

A future without HIV & AIDS?



In 2008, the most significant impact of HIV & AIDS was seen in sub-Saharan Africa, with countries in this region accounting for around 67% of all cases, and a staggering 91% of new infections. But with global support, and a combined effort to eradicate the spread of the disease by 2030, there's hope for a future without HIV & AIDS.

The fast-track to ending the AIDS epidemic

HIV & AIDS has been a global catastrophe that has spared no country.

There is hope in the face of the devastation that it has caused, and with the 2030 target on everyone's mind to halt the epidemic, there's already light at the end of the tunnel since the announcement of this target by UNAIDS in 2014.

Women and children are showing drastic improvements in their infection rate and treatment

Pregnant women in Africa who are HIV-positive were previously on a B list of receiving medication to prevent their transmission of HIV to their babies upon birth or during breastfeeding.

They would only receive treatment while pregnant and for the duration of breastfeeding.

Now, they have been moved onto the B+ list, which means they start taking medication when they're pregnant, and continue receiving it for life thereafter. Since 2015, 77% of pregnant women living with HIV are receiving medication.

In children, new infections has declined by 50% since 2010.

How a rapid scale-up will save millions of lives

In a UNAIDS report, a comparison was made between the current treatments employed to prevent and treat HIV & AIDS, and what a rapid upscale of research and treatment would do.

If it continued, there would be 2.5 million new infections in 2030, and 2.2 million people would die as a result of the disease.

If there's drastic improvement, we'll achieve ambitious targets, and 21 million people's lives will be spared in the next 14 years, 28 million people will be protected from acquiring HIV, and 5.9 million children will be spared from a lifetime living with this devastating disease.

Because of the global effort being put into preventing and treating HIV & AIDS, the UNAIDS Fast-Track initiative will enable the response to outpace the epidemic. Using the tools available, and putting funds into the right place, there is a real hope of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.