

# UNITED NATIONS SOUTH AFRICA **JOINT PROGRAMME ON HIV BIENNIUM REPORT**

2022 - 2023



A country summary report of  
The United Nations in South Africa



**UNITED  
NATIONS  
SOUTH AFRICA**



# CONTENTS



**vii**

Abbreviations  
and Acronyms

**05**

Foreword: Eva Kiwango  
Country Director, UNAIDS South Africa

**06**

Message of support: Nelson Muffuh  
RC of the UN in South Africa

**07**

UNAIDS Co-sponsors

**10**

UN Joint Programme  
(UNAIDS) priorities

## OUR WORK FOR 2022 - 2023

# 11

- 1 Prevention
- 2 Treatment
- 3 Paediatric HIV, Vertical Transmission
- 4 Community-led Responses
- 5 Human Rights
- 6 Gender Equality
- 7 Young People
- 8 Fully funded HIV Response
- 9 Integration and Social Protection
- 10 Humanitarian settings and Pandemics

# 35

United Nations Joint Programme on HIV (UNAIDS) in South Africa  
Contribution to the SDG Agenda

# 36

Financing the UN Response to HIV in South Africa

# 37

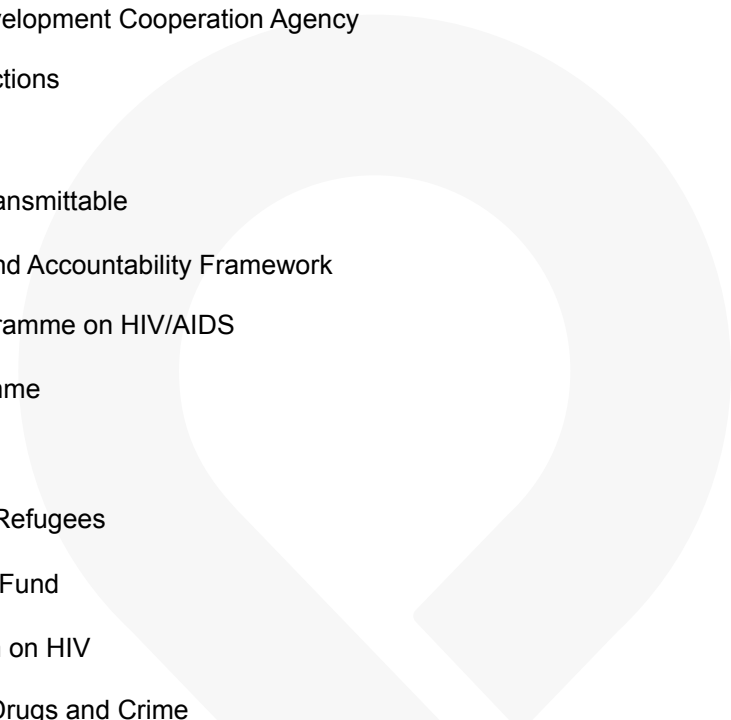
Conclusion  
(Looking ahead)





## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>AGYW</b>	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
<b>IQVIA</b>	Intelligence Quotient VIA
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>DTG</b>	Dolutegravir
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency virus
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>IOM</b>	International Organisation for Migration
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office for the High Commission on Human Rights
<b>MCNH</b>	Maternal, Perinatal and Neonatal Health
<b>PREP</b>	Pre Exposure Prophylaxis
<b>SANAC</b>	South African National AIDS Council
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>STIs</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infections
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>U=U</b>	Undetectable equals Untransmittable
<b>UBRAF</b>	Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNDP</b>	UN Development Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	UN Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	UN High Commission for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNJT</b>	United Nations Joint Team on HIV
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNESCO</b>	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization







## FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this report, which encapsulates the collective efforts and progress achieved in addressing HIV in South Africa for the period 2022-2023. As we navigate the path towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, this document serves as a testament to the dedication and collaborative spirit of the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV, working in collaboration with our esteemed partners. Together, we have embarked on a transformative journey, guided by a shared commitment to realizing a future where HIV no longer poses a barrier to health and prosperity. Amidst the challenges inherent in addressing the highest HIV burden, South Africa's "National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV, TB, and STIs for the period 2023 - 2028" provides a pathway to end AIDS. The NSP provides for a multi-sectoral approach that is people-and communities-centred to address the injustices and inequalities that prevent people from accessing lifesaving HIV services. South Africa continues to be a high priority for UNAIDS given that it has the largest epidemic in the world. To end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the SDGs globally, we must succeed in South Africa. But this requires society to catalyse urgent action and increased accountability at all levels to address the social and structural factors that perpetuate inequalities.

This report highlights significant milestones achieved for the period 2022-2023, including the launch of impactful campaigns such as U equals U, and the establishment of the South African Chapter of the Global Alliance to end AIDS in Children.



**Eva Kiwango**  
Country Director,  
UNAIDS South Africa

Such endeavours underscore our unwavering commitment to raising awareness, enhancing accessibility to testing and treatment, and empowering communities to lead the HIV response. As we celebrate these achievements, we recognize the opportunity to further strengthen our efforts towards reducing stigma and discrimination, and ensuring human rights for all people affected by HIV, particularly the most marginalized and the most vulnerable to HIV including women and girls, men who have sex with men, sex workers and people who use drugs.

**With sustained support and collaboration, we can ensure that the next six years are profoundly impactful, propelling us closer to the realization of the 2030 Sustainable Agenda.**

As the Secretariat for the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV (UNAIDS), we remain steadfast in our commitment to amplifying interventions and support mechanisms, ensuring that communities have access to the resources needed to lead from the forefront. We embrace new initiatives and technologies that offer hope and dignity to those living with HIV, reaffirming our unwavering dedication to the cause. I extend my deepest appreciation to the Government of South Africa, civil society, donors and all our partners for their unwavering support and dedication. May this report inspire renewed vigour and optimism as we continue our collective journey towards a future free from the burden of HIV.



## MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

**On behalf of the United Nations family in South Africa, I extend my gratitude for the exceptional work undertaken by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV in South Africa in support of the HIV response for the 2022-2023 period.**

South Africa is a shining example both for the notable progress in the fight against HIV and for owning the response financially. I applaud the government for its sustained commitment to continue the trajectory to achieve the targets of the 2021 Political Declaration to end the AIDS epidemic as we move closer to the South African National Development Plan 2030 and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The dedication, innovation and collaboration demonstrated by UN agencies, government, partners and stakeholders has made a profound impact on advancing the HIV response and promoting the health and well-being of communities across the country. The initiatives outlined, spanning prevention, treatment, paediatric HIV and vertical transmission, community-led responses, human rights, gender equality, support for young people, funding the HIV response, integration and social protection, as well as responding to humanitarian challenges and pandemics, reflect a comprehensive and holistic approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by HIV/AIDS. These efforts underscore our collective commitment to leaving no one behind and ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their

circumstances, have access to quality healthcare, support services, and opportunities for empowerment. The achievements include mobilisation of resources, the launch of strategic initiatives and the realisation of sustainable outcomes in terms of service delivery, community empowerment and policy advocacy. These successes underscore the transformative impact of our collective efforts. It also serves as a testament to the power of partnership, collaboration and co-creating solutions toward driving positive change and advancing the HIV response in South Africa. As we reflect on our accomplishments and look to the future, I reaffirm the United Nations commitment to building on these achievements, scaling up successful interventions, addressing remaining challenges and accelerating progress toward our shared goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. We stand ready to continue our support to the Government of South Africa, civil society organisations, communities and all stakeholders in this vital endeavour.

**Together, let us continue our journey with determination, compassion and solidarity toward a future where HIV is no longer a threat, where health and dignity is upheld for all and where every individual can live a life of full potential and well-being.**



**Nelson Muffuh**  
Resident Coordinator,  
United Nations in South Africa



Across the continent and the world, South Africa has been a beacon for movements united in resisting racial inequality, embracing gender equality, and championing equality for LGBTQ+ people. These principles make the world freer. So, continue to be that beacon. Challenge stigmatization, challenge criminalization. Whenever you see anyone being oppressed because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity, stand up for them. Tolerance is not enough—be an ally to all who are marginalized, standing not only on their side but by their side

**- Winnie Byanyima**  
Executive Director of UNAIDS



## UNAIDS CO-SPONSORS

The United Nations Joint Programme on HIV (UNAIDS) is a collaborative initiative within the United Nations system, uniting the efforts and resources of 11 UN agencies, with additional support from the International Organization for Migration, to combat AIDS on a global scale.

UNAIDS partners with various stakeholders, including the UN system, governments, people living with HIV, civil society, the private sector, financing institutions, academia, the scientific community, the media, and influential public figures. The Joint Programme focuses on reducing the inequalities that fuel the HIV epidemic and hinder the ability of people at risk of, living with, or affected by HIV to access lifesaving services, social protection, financial support systems, and enjoy their human rights.

This is achieved by addressing social and structural barriers. The United Nations Joint Programme on HIV (UNAIDS) comprises 11 UN agencies and operates on a 2-year workplan. This workplan reflects the collective contributions of the Joint UN Team on AIDS, encompassing both joint inter-agency initiatives and individual agency efforts.

The Workplan and Budget specifies the work and results of the Joint Programme to accelerate progress in the 10 results areas at output level, which are interlinked critical areas of focus for the Joint Programme, led by Cosponsors as per the Division of Labour and supported by UNAIDS Secretariat-led strategic functions, to reduce inequalities in the HIV response and achieve the 3 outcomes to advance progress against the global AIDS targets.



The workplan for the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV (UNAIDS) in South Africa is developed in consultation with key HIV stakeholders. The four sub working groups of the United Nations Joint Team on HIV include:

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>PREVENTION</b> convened by UNFPA</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>TREATMENT AND ELIMINATION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION</b> convened by WHO &amp; UNICEF</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS</b> convened by UNDP, UN Women, and ILO</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND SUSTAINING EFFICIENT HIV RESPONSES, PANDEMIC, AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES</b> convened by the World Bank and UNAIDS</p>
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I applaud the partnership between the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV (UNAIDS) in South Africa and the Government of South Africa. Together, they are breaking down barriers to health and dignity, promoting equality, and ensuring access to essential services. Their collaborative efforts are moving the nation towards a future where HIV is no longer a public health threat for all by 2030. This alliance embodies the United Nations' commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and advancing health equity in every community.

**- Anne Githuku-Shongwe**  
Regional Director for Eastern  
and Southern Africa



The continued collaboration between SANAC and UNAIDS has enriched South Africa's response to HIV through access to regional and global expertise. To pave the way for a truly community-led and community-centric approach to the HIV epidemic, UNAIDS has been instrumental in driving capacity-building interventions for civil society by working closely with the SANAC Civil Society Forum – this includes documenting civil society's contribution to key milestones in the country's response.

