

REPORT EMBARGOED UNTIL 23 NOVEMBER 2004,
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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 will present data from the new UNAIDS report, *AIDS epidemic Update 2004*, highlighting the global and regional 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:

- Africa's diverse epidemics – Southern Africa still at the epicentre of the epidemic; Eastern Africa experiences modest declines
- African women and girls continue to bear the brunt of the epidemic
- Prevention efforts need to be reinvigorated and treatment programmes scaled up if gains are to be made
- Resources remain below what is required to ensure an effective response to the epidemic

Location: Loita Room, Intercontinental Hotel, Junction Parliament Road and City Hallway, Nairobi, Kenya

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am (local time)

Speakers: Mark Stirling: Director: UNAIDS Regional Support Team
Mr Patrick Orege: Director: National AIDS Control Commission of Kenya
Ms Bella Matabanadzo, UN SG's Task Force on Women and AIDS
Ms Ms Wagara, Director: Kenya Network of Women living with HIV/AIDS
Ms Kristan Schoultz: UNAIDS Country Coordinator, Kenya

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, 24 November)

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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.