

## REGIONAL FACT SHEET 2012

### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

#### A decline in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths

- In 2011, there were an estimated **1.8 million** [1.6 million–2 million] new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa compared to **2.4 million** [2.2 million–2.5 million] new infections in 2001—a 25% decline.
- Between 2005 and 2011, the number of people dying from AIDS-related causes in sub-Saharan Africa declined by 32%, from **1.8 million** [1.6 million–1.9 million] to **1.2 million** [1.1 million–1.3 million].
- Since 2004, the number of tuberculosis (TB)-related deaths among people living with HIV has fallen by 28% in sub-Saharan Africa.

#### Progress in preventing new infections among children

- Between 2009 and 2011, the number of children newly infected with HIV fell in sub-Saharan Africa fell by 24%.
- In six countries of sub-Saharan Africa (Burundi, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Togo and Zambia), the number of children newly infected with HIV declined by 40%–59% between 2009 and 2011. Fourteen additional countries in the region reported declines of 20-39%.
  - However, 11 countries in the region saw more modest declines of 1–19%. In four countries (Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau), the number of new HIV infections among children increased.
- In 2011, coverage of services to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa reached **59%** [53%–66%].
  - Six countries in the region achieved PMTCT coverage of more than 75%: Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia.
  - Seven countries reported PMTCT coverage of less than 25%: Angola, Chad, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Sudan.

#### Expanded coverage of HIV testing and treatment

##### *HIV testing*

- Surveys conducted between 2004 and 2011 in 14 countries in sub-Saharan Africa found significant increases in the percentage of adults who had taken an HIV test in the previous 12 months and received their results.
  - In Lesotho, for example, an estimated 42% of adult women reported that they had been tested for HIV in 2009 compared to about 6% in 2004. In Rwanda, nearly 39% of adult women were tested for HIV in 2010 compared to about 12% in 2005.

- In Ethiopia, an estimated 21% of adult men were tested for HIV in 2011 compared to approximately 2% in 2005. Approximately 23% of adult men in Kenya were tested for HIV between 2008-9 compared to about 8% of men in 2003.
- Among countries surveyed, HIV testing rates tended to be higher among women than men; this may be due, in part, to increased availability of HIV testing in antenatal settings.
- Increases in HIV testing coverage can be linked to the scale up of antiretroviral therapy programmes and investment in a broad array of HIV testing strategies, such as provider-initiated testing and counselling, rapid testing technologies and home-based testing campaigns.

#### *HIV treatment*

- In 2011, an estimated 56% of people eligible for HIV treatment in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving it—compared to a global average of 54%.
  - Five countries in the region have achieved more than 80% coverage of HIV treatment: Botswana, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland and Zambia.
  - Benin, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe achieved more than 60% coverage of HIV treatment.
  - Coverage of antiretroviral therapy in three countries in the region—Madagascar, Somalia and South Sudan—is less than 20%.
- Wider access to treatment is saving lives: Since 1995, antiretroviral therapy has added approximately 9 million life-years in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Available evidence continues to highlight the urgent need to improve retention rates for people enrolled in HIV treatment and care.

#### **Progress in taking AIDS out of isolation**

- As the reach of AIDS programmes expand, so too have opportunities to integrate HIV into broader health efforts. Regional examples include:
  - In 21 priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa, services to prevent new HIV infections among children have been integrated into maternal and child health care.
  - In 2012, South Africa launched an integrated five-year strategy addressing HIV, TB and sexually transmitted infections.
  - In Malawi, the number of facilities providing integrated HIV and sexual and reproductive health services rose from zero to 15 in 2012.

#### **Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most heavily affected region in the global HIV epidemic**

- In 2011, an estimated **23.5 million** [22.1–24.8 million] people living with HIV resided in sub-Saharan Africa, representing 69% of the global HIV burden.
- In 2011, 92% of pregnant women living with HIV resided in sub-Saharan Africa.
- More than 90% of children who acquired HIV in 2011 live in sub-Saharan Africa.

- Women in sub-Saharan Africa remain disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic, accounting for 58% of all people living with HIV in the region in 2011.

### **In many countries, stigma and discrimination continue to impede effective HIV responses**

- According to data collected through the People Living with HIV Stigma Index between 2008 and 2011, more than half of people living with HIV in Zambia (52%), Rwanda (53%) and Kenya (56%) reported being verbally abused as a result of their HIV status.
- In Nigeria and Ethiopia, one in five people living with HIV (20%) reported feeling suicidal because of their HIV status.
- In Cameroon, 13% of people living with HIV reported being denied access to health services, including dental care, on the basis on their HIV status.

### **Despite an overall shortfall in domestic AIDS investments, some countries have assumed a greater role in funding their own national HIV responses**

- In 21 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, external funding sources account for more than 50% of HIV investments.
- However, some countries in the region are assuming a greater role in funding national responses to HIV. For example:
  - Botswana and South Africa cover more than 75% of their national HIV responses through domestic public sources; Namibia, Gabon and Mauritius fund more than half of their national HIV responses.
  - Kenya doubled its domestic HIV spending from 2008 to 2010; Togo doubled its domestic HIV spending from 2007 to 2010; and Rwanda doubled its domestic spending from 2006 to 2009.

### **Contact**

UNAIDS Communications | tel. +41 22 791 1697 | [communications@unaids.org](mailto:communications@unaids.org)

### **UNAIDS**

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners to maximize results for the AIDS response. Learn more at [unaids.org](http://unaids.org) and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.