**- Dr. Thembisile Xulu**  
SANAC CEO

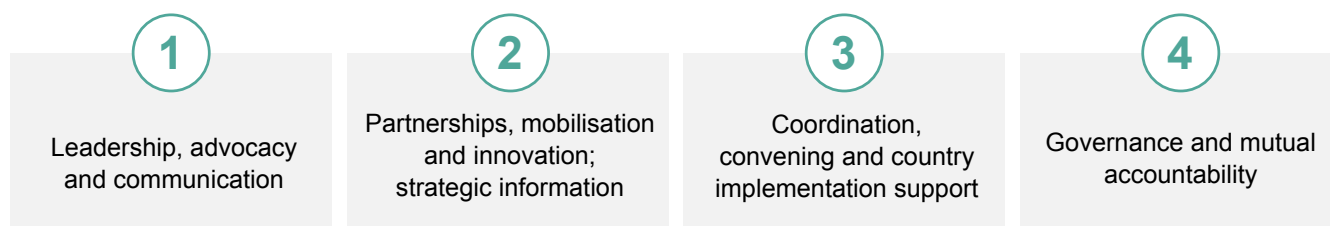




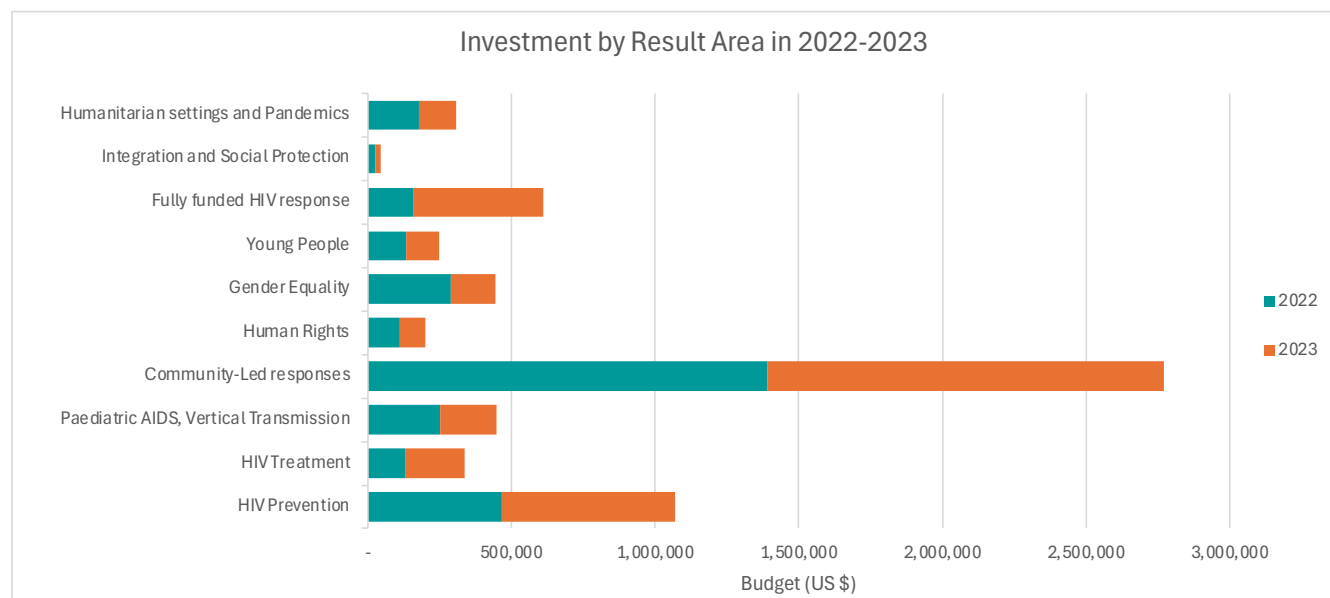
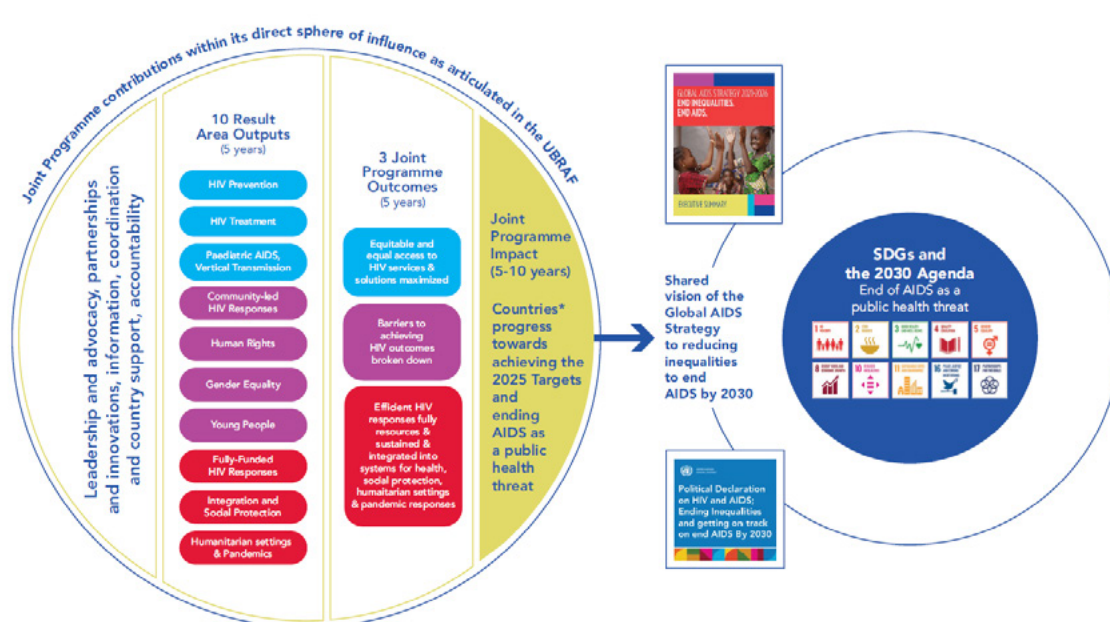
# UN JOINT PROGRAMME (UNAIDS) PRIORITIES

To achieve the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV (UNAIDS) priorities, complementing the contributions of and in concert and collaboration with the Cosponsors, UNAIDS Secretariat ensures coordinated strategic focus, effective functioning and accountability across the Joint Programme’s work.

It does so by fulfilling four functions:



## Joint Programme Results Framework fully aligned with the Global AIDS Strategy





# OUR WORK FOR 2022 -2023



## 1 HIV PREVENTION

### Break down barriers to achieving solutions for HIV, TB, and STIs

- **Objective 1.1**  
Strengthen community-led responses to HIV, TB, and STIs.
- **Objective 1.2**  
Facilitate access to comprehensive health services that include HIV prevention and treatment
- **Objective 1.4**  
Address gender inequalities that increase vulnerabilities through gender-transformative approaches.



### Maximize equitable and equal access to services and solutions for HIV, TB, and STIs

- **Objective 2.1**  
Increase knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors that promote HIV prevention.
- **Objective 2.7**  
Strengthen sexual and reproductive health services to reduce TB and STI incidence.

In the Eastern Cape (EC), KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), and Limpopo (LP), 1,800 sex workers and 120,000 vulnerable individuals, including youth and people with disabilities, received access to information and prevention methods. UNFPA piloted a community-based learning model in KZN to promote condom use and sexual and reproductive health rights among young men aged 15-24. The initiative involved community dialogues, advocacy marches, capacity-building for health providers, and condom promotion activities. Despite reaching 231 young men and 90 taxi operators, youth condom usage remained low, indicating a need for alternative distribution methods, such as home delivery and using Spaza shops. The WHO launched a pilot Men's Health Strategy at high-volume VMMC sites in five districts across Gauteng (GP), KZN, Western Cape (WC), Limpopo (LP), and Mpumalanga (MP). WHO plans to expand advocacy and capacity-building roadshows for this strategy nationwide.

In Mpumalanga's Nkomazi municipality, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported peer-led health promotions targeting sex workers and vulnerable youth, including migrants. **The initiative reached 29 905 people (10 328 males and 19 577 females)** with HIV/AIDS and STI prevention services, connected 1 449 individuals to health services, and saw 264 people undergo HIV testing, proving the effectiveness of community-based referrals.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the Masoyise Health Programme Strategy on 22 June 2023 in Durban, focusing on workplace mental health. During the SA AIDS Conference, symbolic figures 'Mme le Ntate Masoyise' were introduced to represent various health issues in the mining sector. The ILO's approach integrated prevention, treatment, human rights, and private sector engagement to support the national HIV, AIDS, and TB response from 2022 to 2023.



