



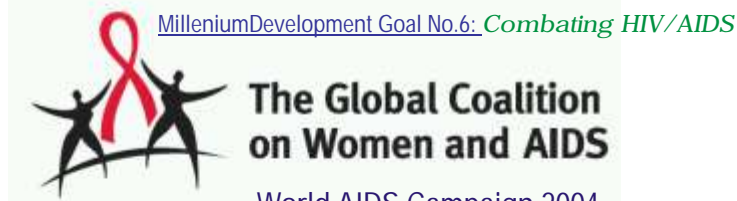
YES Campaign Newsletter

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A Monthly Newsletter Devoted To
Highlighting Critical Concerns

Learn About

This Month's Themes



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Back Ground Info -HIV & Livelihoods



A commercial sex worker infected with HIV/AIDS lies unattended in the red light district of Mumbai, India.
Credit: WHO/P. Viro

Current statistics about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as devastating as they are, do not reveal the broader social and economic impact of the disease. Social stigma and discrimination prevent many people from seeking diagnosis or treatment. By 2010 in some countries, two-thirds of school instructors will be replacements for teachers who have died of AIDS.

The impact of HIV/AIDS on the education *workforce* means that improving literacy rates will be harder and that achieving the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary enrollment by 2015 will be more difficult. The human toll of the disease has already reduced the skilled workforce in other sectors, contributing to the loss of business revenues and impeding government efforts to improve life chances.

As a result, some countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS could experience more than 20 percent loss in GDP by 2020.

While HIV/AIDS is clearly a health problem, the world has come to realize it is also a development problem that threatens human welfare, socio-economic advances, productivity, social cohesion, and even national security. HIV/AIDS reaches into every corner of society, affecting parents, children and youth, teachers and health workers, rich and poor.

The World Bank--in partnership with others-- is working to roll back the spread of this global epidemic. As the largest long-term investor in prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS in developing countries, the World Bank Group is working with its partners to:

- ✎ Prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS among vulnerable groups and in the general population;
- ✎ Promote countries' health policies and multi-sectoral approaches (e.g. by working in education, social safety nets, transport and other vital areas);
- ✎ Expand basic care and treatment activities for those affected by HIV/AIDS and their families, as well as for children whose parents have died of AIDS and other vulnerable children.

The World Bank is working with all regions in the developing world that are affected by HIV/AIDS. The Global HIV/AIDS Program and ACT Africa (AIDS Campaign Team for Africa) are both helping to coordinate this work.



Millennium Project

Commissioned by the UN Secretary General and supported by the UN Development Group

The Millennium Project is the independent advisory body to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan that is commissioned with recommending, by June 2005, operational strategies for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This includes reviewing current innovative practices, prioritizing policy reforms, identifying frameworks for policy implementation, and evaluating financing options. The Project's ultimate objective is to help ensure that all developing countries meet the MDGs.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight targets that would help meet these basic needs for most people. Only then will the lives of the very poor be improved in a lasting way. And, development experts believe that if the MDGs are reached, the number of poor people in the world would be cut in half. The MDGs should be achieved by the year 2015.

The Millennium Development Goals were written by the United Nations, governments, [international development organizations](#) and other people who are concerned with poverty in the world.

The goals were drafted because these organizations wanted to do two things: First, they wanted to help poor people become self-sufficient and be able to contribute to their society. Second, they wanted to be able to measure how much progress has been made in reducing poverty in the world and in helping poor countries develop.

They considered some of the different problems that make and keep people poor, and came up with the following list of goals:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Improve maternal health
- Achieve universal primary education
- **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases**
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Reduce child mortality
- Develop a global partnership for development

The HIV/AIDS Task Force of the Millennium Project addresses Goal 6 and specifically target 7, "to have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015." The Task Force has recently completed its interim report outlining initial recommendations and will complete its final report by June 30, 2005. The Task Force is led by Dr. Agnes Binagwaho, the Executive Secretary of Rwanda's National Commission to Fight AIDS and Dr. Josh Ruxin, Director of the Program to Scale Up Health in Developing Countries at the Center for Global Health and Economic Development.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/KIDSNEWS/0,,contentMDK:20088937~menuPK:150092~pagePK:107739~piPK:107732~theSitePK:106839,00.html>



[Http://www.genderandaids.org](http://www.genderandaids.org)

UNIFEM, in collaboration with UNAIDS, has developed this comprehensive gender and HIV/AIDS web portal to provide up-to-date information on the gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The site aims to promote understanding, knowledge sharing, and action on HIV/AIDS as a gender and human rights issue.

While HIV/AIDS is a health issue, the epidemic is a gender issue. Statistics prove that both the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS are not random. HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects women and adolescent girls who are socially, culturally, biologically, and economically more vulnerable. The figures are alarming: 19.2 million of the 38.6 million adults (aged 15-49) living with HIV/AIDS are women. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 58 per cent of the HIV positive adults are women; in the Caribbean, the proportion has reached 50 per cent. Globally, the incidence of HIV/AIDS among women has risen at a shocking rate. In 1997, 41 per cent of HIV infected adults were women and this figure rose to 50 per cent at the end of 2002. Women's empowerment is one of the only HIV vaccines available today. As the only women's fund at the United Nations, UNIFEM is determined to ensure that gender equality does not remain a lofty ideal, but becomes a guiding principle in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

This web portal is where you can find cutting edge research, studies and surveys; training materials; multi-media advocacy tools; speeches and presentations; press releases and current news; best practices and personal stories; campaign actions and opinion pieces by leading commentators. www.GenderandAIDS.org offers these and other up to date resources on the gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

By providing access to a variety of materials in one place, information can be retrieved quickly and easily, thereby reducing the amount of time spent locating key resources and materials on the Internet. Resources are organized by topic, type, and region and the entire site is fully searchable. Short summaries are provided for each of the resources to give visitors to the site a quick overview of each of the materials.

