

# Africa: HIV & AIDS

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## About HIV and AIDS in Africa

### Key facts

- In 2007, 22.5 million people were living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, 1.7 million people were newly infected and 1.6 million people died – making AIDS the leading cause of death.
- In sub-Saharan Africa the HIV and AIDS epidemic is increasingly feminised. With the exception of Rwanda over 50% of those infected with HIV in DFID's Africa focus countries are women.
- The epidemic is most prolific in Southern Africa with this region alone accounting for 32% of new infections and AIDS deaths globally and prevalence above 15% in most countries<sup>1</sup>
- 40 per cent of all new infections occurring among young people aged 15 to 24 years.

### Progress made

- By June 2006 1.6 million people were accessing antiretroviral therapy (ART) in middle and low income countries – a four fold increase from Dec 2003 when significant scale up of treatment began.
- Over 1 million of these people were in sub-Saharan Africa where the number of people accessing ART treatment increased from 100,000 in Dec 2003 – a ten fold increase.

## Responding to HIV and AIDS in Africa

DFID is committed to achieving universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. DFID focuses most of its HIV and AIDS related spend in Africa, where the problem is most acute. DFID aimed to spend approximately £1.5 billion on HIV and AIDS in all developing countries between 2005/06 and 2007/08. DFID's work concentrates on the following three areas:

### 1. Scaling up access to prevention, treatment, care and support

DFID promotes comprehensive country-led strategies for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

As part of this, on prevention, the UK has provided 1 billion condoms for use in developing countries.

In sub-Saharan Africa there has been a ten fold increase in overall access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and a 40% increase in children on treatment. DFID funding to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and other agencies has contributed to this increase in access treatment.

DFID is committed to increasing access to care and support services in Africa. We support programmes providing home and community based care for people living with HIV and AIDS, fund programmes to reduce stigma and discrimination and provide support for children affected by AIDS and others made vulnerable by the epidemic.

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<sup>1</sup> UNAIDS Epidemic Update 2007

## 2. Health systems strengthening

Strengthening health systems is a key priority for DFID. The International Health Partnership (IHP), launched in 2007 reflects DFID's commitment to improving donor harmonisation in the health sector, supporting country's own health plans and working to strengthen the health system as a whole to help tackle the HIV and AIDS epidemic and other diseases. The implementation of the IHP will be a key priority for in Africa, home to five of the seven first wave partner countries - Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia.

## 3. Working with vulnerable groups

DFID places women, young people and vulnerable groups, who carry the greatest burden of the epidemic, at the heart of its AIDS responses.

DFID also works to support other groups particularly vulnerable to HIV and AIDS in Africa, including sex workers, men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, prisoners, truck drivers, refugees and people affected by conflict. Prevalence among sex workers and refugees is more than double that of the general population in Sudan and higher than average infection rates are seen in conflict affected areas of Uganda.

## Who are we working with?

Wherever possible we work closely with Governments in developing countries to support their nationally led response to HIV and AIDS.

In line with our commitment to the 3 Ones (One agreed AIDS action framework, one national coordinating authority and one country level monitoring and evaluation system) we help to establish and strengthen government's National AIDS Councils and develop and support national strategic frameworks and monitoring and evaluation systems. We work closely with a range of other donors and partners including:

- UNAIDS and the broader UN system.
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria.
- The World Bank.
- The US President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
- Other developed country governments.
- International and national civil society

## Country examples:

**Ethiopia:** By the end of August 2007 DFID had distributed 1.3 million condoms and 160,000 people – 35% of which were women - had been reached with mobile video unit providing HIV and AIDS prevention education.

**Sierra Leone:** DFID supports Students Partnership Worldwide on a Youth Empowerment Programme that aims to tackle HIV and AIDS through a peer education programme, working closely with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Through this programme young Sierra Leonean volunteers work with in-school and out-of-school youth, in partnership with local youth groups, to raise awareness about sexual health issues among young people and local communities.

**Zimbabwe:** DFID has approved a new programme of £25 million over 5 years to protect the lives of mothers and newborns especially those affected by AIDS

For more information about DFID's work on HIV/AIDS please visit [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk) If you are a journalist and wish to know more about DFID and its work to reduce poverty in Africa please call DFID press office: 0207023 0600.