From 2022 to 2023, UNODC contributed to combating drug-related HIV transmission and improving community health by integrating strategic activities for drug users and prisoners into the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS. Through webinars, workshops,

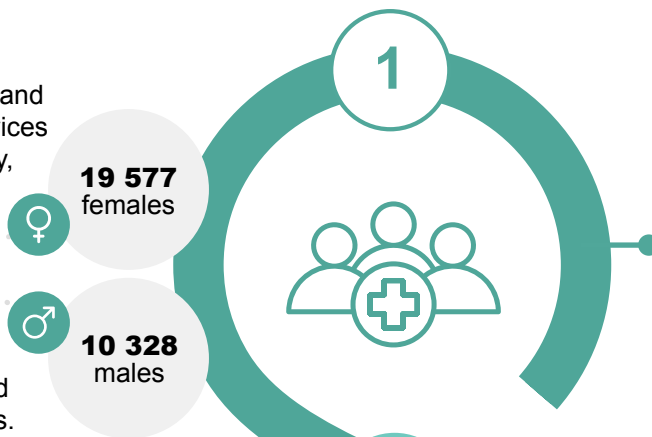
and advocacy, UNODC promoted evidence-based harm reduction strategies, enhanced responses to drug use disorders, and strengthened partnerships with civil society, traditional leaders, and government stakeholders.

## KEY RESULTS

**UNFPA** supported community-based demand creation for health services in Nkomazi municipality, Mpumalanga province, resulting in

**29 905 individuals**

receiving HIV/AIDS and STI prevention services.



With

**1449 people**

linked to both health and non-health services, and

**264 individuals**

accessing HIV testing services.

**WHO** piloted the

**Men's Health Strategy**

at high-volume Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC)



Which sites across

**five districts in**

Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga provinces

**ILO** launched the

**NEW Masoyise Health Programme Strategy**

in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, which includes mental health in the workplace.



This strategy was operationalized through seminars addressing

**mental health issues**

and the introduction of 'Mme le Ntate Masoyise' (Ms. and Mr. Masoyise) as symbolic figures representing health concerns within the mining sector.





UNODC's collaborative endeavours in South Africa epitomize a holistic approach to tackling the complex nexus of drug use and HIV/AIDS. Through strategic integration into national frameworks and proactive engagement with stakeholders, UNODC has not only fortified the foundations of South Africa's HIV response but also empowered communities with essential knowledge and skills. By advocating for evidence-based strategies and bolstering capacity, UNODC has charted a course towards healthier, more resilient communities, leaving an indelible mark on the journey towards a world free from the scourge of drug-related HIV transmission.

**- Jane Marie Ong'olo**  
Regional Representative at UNODC  
Regional Office for Southern Africa



HIV knows no borders –  
Cooperation is key! IOM adopts a whole of society approach to ensure migrants are not left behind in the fight against HIV/AIDS and STIs

**- Lily Sanya**  
IOM Chief of Mission South Africa



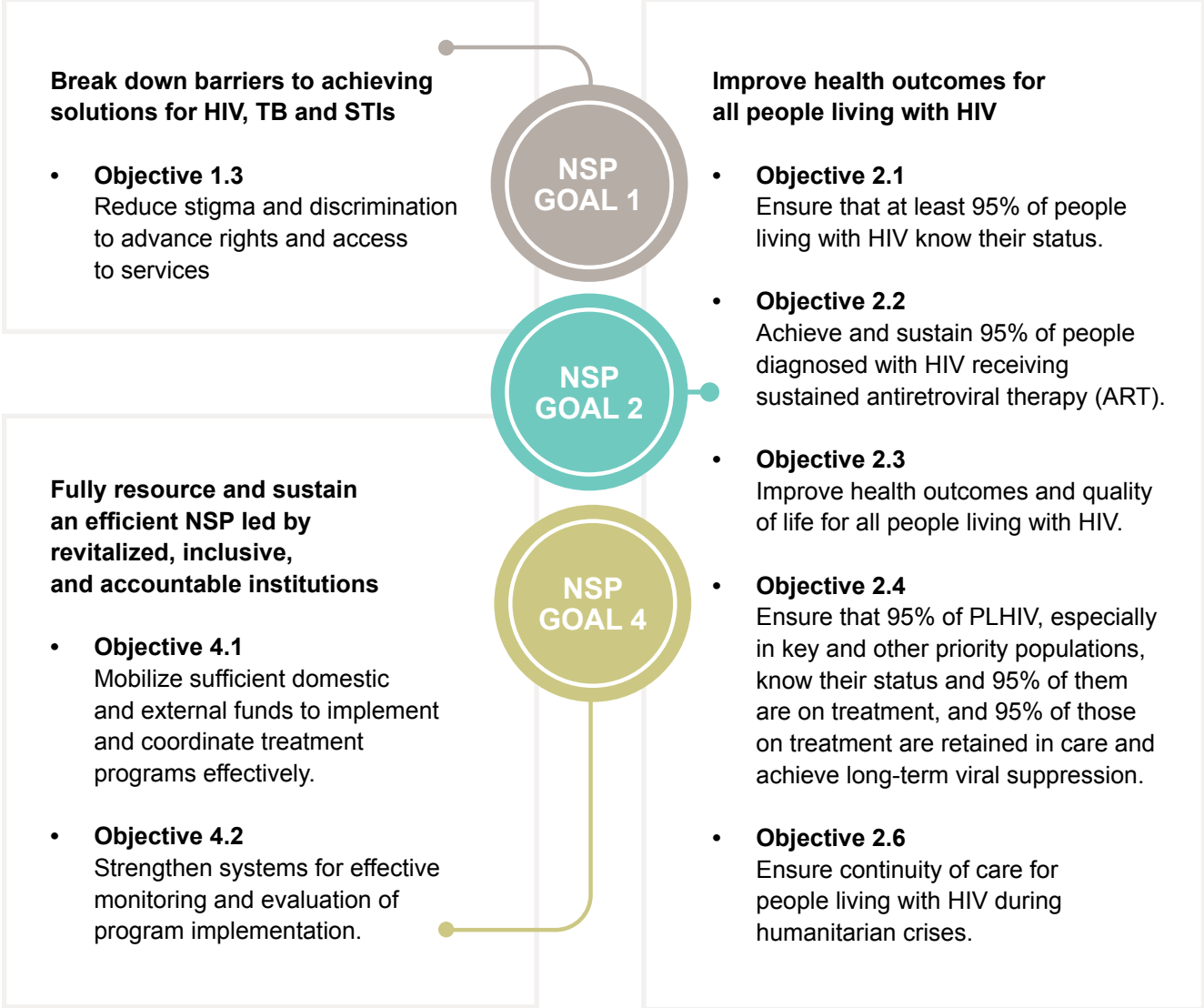


I would like to applaud the collaboration and teamwork of the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV in South Africa in response to the country's progress towards the global 2030 agenda. It is this support that has contributed to the great strides that South has made towards HIV and AIDS and to reach the current progress. It is critical to understand that partnerships are essential to scaling and accelerating synergies towards impact; and the collaboration of the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV, with the SA Ministry of Health, the South African National AIDS Council, PEPFAR, Global Fund and other partners has made it possible to realise the country's successes.

