

The 2005-2010 World AIDS Campaign (WAC) – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the World AIDS Campaign and its goal?

The World AIDS Campaign is a campaign of nationally-driven and civil society-led campaigns united under the global umbrella of the United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. Broadly, its goal is to ensure that governments and all other groups which can make a difference in responding to the AIDS epidemic *do* keep the promises they made, both under the Declaration and other promises made since. The WAC seeks to consolidate civil society leadership in order to foster a new level of national, regional and global action and accountability in the response to HIV and AIDS.

2. How can you get involved?

Everyone can become a participant in the WAC, whether you are an organization, youth group, local business, academia, trade union, school, faith group or an individual. There are both formal and informal ways to become involved. The WAC works on the premise that participation is based on trust and mutual respect, but also recognizes that some form of explicit and transparent agreement or understanding is needed between the Campaign and its participants. To find out more, visit www.worldaidscampaign.info/index.php/wac/wac/get_involved

3. What is the structure of the WAC?

The WAC is now a civil society-led organization, working in close partnership with UNAIDS. A Global Steering Committee (GSC) of civil society representatives oversees and sets its strategic direction. As the Campaign's primary technical supporter, UNAIDS is a standing non-voting member. Observers on the GSC include the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO), the Global Unions AIDS Programme, and the Global Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (GNP+) and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) who share a seat.

4. Who funds the World AIDS Campaign?

Current donors include UNAIDS, the Swiss Government (through UNAIDS), and the Ford Foundation. The WAC will seek funding to provide support for its national and international work by approaching foundations, corporations and governments.

5. What is the Theme of the WAC?

The Campaign has two broad themes: “*Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise*” and “*Stop AIDS. Make the Promise*”. Both directly relate to the WAC's overall goal of energizing and supporting “an effective and sustained response to the AIDS epidemic”.

Theme 1 involves the WAC acting to ensure that governments and organizations keep the promises they have made to effectively respond to AIDS. It stresses that there are four key elements to ensuring that promises are kept, and that strengthening these four core elements will make certain that governments and others will deliver on their promises. The elements include:

- More effective national HIV and AIDS responses;
- An expanded range of HIV and AIDS partnerships;
- Strengthened civil society processes;
- Adequate financing for the response.

Theme 2 focuses on encouraging individuals to undertake new personal action to counter the devastation caused by HIV and AIDS. The Campaign stresses that individuals can make a difference through personal pledges, statements of commitment, and by taking action to reverse the epidemic. Added together, these individual commitments can also make governments realize that *all* people want to be part of an effective response to AIDS.

6. What is the difference between “Make the promise” and “Keep the promise”?

The “Stop AIDS. Keep the promise” campaign is aimed at holding governments and other institutions to account for the promises they have made when they agreed to respond effectively to the problems and challenges posed by the AIDS pandemic. The “Stop AIDS. Make the promise” campaign is for individuals to make their personal pledges, statements of commitment and to take action aimed at reversing the growing HIV and AIDS epidemic. Both directly relate to WAC’s overall goal of energizing and supporting “an effective and sustained response to the AIDS epidemic”.

7. What is the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS?

The United Nations Declaration of Commitment was the outcome of the first-ever UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in June 2001. At that Session, 189 countries adopted 103 national-level commitments related to effectively responding to HIV and AIDS. The target date to achieve these commitments is 2010 and the complete list can be found at: www.ungass.org

8. Are the World AIDS Campaign and the UNAIDS World AIDS Campaign the same thing?

No, the current WAC is an action-oriented civil society-led process, while the one led previously by UNAIDS was an awareness-raising effort that focused on different HIV-related themes. The current WAC evolved out of the UNAIDS-led Campaign in recognition that civil society needed a stronger role in its implementation if the Campaign were to reach its full potential at the national and international level. The WAC became an independent NGO in 2004. It now has a broader constituency from civil society, which includes trade unions, faith-based organizations, youth movements, academics, and the science and business communities. WAC will now focus much more on the in-country support necessary for campaigning. Specifically, the WAC will take action to achieve more effective national HIV and AIDS responses, will promote an expanded range of HIV and AIDS partnerships and strengthened civil society processes and will campaign for adequate financing for the response.

9. What is the relationship between the World AIDS Campaign and World AIDS Day?

World AIDS Day on December 1st of every year, will remain an important date to focus worldwide attention on HIV and AIDS. The WAC will continue to have World AIDS Day at the core of its campaigning activity and will establish the Day’s theme by involving its broader constituency. However, the WAC will be encouraging participants not only to focus on World AIDS Day, but also to use every opportunity to challenge the world to do more for people infected, affected and at risk of HIV and AIDS. The Campaign will help to identify key opportunities to do so.

10. Does the WAC give grants?

The WAC is not a grant-giving organization.

11. How to contact the World AIDS Campaign

In order for the WAC to effectively handle enquiries, please use the following e-mail: info@worldaidscampaign.org

They will reply to your enquiries as quickly as possible. Thank you for your interest.