborative approach.

In response to COVID-19, the World Bank advanced debt relief and used its data resources to spotlight the fiscal impacts and to provide timely analysis and forecasting to help countries and partners better understand and intervene to protect essential services and fiscal space. For example, the June and December editions of the Bank's Global Economic Prospects report identified key impacts and trends, providing essential insights to help countries and donors make the informed investments now to support financing sustainability and preserve fiscal space going forward. A real-time COVID-19 database provided essential, granular data to help decision-makers better understand the impacts and implications for sustainable health and development financing, including HIV-related spending.

The World Bank and the IMF urged G20 countries to establish the Debt Service Suspension Initiative to help countries preserve precious resources to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of millions of the most vulnerable people. Since taking effect in May 2020, the initiative has delivered about US$5 billion in relief to over 40 countries.

**UNAIDS**
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

+41 22 791 3666

unaids.org