**-Fabian Ndenzako**  
WHO Representative South Africa



## 2 TREATMENT





1

### IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW HIV TESTING AND SCREENING POLICY:

Five hundred officials from all districts underwent training on the newly established HIV Testing and Screening policy.

2

### SCALE-UP OF DTG-BASED THERAPIES:

The Department of Health (DOH) received training and technical support to scale up DTG-based therapies for pregnant women and children, involving 500 officials and clinicians across all provinces.

3

### ADDRESSING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION:

In collaboration with UNAIDS and WHO, the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) developed, launched, and disseminated a National HIV Literacy framework and U=U campaign to combat HIV-related stigma and discrimination and enhance treatment adherence for improved viral suppression. Provincial Implementation Plans for Treatment Literacy were developed with support in all provinces, with eThekweni and Johannesburg metros and two provinces launching the U=U campaign. Evidence from the Eastern Cape province, where the U=U campaign was initiated in 2022, demonstrates enhanced treatment adherence.

4

### IOM'S MIGRATION AND HEALTH INTERVENTION:

Focusing on demand creation, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) established an effective community-level referral system, linking migrant-impacted communities to critical health services including HIV and STI treatment. This initiative facilitated the referral of 264 individuals to health service points for HIV testing services. Through collaboration with government and civil society, IOM significantly contributed to the development of a robust community referral system, enhancing access to essential services and promoting the inclusion of key populations affected by migration, thereby fostering community resilience and empowerment.



Regardless of their background or circumstances, children deserve a future that is no longer burdened by HIV and other preventable and treatable diseases. It is in their innocent voices that as leader and parents, we must be beacons of hope and determination to ensure that children are protected and nurtured to reach their full potential.

**- H.E. Ms Humile Mashatile**

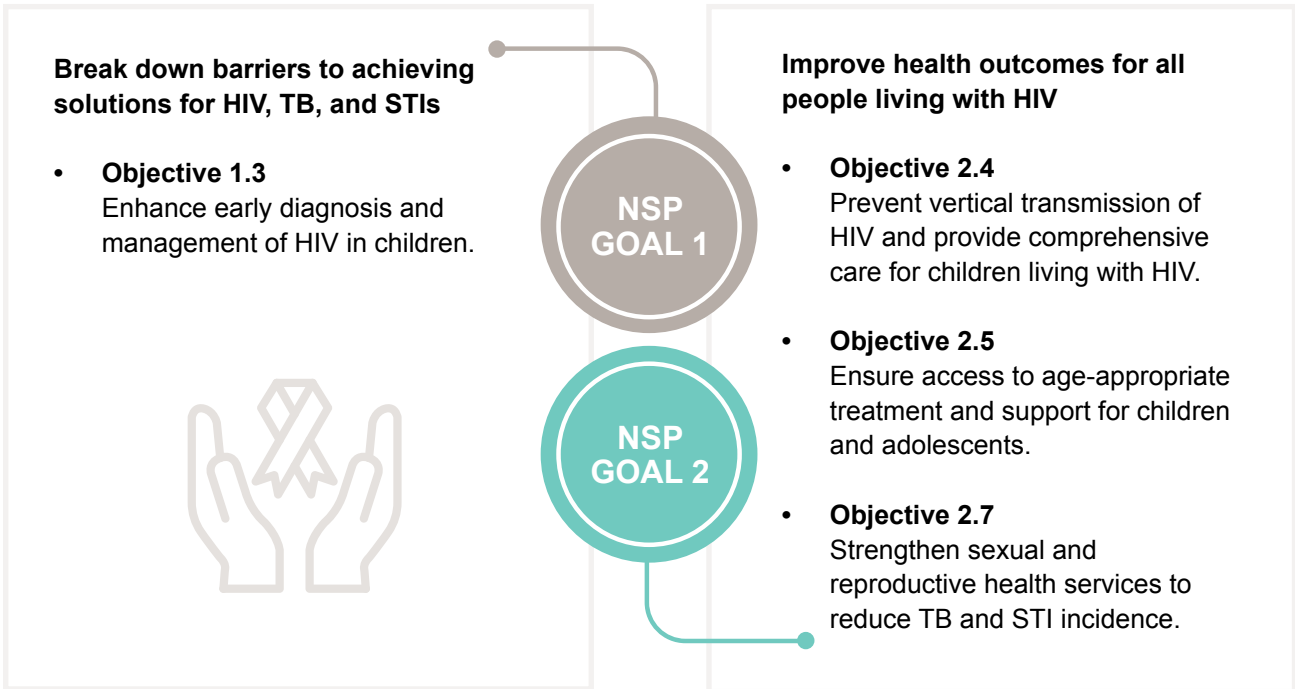
Spouse to the Deputy President and Patron of the South Africa Global Alliance to end AIDS in Children





### 3

## PAEDIATRIC HIV, VERTICAL TRANSMISSION



### 1

#### IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS AND INTERVENTIONS FOR PAEDIATRIC HIV SERVICES IMPROVEMENT:

UNICEF supported monitoring, gap identification, and intervention development to enhance paediatric HIV services in selected sub-districts within Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, and eThekweni. This initiative aimed to address the disparity where, as of 2021, only 52% of children (0 - 14 years) were accessing ART, despite 81% of pregnant women living with HIV and 76% of adults overall receiving antiretrovirals.

### 2

#### LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE AND COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO facilitated the urgent action to close the treatment gap for 70,000 children living with HIV in South Africa. This led to the South African Government joining the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children by 2030, culminating in the launch of a National Global Alliance Plan on World AIDS Day 2023. A national, provincial, and district dashboards were developed to facilitate plan implementation and monitoring.





