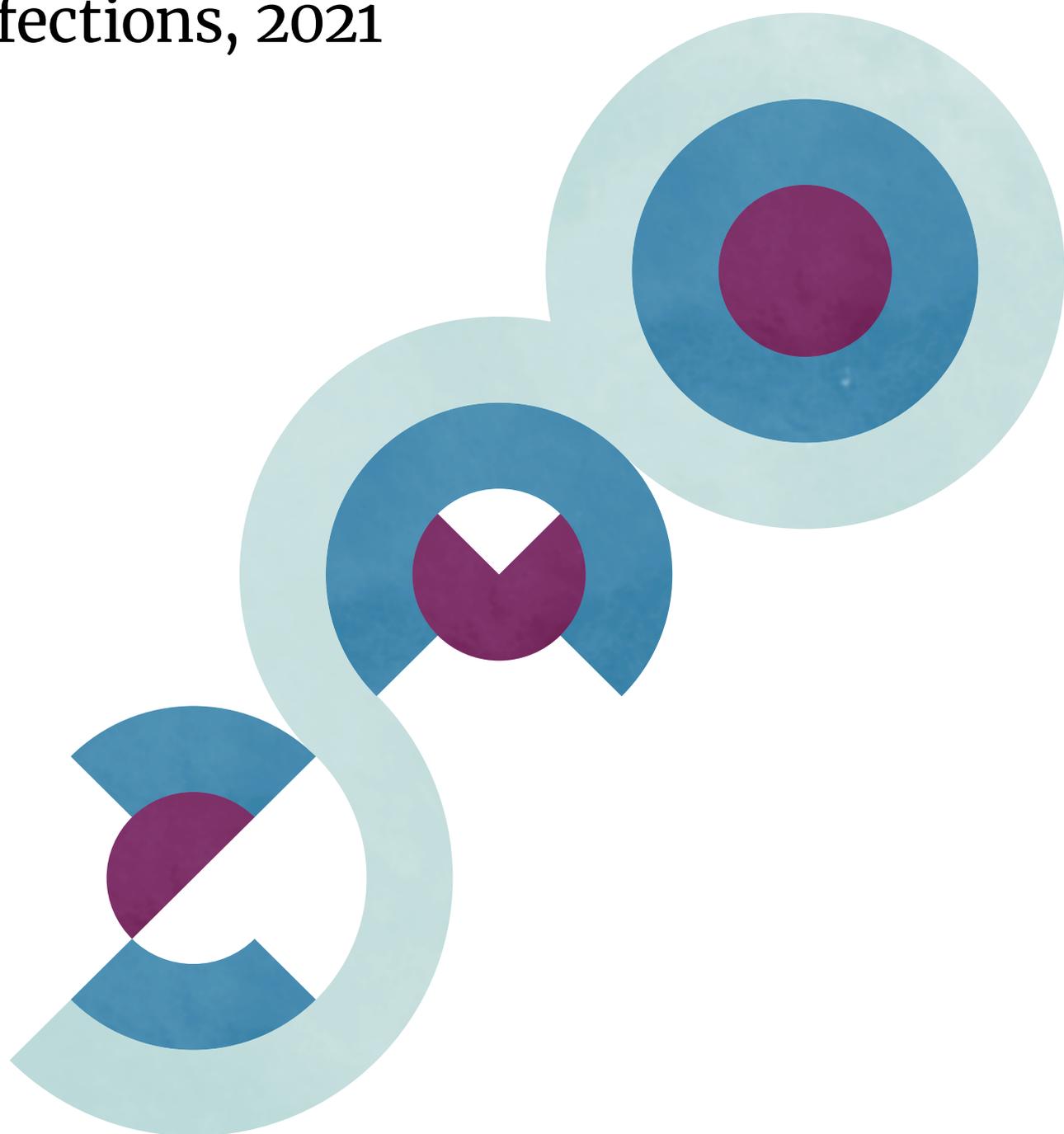


# Global progress report on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, 2021



Accountability for the global health  
sector strategies 2016–2021: actions  
for impact



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# Foreword



**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
Director-General  
World Health Organization

Progress on the reduction and elimination of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections looks very different now than it did a year ago. Across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted essential health services, including those needed to support the prevention, diagnoses, and treatment of these diseases.

The 2021 global progress report on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, is an opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved in addressing these diseases to date, the setbacks caused by the pandemic, and the lessons learned for the coming decade.

This report documents the implementation of the 2016–2021 global health sector strategies for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. Drawing on data from multiple sources, it analyses progress and highlights the continuing gaps. It reviews the activities undertaken over the last five years against WHO's five strategic directions: information, services and essential interventions, equity, financing and innovation.

There has been impressive progress in many areas of the response, including the large-scale expansion of HIV treatment, innovations in a cure for hepatitis C virus, and increasing coverage of immunization for hepatitis B virus and for human papillomavirus – the latter a critical intervention to prevent cervical cancer. Nevertheless, we are not on track to eliminate these preventable and treatable diseases, which together result in more than one million new infections every day, and more than two million deaths and 1.2 million new cases of cancer every year. In too many countries, priority interventions remain inaccessible to the populations most severely affected and at higher risk.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impeded the delivery of core services that tackle HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections. During this incredibly challenging year, we have witnessed the ability of health and community systems to adapt to continue to reach people in need. The lessons learned from the innovations developed during the pandemic response can inform core service delivery programming, as part of the overall effort to achieve universal health coverage.

The report highlights the importance of people-centred services and the urgent need to focus on inequalities and populations left behind: adolescent girls and young women, their male partners, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs, sex workers, people in prisons and all vulnerable populations.

Our goal for the coming decade is to get back on track by increasing the equitable delivery of services for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections across the world. This report lays the groundwork for the next phase of that work.



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