

Protecting women and girls:

Addressing the gender inequities that leave women and girls vulnerable to HIV and rights violations is central to UNFPA's work. The Fund also calls attention to the special risks that women and girls are faced with during the turmoil of humanitarian crisis, and quickly responds to emergencies with protective services and commodities.

Protecting the health of women and their infants is another area of utmost concern. The Fund helped formulate a four-pronged policy framework for preventing mother-to-child transmission, which begins first with preventing the infection in women of reproductive age. UNFPA has worked in partnership with the World Health Organization to establish guidelines for care, treatment and support for HIV-positive women and their children.

Building demand and meeting supply:

UNFPA is the largest procurer of condoms in the public sector. UNFPA supports projects in every region to build demand for both male and female condoms. The Fund encourages condom use through family planning clinics and mobilizes outreach workers to raise awareness in work places, barbershops and military bases. It also uses mainstream media to spread the word through soap operas, ad campaigns, celebrity spokespersons and other channels.

Within UNAIDS, the Fund takes the lead in securing the supply of male and female condoms. Working closely with national governments and a large network of partners, UNFPA collects data, forecasts needs, mobilizes and monitors donor support, procures supplies and builds capacity so that countries can increasingly manage their own logistical operations. Programming is informed by ongoing research that helps refine messages aimed at distinct



UNAIDS

Above: Poor populations are more vulnerable to HIV owing to lack of information and access to prevention, treatment and care.

audiences in different parts of the world. The Fund also seeks to dispel myths and misperceptions surrounding condom use. Through the Global Female Condom Initiative, UNFPA is scaling up efforts to distribute and market this device, which offers women protection they can more easily initiate and control.

For more details about UNFPA's HIV prevention work go to

WWW.UNFPA.ORG/HIV

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.



because everyone counts

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PREVENTION IS FOR LIFE

UNAIDS / L. Gubb





UNAIDS/C. Sattlberger

STRENGTHENING, STREAMLINING AND SCALING UP EFFORTS

Each year, more people are living with HIV than the year before. And each year, more people die of AIDS. This growing global tragedy has many faces:

- The desperation of a teenage orphan struggling to care for her younger siblings by trading sexual favours for food.
- The sorrow of a young mother who learns she is HIV-positive at a prenatal clinic.
- The anguish of an unemployed youth who fears he has acquired HIV, but has no access to counselling, testing or condoms.

In the absence of a cure, HIV prevention offers the best hope of reversing the epidemic. Prevention works. Sustained political commitment through intensive programmes in diverse settings has reduced HIV incidence. Advances in treatment are reinforcing prevention efforts by encouraging voluntary testing and reducing the stigma associated with AIDS. Nevertheless, the pandemic is outstripping efforts to contain it and is gaining ground globally.

The international community has called for universal access to prevention, treatment and care, but availability still falls far short of need: Fewer than one person in five who is at risk of HIV has access prevention services. Condoms are in short supply in many of the countries hardest hit by the epidemic. Only one in ten people living with HIV has been tested for the virus. Because of cultural sensitivities, the rights of young people to information and protection are often ignored. Gender inequities, as well as biological susceptibility, leave women increasingly vulnerable.

BUILDING ON CORE STRENGTHS

As one of ten co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, works to intensify and scale up HIV prevention efforts by using rights-based and evidence-informed strategies and by seeking to expose the



The World Bank/Masaro Goto

Right: A woman dying of AIDS uses a stick to get back to her hospital bed. Cambodia.

Far Left: Garifuna man with child near Tela, Honduras.

Cover: Portrait of an Ethiopian woman in Nazareth. In some African cities, HIV infection rates among pregnant women are 20 per cent or higher.

gender inequalities that fuel the epidemic. With more than three decades of experience dealing with sensitive issues such as gender relations and sexuality in different socio-cultural settings, UNFPA remains uniquely qualified to address this issue.

Within UNAIDS, the Fund is focusing efforts on condom programming and HIV prevention, targeting young people and women—two groups that are increasingly affected. UNFPA also reaches out to other vulnerable populations, including those engaged in sex work. It supports sexual and reproductive health care tailored to the specific needs of those living with HIV and encourages their participation in shaping policies and programmes.

The overarching strategy of UNFPA is to link HIV/AIDS with sexual and reproductive health care in order to reach the inter-related goals of universal access, prevention, care and treatment.

Integration would result in improved coverage and quality of services, reduced discrimination and cost-savings. It could also save lives

UNFPA AT WORK

Involving youth:

The health and well-being of youth has long been a top priority for the UNFPA. The fact that young people are increasingly at risk has lead to a redoubling and scaling up of successful efforts. The active involvement of young people in programmes and policies that affect them is a cornerstone of UNFPA's work.

Youth participation takes many forms: Throughout the world, young people from many walks of life have been carefully trained on how raise awareness of the perils of unprotected sex to their peers.

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