3

### INTEGRATION OF PrEP:

A collaboration between the Medical Research Council and UNICEF resulted in a study on integrating PrEP in maternal, child, and neonatal health (MCNH) settings. This initiative was driven by the need to address the statistics where only 52% of children (0 - 14 years) were accessing ART, despite 81% of pregnant women living with HIV and 76% of adults overall receiving antiretrovirals as of 2021.



4

### SCALING UP PREGNANT AGYW PEER MENTOR PROGRAM:

UNICEF, through LoveLife and Intelligence Quotient VIA, supported the expansion of the pregnant Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) peer mentor program in eThekweni, Sekhukhune, and potentially Gauteng. Over 45,000 pregnant AGYW have been reached since 2019, with successful outcomes including 100% testing, ARV initiation, and 80% viral load suppression rates. The program encompasses mental health and psychosocial support, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) screening, contraception, nutrition, STI screening, and PrEP introduction.

## KEY RESULTS

Identification of gaps and interventions for paediatric HIV services improvement, particularly in the below districts

- Tshwane
- Ekurhuleni
- eThekweni



Launch of the Global Alliance Country Plan to close the treatment gap for

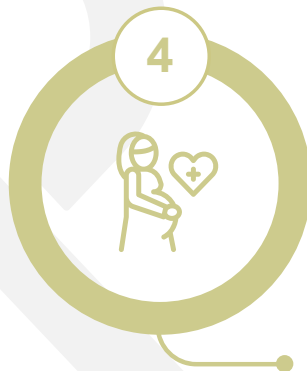
**70 000 children**

living with HIV in South Africa, with the development of a National Global Alliance Plan and implementation dashboards.

Integration of

**PrEP**

into **maternal, child, and neonatal** health settings, aiming to address the disparity in paediatric ART access despite high coverage among pregnant women and adults.



Scaling up of the Pregnant AGYW Peer Mentor Program, resulting in over

**45 000 pregnant AGYW**

**reached since 2019**, with successful outcomes including high rates of testing, ARV initiation, and viral load suppression, along with comprehensive support services.



UNICEF South Africa, in partnership with other UN agencies and civil society entities, is providing technical and financial support to improve the overall quality of care for children and mothers. Children and adolescents must be prioritized across all areas of the HIV-responses, and our focus is on HIV-prevention and treatment services.

- **Christine Muhigana**  
Representative, UNICEF South Africa



## 4 COMMUNITY-LED RESPONSES

### Protect human rights and improve access to justice

- **Objective 3.2**  
Integrate human rights into community-led health initiatives.



NSP  
GOAL 3

NSP  
GOAL 4

### Fully resource and sustain an efficient NSP led by revitalized, inclusive, and accountable institutions

- **Objective 4.1**  
Mobilize sufficient domestic and external funds to implement and coordinate community-led responses.
- **Objective 4.2**  
Strengthen systems for effective monitoring and evaluation of program implementation.
- **Objective 4.4**  
Optimize partnerships and alliances across the response value chain.
- **Objective 4.5**  
Foster inclusive and non-discriminatory practices in HIV response strategies.



In 2023, in collaboration with TAC, UNAIDS successfully advocated for an increase in PEPFAR funding for Community-led Monitoring (CLM) in South Africa, raising it from **\$5 million to \$7 million** for the 2023-2024 period. Through financing and technical expertise, UNAIDS supported the Ritshidze (“saving our lives”) CLM consortium of People Living with HIV to conduct monitoring activities at over 400 health

facilities across the country. Data collected were reported to duty bearers at facility, district, provincial, and national levels, resulting in numerous solutions delivered to facility managers during feedback meetings. Ritshidze demonstrated positive changes over time, with an overall improvement in 85 (70%) of the 125 key indicators monitored, illustrating the transformative impact of community-led initiatives.





## KEY PROGRESS FROM 2022 TO 2023 INCLUDED:

Improvement in treatment literacy levels from

**86% to 87% in 2023**

with increased understanding among PLHIV of the benefits of an undetectable viral load on their health (**up from 77% in 2022**) and

**78% understanding**

that an undetectable viral load means they cannot transmit HIV.



Increase from

**17% to 22% in facility managers**

reporting sufficient staff in the facility.



Increase from

**36% to 41% in People Living with HIV (PLHIV)**

receiving ARV refills for three or more months.



Increase from

**38% to 64% in People Living with HIV (PLHIV)**

reporting the use of external pickup points.



Additionally, Ritshidze collected data from key populations (sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, and people who identify as transgender) in 21 districts, resulting in a published report on the state key populations in South Africa, which informed the development of the National Strategic Plan (NSP). The Ritshidze project has served as a model for similar initiatives in South Africa and beyond.

In collaboration with SANAC, NDOH, and PEPFAR, the UN Joint Team **trained 20 junior journalists** across newsrooms in Gauteng province on storytelling techniques and ethics related to reporting on HIV within communities. This training, which reached community and commercial-based online, broadcast, and print media, strengthened journalists' ability to accurately report on HIV-related priorities, as evidenced by the 2023 World AIDS Day feature stories, interviews, and articles highlighting communities leading the response to HIV. Furthermore, UNAIDS convened a multistakeholder dialogue on **social contracting**

in South Africa, enhancing understanding of sustainable financing for community-led responses and contributing to the alignment of donor transitioning with social contracting. This initiative also facilitated stock-taking of Community-Led Organization (CLO) contributions to Global AIDS Strategy 30-80-60 targets, reviews of funding specifications targeting community-led organizations, and advocacy for increased government funding for key populations.

In a separate effort, the International Labour Organization (ILO) collaborated with Rise n' Shine, an organization of women living with disabilities, to **produce a video on non-discrimination, diversity, and inclusion of persons with disabilities**. The video, used as a Learning Support Material (LSM), features stories of workers with disabilities, predominantly women in the health sector, some of whom have HIV. It highlights the intersectionality of working women living with HIV and disabilities, promoting awareness and inclusivity in the workplace.





## 5 HUMAN RIGHTS

### Protect human rights and improve access to justice

- **Objective 3.1**  
Ensure the protection of human rights and promote equitable access to services for all.
- **Objective 3.2**  
Integrate gender-sensitive approaches in health programs to reduce inequalities.
- **Objective 3.3**  
Address gender-based violence as a critical risk factor for HIV.
- **Objective 3.4**  
Ensure that all people, including key populations, have access to legal services.
- **Objective 3.5**  
Ensure accountability and transparency in funding allocations.

