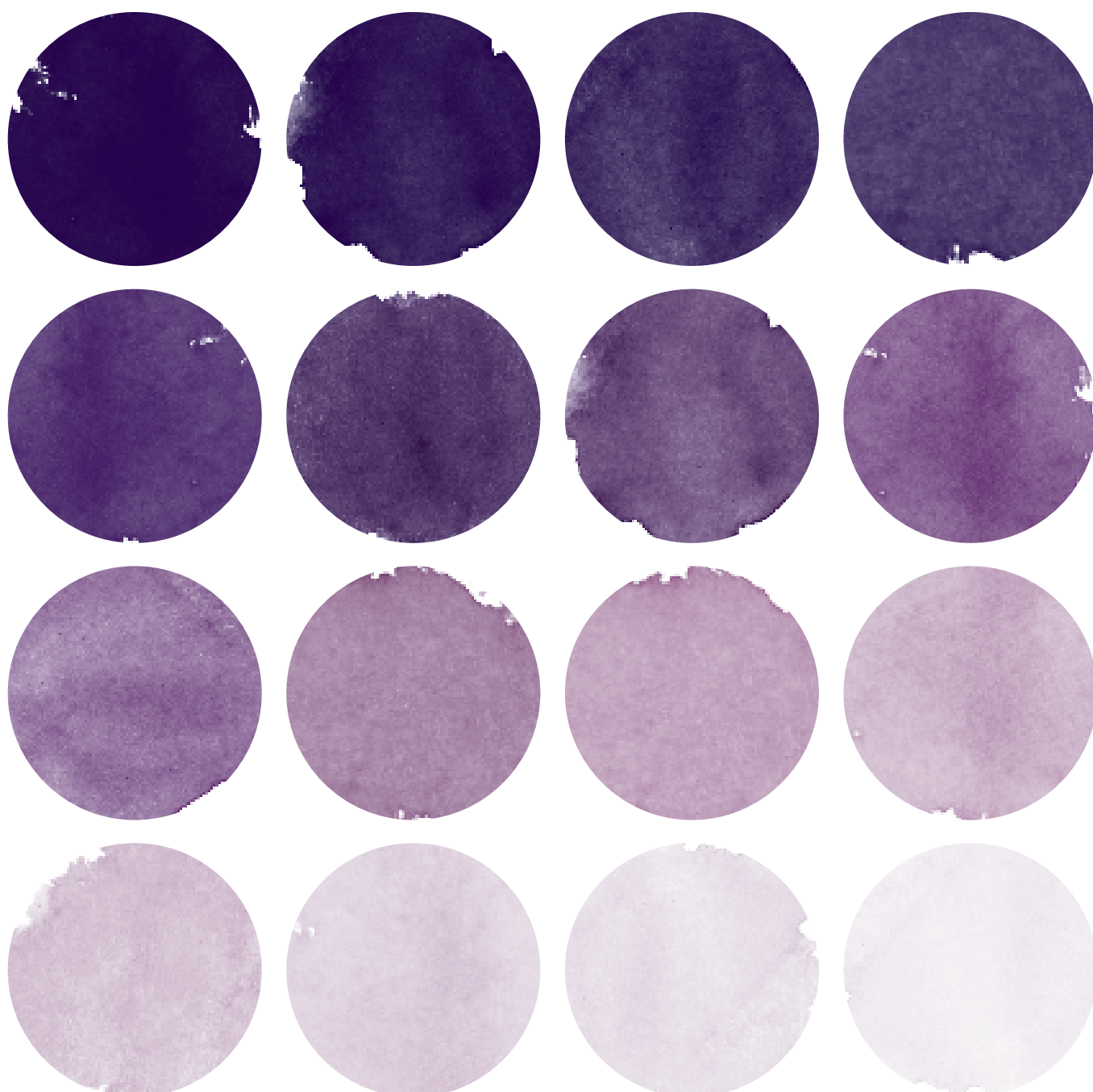


GLOBAL HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGY ON  
**HIV**  
**2016–2021**

**TOWARDS ENDING AIDS**





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WHO/HIV/2016.05

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The definitive versions of the global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021, can be found in the official records of the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly (document WHA69/2016/REC/1).

Design and layout by 400.co.uk

Printed by the WHO Document Production Services, Geneva, Switzerland.