The web portal also offers interactive features such as: registration for email alerts when the site is updated and new materials are added; feedback forms for comments, ideas, and suggestions for improvement of the site; on-line forms for sending materials and resources you would like to include in the site; and surveys and opinion polls on specific issues.

In the future, this web portal will expand to include an experts database/roster that will serve as a certifying and networking service for national, regional and global gender and HIV/AIDS experts who can provide technical advice at all levels. The roster will include experts with skills in areas such as gender analysis, mainstreaming gender into HIV/AIDS plans, programmes, and policies, training in gender, human rights and HIV/AIDS, programme formulation, research and documentation, advocacy and media skills relating to gender, human rights and HIV/AIDS.



The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, launched on 2 February 2004, is an informal grouping of partners and organizations working to mitigate the impact of AIDS on women and girls worldwide. It is a growing global, inclusive movement seeking to support, energize and drive AIDS-related programmes and projects to improve the daily life of women and girls. The Coalition seeks to build global and national advocacy to highlight the effects of HIV and AIDS on women and girls and stimulate concrete, effective action. Efforts are focused on preventing new HIV infections, promoting equal access to treatment, addressing legal inequities and mitigating the impact of AIDS for women and girls.

The Coalition's Five Key Aims

- *To address the increasing global impact of AIDS on women and girls*

The latest epidemiological figures show that AIDS is having an ever-increasing impact on women and girls, highlighting the inadequacy of efforts to date.

- *To help meet a series of ambitious international targets*

The UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly Special Session on AIDS in 2001, provides a series of progressive, measurable targets to tackle HIV and AIDS – many relate directly to women and girls. Most of these targets are set for 2005 and need extra effort and attention if they are to be met.

- *To support the wider global AIDS response*

As a result of the devastating impact of the epidemic on women and girls, progress in many other areas of the response to AIDS relies on what is done for women and girls today. They will be key to driving the response tomorrow.

- *To improve prevention for women and girls*

To be effective, prevention programmes must recognize the realities of many women's lives. Women and girls often have limited access to essential education and health care services and often cannot choose to abstain from sex or insist on condom use. In addition they are often coerced into unprotected sex, and are often infected by husbands in societies where it is common or accepted for men to have more than one partner.

- *To address severe societal/legal inequities which compound the impact of HIV/AIDS on females*

Women and girls are disadvantaged by society in a number of ways that men are not. HIV and AIDS make these inequities worse and life threatening. Women face particular challenges in the areas of access to property rights, through limited access to education, limited access to care and treatment and when violence against women is tolerated.

The Coalition's Approach

The Global Coalition recognizes that the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection and the impact of AIDS are linked to underlying gender inequalities and societal norms that need to be challenged. The Coalition is focussed on effecting changes in areas that have a direct and significant impact on the lives of women and girls – through strengthening their capacity and resilience, as well as their position in their families and Societies.

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What Young People Should Be Thinking About

World AIDS Campaign 2004

The World Health Organization declared the first World AIDS Day in 1988. The day, 1 December, quickly became established as one of the world's most successful commemorative days and is now recognized and celebrated by a diverse range of constituents every year around the globe. Then, in 1997, recognizing the need for year-round campaign activity for HIV and AIDS, UNAIDS launched the first year-long World AIDS Campaign. Since then UNAIDS has coordinated the World AIDS Campaign as a loose partnership of UN agencies, governments and all sections of civil society campaigning around particular themes. For example, in 2002-2003, under the slogan *Live and Let Live* the Campaign focussed on highlighting the damage associated with HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. Over the years feedback has suggested the World AIDS Campaign has helped influence the international agenda around HIV and AIDS but due to its global nature and, to some degree, its close association with UN agencies, the Campaign has sometimes failed to achieve its full potential at a national and local level. UNAIDS now seeks to change that through an increased emphasis on the role of civil society - in particular through the stronger leadership and involvement of HIV and AIDS related NGOs at national level. To date civil society has not yet organized itself at a global level around any comprehensive blueprint to fight AIDS. The World AIDS Campaign is positioned to become the key mechanism to help civil society realise its potential globally through supporting a network of complementary national campaigns. In June 2001 the United Nations General Assembly held a Special Session on HIV/AIDS where governments agreed to a set of targets and goals to fight AIDS in a Declaration of Commitment. Following the session, UN agencies and governments started to organize themselves around the promises outlined in the Declaration. Now, civil society is also seeking to ensure its campaigning and advocacy efforts are similarly coordinated through a strengthened World AIDS Campaign.

The year 2004 sees the Campaign entering an exciting transition phase. At the same time as delivering a thematic focus on *Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS* it is moving to bolster the role of civil society by shifting the governance of the Campaign from UNAIDS to NGOs. *Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS – World AIDS Campaign 2004 Strategy Note 3*. The strengthening of the Campaign's civil society element is manifested in the Campaign's management through a new Global Steering Committee of representatives from NGOs from each continental region. UNAIDS is also supporting the creation of a Secretariat to coordinate campaign activity. This Secretariat seeks to encourage national campaigns, where appropriate, to focus on mobilizing resources for the response in accordance with targets within the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment. Where resource mobilization is neither appropriate nor a priority, national campaigns are encouraged to pursue political and awareness-raising objectives that move their national agendas towards the goals contained in the Declaration of Commitment. The 2004 transition period seeks to be less prescriptive and more flexible to allow ownership by civil society at national level where campaigns can be more responsive, relevant and effective. The World AIDS Campaign aims to be the Campaign of nationally-driven HIV and AIDS campaigns - bringing them all together under a global umbrella united by the UNGASS Declaration.