NSP GOAL 3

NSP GOAL 4

### Fully resource and sustain an efficient NSP led by revitalized, inclusive, and accountable institutions.

- **Objective 4.3**  
Strengthen community systems and mobilize partnerships to advance human rights, eliminate stigma and discrimination, and foster environments that support equitable access to HIV services.
- **Objective 4.5**  
Build accountable systems that prevent and address human rights abuses, focusing on underserved communities and key populations impacted by HIV, TB, and STIs.



UNAIDS provided technical support for the development of the 2023-2025 **Takuwani Riime Men's Movement Programme of Action**, launched in November 2023 by H.E. Paul Mashatile, Deputy President of South Africa and chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council Trust, during the 3rd National Men's Parliament. The program, meaning "Let Us Stand Up Together" in Tshivenda, calls for men nationwide to actively combat violence against women, prioritize men's health with a focus on HIV prevention, and drive socio-economic development. The event brought together leaders from government, labour, business, Parliament, civil society, and the United Nations.

UNDP supported SANAC in crafting a **Human Rights Charter on HIV and TB for key and vulnerable populations**,

aimed at asserting basic rights for those affected by HIV or AIDS. The completed Charter awaits validation and will serve as a tool to empower communities in their HIV response.

In collaboration with SANAC, UNDP organized **a dialogue for sex workers, facilitated by the UNDP-PEPFAR SCALE initiative**, to discuss policy implementation ensuring health and safety for key populations. Approximately 30 stakeholders attended, including sex worker activists, SANAC civil society sectors, PEPFAR, CDC, UNFPA, UN Agencies, the South African Police Service, and the SANAC Secretariat. Key outcomes include scaling up community-based initiatives, increasing funding, and advocating for the Decriminalization of Sex Work Bill to remain on the cabinet agenda.



## KEY RESULTS



The launch of the **2023-2025 Takuwani Riime Men’s Movement Programme of Action**, aimed at mobilizing men nationwide to combat violence against women, prioritize men’s health—particularly HIV prevention—and drive socio-economic development.



The development of **a Human Rights Charter on HIV and TB** for key and vulnerable populations, facilitated by UNDP and SANAC, with the aim of asserting basic rights for those affected by HIV or AIDS.



UNAIDS welcomed the decision of the Government of South Africa, and the Department of Justice and constitutional Development to review the “Criminal Law **(Sexual Offenses and Related Matters)** Amendment Bill, 2022 relating to sex work, and prepared a submission.

**These initiatives demonstrate collaborative efforts to address key issues related to HIV/AIDS, men's health, and human rights, with a focus on empowering communities and advocating for policy change.**





# 6 GENDER EQUALITY

**Protect human rights and improve access to justice, ensuring that social and structural barriers to accessing health services are removed**

- **Objective 3.1**  
Ensure inclusive, gender-sensitive policies are in place to reduce inequalities and eliminate gender-based violence that heightens vulnerability to HIV and restricts access to services.
- **Objective 3.2**  
Integrate gender-sensitive approaches in health programs to reduce inequalities.
- **Objective 3.3**  
Address gender-based violence as a critical risk factor for HIV.

**NSP GOAL 3**

**NSP GOAL 4**

- **Objective 4.2**  
Invest in gender-responsive interventions that address the needs of women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ communities, supporting their equal participation in decision-making processes.



In 2023, UN Women continued its support for stakeholders, both state and non-state actors, in addressing the structural drivers of vulnerability to HIV and gender-based violence (GBV), with a particular focus on gender inequalities.





## KEY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

1

### YOUNG WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

- UN Women led leadership movement building across seven provinces through the **Young Women for Life Movement (YWfLM)**. A session during the South Africa AIDS conference emphasized the priorities and specific needs of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in the national HIV/AIDS response.
- South African young women participated in a global leadership program organized by UN Women and PEPFAR, culminating in a high-level meeting hosted by the President of Tanzania.
- **Socio-economic empowerment models for young women continued, yielding promising outcomes:**

- A** In Sobantu, KwaZulu-Natal, a thriving vegetable farming initiative supported vulnerable households and addressed period poverty, with plans to supply major food chain stores.
- B** In Cape Town, 70 young women completed a hospitality course, with graduation set for early October.
- C** In Mpumalanga, 120 young women, predominantly single mothers, engaged in farming activities, including poultry farming, to sustain themselves and other vulnerable families.
- D** In Phomolong, Mamelodi, 30 young women received weekly beauty training.

2

### ADDRESSING HARMFUL NORMS AND PRACTICES:

- The **HeForShe initiative**, led by South Africa Multi-Country Office, aimed to address HIV/AIDS vulnerability and violence against women and girls (VAWG) driven by harmful norms. Positive outcomes were observed, particularly in Sobantu, KwaZulu-Natal, where over 50 taverns initiated weekly HeForShe dialogues. These dialogues informed a documentary showcased at the 2023 Women Deliver session.



3

### INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY (GE) IN THE HIV RESPONSE:

- UN Women supported the Department of Social Development (DSD) in reviewing and preparing their upcoming 5-year plan for HIV/AIDS, with a focus on gender equality.
- Young women in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, collaborated with the house of traditional leadership to strategize ways to combat teenage pregnancy, a prevalent issue in their municipality.



4

## ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN THE WORLD OF WORK:

- Following the ratification of the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (C190) in 2021 by South Africa, a **Code of Good Practice on the Prevention and Elimination of Harassment in the Workplace** was adopted and published by the Minister of Employment and Labour through a Government Gazette (No.46056) on 18 March 2022.

- ILO held a training session for magistrates in the Eastern Cape in collaboration with the South African Judiciary Educational Institute (SAJEI) and UNDP, focusing on Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion, particularly for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and LGBTIQ+ individuals in 2023
- The Code has since been distributed and disseminated to various stakeholders, including other Government Departments/ Offices/Agencies, Employers, Workers, Court Judges, and more. Over 300 delegates who attended the National COSATU Gender Conference were oriented on the ILO Convention, the Recommendation concerning HIV and AIDS and the World of Work, and the Code on 20 June 2022.

These initiatives underscore ILO’s, UNDP and UN Women’s commitment to promoting gender equality and addressing the intersecting challenges of HIV/AIDS and GBV through targeted interventions and institutional transformations.



HIV transmission and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) can be prevented. We know what works: a whole-of-society approach that involves schools, communities, media, religious and traditional leaders, sports, men and women, boys and girls—to transform the harmful social norms that drive HIV transmission among young women and perpetuate violence against women and girls. We can transform these harmful norms into positive beliefs, attitudes, values, and ultimately, behaviours. And we must.