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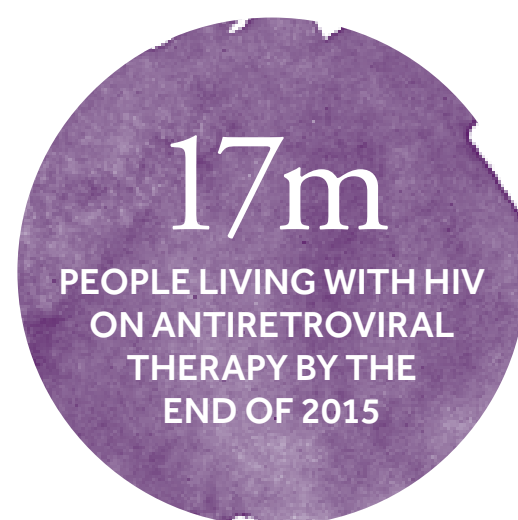
## INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The international community has committed to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 – an ambitious target of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.<sup>1</sup> Interim targets have been established for 2020. This strategy describes the health sector contribution towards the achievement of these targets. It outlines both what countries need to do and what WHO will do. If implemented, these fast-track actions by countries and by WHO will accelerate and intensify the HIV response in order for the “end of AIDS” to become a reality.

1 United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 – Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, see [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E) (accessed 15 March 2016).

The strategy builds on the extraordinary public health achievements made in the global HIV response since WHO launched the Special Programme on AIDS in 1986.<sup>2</sup> It continues the momentum generated by the Millennium Development Goals and the universal access commitments.<sup>3</sup> Recently, the Global health sector strategy on HIV/AIDS 2011–2015<sup>4</sup> has galvanized global and country action that has helped halt and reverse the AIDS epidemic. During that period, HIV treatment coverage was expanded rapidly with well over 17 million people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy by the end of 2015; new HIV infections and deaths declined; dozens of countries moved towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; and HIV responses have been embedded in broader health and development programmes. However, there is no room for complacency. Much has changed since 2011, with new opportunities to exploit and many new challenges to overcome. Ending the AIDS epidemic will require rapid acceleration of the response over the next five years and then sustained action through to 2030 and beyond. This can only be achieved through renewed political commitment, additional resources, and technical and programmatic innovations.

The strategy positions the health sector response to HIV as being critical to the achievement of universal health coverage – one of the key health targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The strategy promotes a people-centred approach, grounded in principles of human rights and health equity. It will contribute to a radical decline in new HIV infections and HIV-related deaths, while also improving the health and well-being of all people living with HIV. It will guide efforts to accelerate and focus HIV prevention, enable people to know their HIV status, provide antiretroviral therapy and comprehensive long-term care to all people living with HIV, and challenge pervasive HIV-related stigmatization and discrimination.



<sup>2</sup> In March 1987, WHO published the "Special Programme on AIDS: strategies and structure projected needs", which is available at: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/62299/1/WHO\\_SPA\\_GEN\\_87.1.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/62299/1/WHO_SPA_GEN_87.1.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2016). In addition, the Global Programme on AIDS 1987–1995 published its "Final Report with Emphasis on 1994–1995 Biennium", available at: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/65955/1/WHO\\_ASD\\_97.1.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/65955/1/WHO_ASD_97.1.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2016).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/277 — Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS [http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/sub\\_landing/files/20110610\\_UN\\_A-RES-65-277\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/sub_landing/files/20110610_UN_A-RES-65-277_en.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2016).

<sup>4</sup> The global health sector strategy on HIV/AIDS 2011–2015 is available at: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44606/1/9789241501651\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44606/1/9789241501651_eng.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2016).



Broad partnerships and strong linkages with other health and development issues must be emphasized in the next phase of the response. This strategy is fully aligned with the post-2015 health and development agenda and targets. It provides the health sector contribution to a broader multisectoral response as outlined in the UNAIDS strategy for 2016–2021.<sup>5</sup> It is also aligned with other relevant global health strategies and plans, including those for sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, blood safety, mental health, noncommunicable diseases and integrated people-centred health services. It has been informed by the extraordinary efforts of many countries, recognizing that countries and communities are central to the response. It takes into consideration the HIV and broader health strategies of key development partners, including the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.<sup>6</sup> Full implementation of the strategy will contribute to the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals – it will prevent and relieve poverty, reduce inequities, promote gender equality, enhance productivity and tackle exclusion, stigmatization and discrimination.

The strategy outlines a vision, goals and actions for the global health sector response, including five strategic directions: strengthening and focusing national HIV programmes and plans through sound strategic information and good governance; defining a package of essential HIV services and high-impact interventions along the HIV services continuum; adapting and delivering the HIV services continuum for different populations and locations to maximize quality and achieve equitable coverage; implementing systems to fully fund the continuum of HIV services and to minimize the risk of financial hardship for those requiring the services; and embracing innovation to drive rapid progress (see Figure 1).



01 – State-sponsored educational programme on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Nigeria.

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