



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

**UNAIDS**

UNICEF-WFP-UNDP-UNFPA-UNODC  
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## Media advisory

### LAUNCH OF 2003 AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE

#### UNAIDS AND WHO TO RELEASE NEW GLOBAL AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE REPORT FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

-- Number of People Living with HIV Hits New Peak Across Southern Africa --

**Press Briefing, Monday, 24 November, 14.00-15.00**

**WHAT:** Media briefing to present the new UNAIDS/WHO report, *AIDS Epidemic Update 2003*, to be released on Tuesday, 25 November, in advance of World AIDS Day (1 December). Participants will discuss key findings of the new report:

- Comprehensive new global and regional statistics for HIV/AIDS
- AIDS maintains stranglehold in sub-Saharan Africa
- Epidemic growing rapidly in many other regions, including Eastern Europe and Central Asia, driven by injection drug use and unsafe sex
- Most infected individuals have yet to become ill; urgent need to expand access to antiretroviral treatment
- Major new prevention efforts, including measures to address HIV stigma and discrimination, are needed to slow spread of HIV/AIDS

**WHO:** **Speakers include:**

- Marika Fahlen, Director, Social Mobilization and Information, UNAIDS
- Donald Sutherland, Coordinator, Surveillance, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, WHO
- Catherine Hankins, Chief Scientific Adviser, UNAIDS

**WHEN:** **Monday, 24 November 2003, 14.00-15.00**

**WHERE:** Salle de Presse III, Palais des Nations

**EMBARGO:** Information from the *AIDS Epidemic Update 2003* is embargoed until 25 November at 14.00 GMT (Print journalists: This report may be used in newspapers on Wednesday 26 November)

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