



World AIDS Day is celebrated around the world on December 1st each year. It has become one of the most recognized international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories, such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.

UNAIDS took the lead on campaigning for World AIDS Day from its creation until 2004. From 2004 onwards the World AIDS Campaign's Global Steering Committee began selecting a theme for World AIDS Day in consultation with civil society, organisations and government agencies involved in the AIDS response.

Themes run for one or two years and are not just specific to World AIDS Day. Campaigning slogans such as 'Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise' have been used year-round to hold governments accountable for their HIV and AIDS related commitments.

Getting to Zero

More than 50% drop in new HIV infections across 25 countries as countries approach the 1000 day deadline to achieve global AIDS targetsA new World AIDS Day report: Results, by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), shows that unprecedented acceleration in the AIDS response is producing results for people.

Declining new HIV infections in children

The area where perhaps most progress is being made is in reducing new HIV infections in

children. Half of the global reductions in new HIV infections in the last two years have been among newborn children.

Fewer AIDS-related deaths

The report shows that antiretroviral therapy has emerged as a powerful force for saving lives. In the last 24 months the number of people accessing treatment has increased by 63% globally.

More investments

The report shows that countries are increasing investments in the AIDS response despite a difficult economic climate. The global gap in resources needed annually by 2015 is now at 30%. In 2011, US\$ 16.8 billion was available and the need for 2015 is between US\$ 22-24 billion.

In 2011, an estimated:

- 34 million [31.4 million - 35.9 million] people globally were living with HIV
- 2.5 million [2.2 million - 2.8 million] people became newly infected with HIV
- 1.7 million [1.5 million - 1.9 million] people died from AIDS-related illnesses

10 goals for 2015

- Sexual transmission of HIV reduced by half, including among young people, men who have sex with men and transmission in the context of sex work;
- Vertical transmission of HIV eliminated and AIDS-related maternal deaths reduced by half;
- All new HIV infections prevented among people who use drugs;
- Universal access to antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV who are eligible for treatment;
- TB deaths among people living with HIV reduced by half;
- All people living with HIV and households affected by HIV are addressed in all national social protection strategies and have access to essential care and support;
- Countries with punitive laws and practices around HIV transmission, sex work, drug use or homosexuality that block effective responses reduced by half;
- HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence eliminated in half of the countries that have such restrictions;

- HIV-specific needs of women and girls are addressed in at least half of all national HIV responses;
- Zero tolerance for gender-based violence.

Additional links:

- [UNAIDS](#)
- [World AIDS Campaign](#)
- [UN World AIDS Day website](#)