

Report summary

Urgent action needed to scale-up resources to achieve AIDS goals

Geneva, 26 September 2007 – The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) today released a new report on the estimated financial resources required for the AIDS response. The report, entitled *Financial Resources required to Achieve Universal Access to HIV, Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support* puts forward three different approaches to financing the AIDS response:

- **Scaling-up at current rates.** By following the current rate of annual scale-up, the estimated resource requirements would be between US\$ 14 - 18 billion in 2015, this amount would provide antiretroviral treatment for 8 million people in that year.
- **Universal Access by 2010.** This approach envisages significant increases in available resources and an urgent and dramatic scale-up of coverage in all countries. Following this approach would provide antiretroviral treatment for 14 million people by 2010. To achieve this, the annual resource requirements would rise to between US\$ 32 - 51 billion in 2010 and between US\$ 45 - 63 billion by 2015.
- **Phased scale-up to universal access by 2015.** This approach assumes different rates of scale-up for each country based on current service coverage and capacity, with the achievement of different programmatic targets at different times and the achievement of universal access by all countries by 2015. The approach would require between US\$ 41 - 58 billion in 2015.

Financing for AIDS has risen exponentially from less than US\$ 300 million in 1996—to an estimated US\$10 billion for 2007.

Countries committed to scaling-up towards universal access by 2010 at the High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York in 2006. By June this year, 93 countries had set ambitious national targets and 60 had developed and costed strategic plans. Countries will review progress in 2008.

Countries such as Brazil and Botswana, have already made good progress towards universal access, in particular in achieving universal access to antiretroviral treatment. Several others, such as Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa, are also on track to reach their national treatment target by 2010. But the US\$ 10 billion available in 2007 represents a serious shortfall in funding and is hampering many countries' efforts in achieving their universal access goals.

The report indicates that the lack of investment 10 - 20 years ago in the AIDS response, particularly in strengthening health systems and on issues contributing to the drivers of the epidemic such as violence against women and education has resulted in a more serious epidemic and the higher levels of funding needed today.

The AIDS epidemic has shortened life expectancy in many countries by more than 20 years and despite global progress in expanding access to antiretroviral therapy, more than 70% of people in need did not have access to treatment in 2006.

Methodology

The estimates provided in the report, developed for 132 low- and middle-income countries, were based on the type of epidemic and nationally established targets using the latest available data.

Financial requirements include costs associated with HIV prevention, treatment, care, support for children orphaned or made vulnerable by AIDS. For the first time the package of prevention services included responses to gender inequality and violence against women as well as adult male circumcision, provider initiated testing and counselling, drug substitution treatment and costs associated with health systems strengthening.

The data was reviewed by Technical Working Groups and by an advisory board made up of international economists and AIDS experts from donor and developing countries, civil society, United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

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UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland—with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through UN theme groups, and joint programmes on AIDS. UNAIDS' Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS Web site at www.unaids.org