



Fact Sheet 2002

The Cosponsors of UNAIDS

The creation of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in 1996 was a landmark in the struggle against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. By combining the expertise, resources and scope of eight United Nations bodies—UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNDCP, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—UNAIDS strives to help the world prevent HIV infections, provide treatment and care for those already infected, and lessen the epidemic's impact.

Other United Nations bodies that have become increasingly active against HIV/AIDS include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

UNICEF

- For 56 years, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been working with partners around the world to promote the recognition and fulfilment of children's human rights. This mandate, as established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, is achieved through partnerships with governments, nongovernmental organizations and individuals in 162 countries, areas and territories. UNICEF brings to UNAIDS this extensive network and an effective communication and advocacy capacity. UNICEF's priorities in addressing HIV/AIDS include prevention among young people, reducing mother-to-child transmission, care and protection of orphans and vulnerable children, and care and support for children, young people and parents living with HIV/AIDS.

<http://www.unicef.org/aids/>

UNDP

- As a development agency with strong country presence, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) promotes an enabling policy, legislative and resource environment for an effective response to HIV/AIDS. Areas

of work include mobilizing actors and institutions well beyond the health sector to facilitate the social transformation needed to achieve a HIV-free future; promoting strong leadership and capacity for a coordinated and scaled-up response; helping governments raise domestic and international resources; placing HIV/AIDS at the centre of national development agendas; and promoting the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, through advocacy and legislation.

<http://www.undp.org/hiv/>

UNFPA

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) applies its 30 years' experience in reproductive health to prevent HIV and sexually transmitted infections. In 150 country programmes, UNFPA focuses on HIV prevention among young people, comprehensive condom programmes for both male and female condoms, and prevention of infection among pregnant women. UNFPA supports advocacy efforts; improving access to information and education, including voluntary counselling and testing; strengthening capacity of service providers across sectors; and provision of commodities for the prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, such as

STI/HIV test kits, male and female condoms and infection prevention and control supplies.

<http://www.unfpa.org>

UNDCP

- The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is entrusted with exclusive responsibility for coordinating, and providing effective leadership for, all United Nations drug control activities. In this context, UNDCP actively supports HIV/AIDS prevention in programmes to reduce the demand for illicit drugs. Its primary focus is on youth and high-risk groups. UNDCP operates from its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, as well as from a field network currently serving 121 countries and territories.

<http://www.undcp.org>

ILO

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) works to promote social justice and equality, set standards in employment, and improve working conditions. ILO's contribution to UNAIDS includes its tripartite membership, encouraging the mobilization of governments, employers and workers against HIV/AIDS; direct access to the workplace; long experience in framing international standards to protect the rights of workers; and a global technical cooperation programme. ILO has produced a code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work—an international guideline for the development of national and workplace policies and programmes.

<http://www.ilo.org/aids>

UNESCO

- Within the United Nations system, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has a special responsibility for education. Since ignorance is a major reason why the AIDS epidemic is out of control, preventive education is at the top of UNESCO's agenda. The need for such education flows from the types of ignorance associated with HIV/AIDS, particularly in the

most affected developing countries: most of those infected do not know it; there are widespread misconceptions about possible remedies; and there is sparse and unfounded knowledge about the disease itself, leading to prejudice and discrimination.

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/aids/>

WHO

- The World Health Organization (WHO) supports countries in strengthening their health systems' responses to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. WHO promotes partnerships, provides technical and strategic support to countries and regions, and develops normative guidelines and other resources on key health interventions, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission; management of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and related conditions, including use of antiretroviral therapy; blood safety; universal precautions; vaccine development; safe injection; voluntary counselling and testing; and interventions targeting vulnerable populations. WHO also contributes to the global HIV/AIDS knowledge base by supporting monitoring and surveillance, reviewing the evidence for interventions and promoting research.

<http://www.who.int/asd/index.html>

The World Bank

- The mandate of the World Bank is to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life. Between 1986 and early 2002, the World Bank committed nearly US\$2 billion for HIV/AIDS projects worldwide. Most of the resources have been provided on highly concessional terms, including US\$1 billion under the Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program (MAP) for Africa. To address the devastating consequences of HIV/AIDS on development, the Bank is strengthening its response in partnership with UNAIDS, donor agencies and governments. The Bank's response is comprehensive, encompassing prevention, care, support, treatment, and impact mitigation.

<http://www.worldbank.org>