



children first.

Children, HIV and AIDS

Every day, more than 100 adolescents die of AIDS.

Worldwide, fewer than half of all infants born to mothers with HIV are tested for infection by 2 months of age. Left untreated, half of children with HIV will die before the age of 2 years. For adolescents, the stakes are even higher. AIDS is the second most common cause of death among adolescents globally, and the leading cause in Africa.

UNICEF has been working with partners on a concerted global effort to fight HIV/AIDS for over two decades, helping to prevent over 30 million new HIV infections — including 1.6 million among children — and over 8 million AIDS-related deaths since 2000. One major success is increased access to antiretroviral treatment for HIV+ pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

However, children living with HIV haven't benefited from the same level of treatment as adults. Only one-third of children under 15 with HIV are getting the lifesaving treatment they need, though 70 percent of pregnant and breastfeeding women with HIV are. An estimated 120,000 children under age 15 died of AIDS-related causes in 2016. While deaths due to AIDS have decreased overall since 2010, deaths among adolescents have actually increased to about 55,000 per year.

An AIDS-Free Generation Is Within Reach

UNICEF is working to achieve an AIDS-free generation by 2030 — for all children to be born free of HIV and remain so for the first two decades of life. UNICEF's strategy focuses on eliminating mother-to-child transmission, preventing infection among adolescents, providing treatment for children and



Felix, 18 months old, plays with a ball. He tested negative for HIV, thanks to a UNICEF-supported PMTCT program.

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About UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization by providing health care and immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. UNICEF USA supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood.

For more information, visit unicefusa.org.

adolescents with HIV and tackling underlying factors that cause HIV among children and their families.

Ensuring that mothers with HIV have access to antiretroviral therapy remains a top child survival priority. UNICEF is working to reduce new infections in children and reduce infant deaths, providing innovative point-of-care HIV diagnostic tools for early identification, so that babies can start life-saving treatment as soon as possible if they are found to be HIV-positive. Children already living with HIV must have access to treatment. To achieve this, UNICEF is working to scale up access to HIV drugs.

Adolescent HIV prevention is a special focus for UNICEF. By investing in proven HIV prevention strategies, we could avert 2 million new infections among adolescents by 2020. Ensuring that adolescents have access to new HIV diagnostics with same-day test results can save lives. UNICEF has helped reduce the time it takes to get HIV test results from over 20 days to less than a day in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and also dramatically reduced the time it takes patients to start antiretroviral treatment once they find out their HIV status.

UNICEF is also working hand-in-hand with families and young people themselves to raise awareness on HIV prevention and tackle discrimination against those living with HIV/AIDS. It is critical that children affected and infected by HIV/AIDS receive special care and support, and that parents and caregivers have access to information and skills to provide for their children. Cash transfer programs are helping to stem the underlying drivers of risky behavior, reduce infection rates for vulnerable groups, and provide greater access to treatment. And UNICEF is empowering youth with innovative, free technologies, such as U-Report, which allows teens to anonymously text questions about HIV and AIDS and provide feedback to health care providers.

UNICEF's HIV/AIDS programs are closely planned and carried out in harmony with its

other programs, including health, social protection, nutrition, WASH, emergency programming in conflict and natural disaster settings, and an overall focus on empowering girls and women. In 2016, 16.5 million children had lost one or both parents to AIDS. These children still often face significant economic and social obstacles. They require protection, care and support. UNICEF supports HIV-sensitive social protection programs in Lesotho and Tanzania to lower HIV risk and vulnerability among adolescents (especially for girls).

HIV/AIDS Snapshot

UNICEF:

- Has worked with partners to avert more than 1.6 million new HIV infections among children since 2000.
- Has helped more than 18.2 million people worldwide have access to HIV treatment — about half of all people currently living with the virus.
- Worked on an aggressive scale-up of AIDS treatment with partners, leading to a drop in AIDS-related deaths from 2 million in 2005 to 1.1 million in 2015 (a 45% decline).
- Supported more than 46,000 pregnant women and 40,000 children in emergency settings who were living with HIV to continue treatment. ●

Every 2 minutes, an adolescent is infected with HIV — most of them girls. AIDS is the leading cause of death among adolescents in Africa and the second highest cause of death among adolescents globally.



A health worker in Malawi laughs and cuddles with an eight-month-old baby. His mother is HIV-positive, so he was tested for HIV six weeks after his birth — he was HIV-free. He'll continue to be tested as long as he is breastfeeding.