



Media advisory

**REPORT EMBARGOED UNTIL
23 NOVEMBER 2004, 12.00 GMT**

Press conference: Tuesday, 23 November 2004

UNAIDS to release new Global AIDS Epidemic Update report for World AIDS Day

Global Number of People Living with HIV Reaches Highest Level Ever

UNAIDS and National AIDS Program in El Salvador, will present data from the new UNAIDS report, *AIDS epidemic Update 2004*, highlighting the global, regional and local estimates on AIDS and new trends in the epidemic's evolution. There will be a special focus on women, girls, HIV and AIDS — the theme of the World AIDS Campaign 2004 (including World AIDS Day – 1 December).

Participants will discuss key findings of the new report including:

- Prevention programmes urgently needed for women and girls to slow spread of AIDS
- The number of women living with HIV has risen in every region over past two years
- Response from Ministry of Health and Civil Society to AIDS challenge.
- Future directions to achieve Millennium Development Goals

Location: Radisson Hotel, San Salvador, El Salvador

Time: 8:00 am (local time)

Speakers: Vilma Escobar, Vice-president of El Salvador
Guillermo Masa, Ministry of Health
Eduardo Guerrero, President of UNAIDS Thematic Group
Violeta Menjivar, President of Legislative Chamber
Idalia Herrera, Woman living with HIV
Nils Kastberg, UNICEF Regional Representative

Embargo: Information from the *AIDS Epidemic Update 2004* is embargoed until 23 November at 12.00 GMT (Print journalists: This report may be used in newspapers on Wednesday, November 24)

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UNAIDS is the leading advocate for worldwide action against AIDS, bringing together ten United Nations organizations. It leads, strengthens and supports an expanded response to the epidemic that will prevent the spread of HIV, provide care and support for those infected and affected by the disease, reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities to AIDS, and alleviate the impact of the epidemic. www.unaids.org.