- Aleta Miller

UN Women Representative, South Africa  
Multi Country office



In South Africa, addressing HIV and AIDS in the workplace is not just a health issue; it's a matter of social justice and economic stability. By creating inclusive and supportive work environments, we can help workers living with HIV maintain their livelihoods and contribute to the nation's economic growth.

- Alexio Musindo

Director, ILO





# 7 YOUNG PEOPLE

**Break the cycle of HIV transmission by scaling up prevention efforts targeting key populations, including adolescents and young people**

- **Objective 2.1**  
Increase access to youth-friendly health services that provide comprehensive HIV, TB, and STI prevention and treatment, addressing barriers specific to adolescents and young people.
- **Objective 2.4**  
Enhance life skills, health education, and peer-led interventions that empower young people, equipping them with the knowledge and resources to make informed health decisions.

NSP GOAL 3

NSP GOAL 4

**Ensure sustainable NSP implementation through accountable and youth-inclusive partnerships**

- **Objective 4.3**  
Build partnerships with youth-led organizations to actively involve young people in decision-making and program design, ensuring that interventions resonate with and are accessible to them.



In 2022, South Africa joined the Education Plus Initiative. The Champion of Edu+, the Deputy Minister of Education, in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women, and with support from SIDA, launched the initiative. Edu+ aims to bolster education by launching the Edu+ initiative, led by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education. This initiative, supplemented by \$50,000 in SIDA funding mobilized by the UCO, aimed to bolster educational opportunities and prevent HIV acquisition among young girls. A Parliamentary dialogue in Cape Town, chaired by the Honourable House Chairperson Mr. Frolick, MP, engaged 15 Members of Parliament on strategies to enhance girls' education and mitigate HIV risks. UNFPA provided critical support for the implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Limpopo provinces.

This support included training government youth focal officials and adapting CSE Amaze videos for national TV broadcasts, which reached 30,313 adolescents and youth. Additionally, UNFPA facilitated the delivery of quality Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Services (AYFS) and youth zone initiatives in 81 healthcare facilities nationwide, with a focus on KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, and Limpopo provinces.

These efforts extended to 40 schools and 45 health facilities in KZN, 20 health facilities in the Eastern Cape, and 16 health facilities in Limpopo. Moreover, UNFPA conducted Youth Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities, reaching 77,718 young people through innovative platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and community radio stations. These interventions, which integrated sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and HIV services, aimed to empower youth and promote healthy behaviours.



# KEY RESULTS

Mobilization of

**\$50 million**

in SIDA funding by the UCO to support the Edu+ initiative, enhancing educational opportunities and preventing HIV acquisition among young girls.

UNFPA's support for the implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Limpopo provinces, reaching

**30,313 adolescents**

and youth through national TV broadcasts and other initiatives.

Extension of AYFS and youth zone initiatives to

**40 schools**

and **45 health facilities** in KZN, **20 health facilities** in the Eastern Cape, and **16 health facilities** in Limpopo by UNFPA.

**Youth Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities by UNFPA, reaching 77,718 young people through innovative platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and community radio stations, integrating sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and HIV services.**



Launch of the

## Edu+ initiative

under the Education Plus Initiative, led by South Africa in collaboration with UN agencies, including UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women.

Parliamentary dialogue in Cape Town, chaired by Honourable House Chairperson Mr. Frolick, MP, engaging

**15 members**

of Parliament to strategize on improving girls' education and mitigating HIV risks.

Facilitation of quality Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Services (AYFS) and youth zone initiatives in

**81 healthcare facilities**

nationwide by UNFPA, benefiting KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, and Limpopo provinces.



Health and learning have symbiotic link- healthy learners learn better, and learners acquiring balanced intellectual, physical, and social and emotional skills stay healthy. Strengthening this link is crucial for sustainable learning outcomes in South Africa. Integration of health and wellbeing of learners and teachers, comprehensive sexuality education and safer campuses in education systems equips learners with life-saving skills to prevent HIV and adolescent pregnancies, and grow into adults capable of understanding, loving and respectful relationships.

**-Nisha**

Regional Director of the Regional Office for Southern Africa  
and UNESCO Representative to Zimbabwe



The cornerstone of effective HIV prevention strategies includes empowering youth, key populations, and communities with knowledge, access, resources, and responsive systems, while ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment for a future where opportunities are not limited by stereotypes but fuelled by talents and aspirations. This is not just about preventing HIV; it is an investment in human capital development, which lays the foundation for resilience building and sustainable development. Together, we can break the cycle of stigma and discrimination and ensure a healthier, more inclusive tomorrow for all.

**-Yu Yu**

UNFPA Representative (South Africa),  
Country Director (Botswana, Eswatini)







## 8 FULLY FUNDED HIV RESPONSE

**Protect human rights and improve access to justice**

- **Objective 3.5**  
Ensure accountability and transparency in funding allocations.



**NSP GOAL 3**

**NSP GOAL 4**

**Fully resource and sustain an efficient NSP led by revitalized, inclusive, and accountable institutions**

- **Objective 4.1**  
Mobilize sufficient domestic and external funds to ensure the efficient implementation and coordination of HIV, TB, and STI programs. Prioritize sustainable financing models that reduce reliance on donor funding and strengthen national ownership of the HIV response.
- **Objective 4.4**  
Forge impactful partnerships and alliances that optimize resources across the health, social, and private sectors, supporting a cohesive response to HIV and related health priorities.
- **Objective 4.6**  
Strengthen financial accountability and transparency mechanisms to ensure funds are allocated effectively, addressing high-impact interventions and reaching underserved populations.





In 2023, UNAIDS bolstered partnerships to enhance domestic funding for HIV response and health systems, engaging in the PEPFAR 2023 Country Operational Plan, resulting in a mobilization of US\$ 900 million from the US Government for 2023–2024. Since 2003, PEPFAR has invested

over eight billion dollars in South Africa. Additionally, UNAIDS provided technical assistance in the implementation of Global Fund to end TB, AIDS and Malaria Grant Cycle 6 (US\$) through engagement in the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) and various quarterly programme meetings.

## KEY RESULTS

Long-term investment exceeding

**\$8 billion**

by PEPFAR in South Africa since 2003.

Facilitation of partnerships for increased domestic funding, contributing to sustainability in the HIV response and health systems.



Mobilization of

**\$900 million**

from the US Government for the 2023–2024 period for the HIV response and health systems strengthening in South Africa.

Provision of technical advice by UNAIDS to the Global Fund-supported HIV and TB grant, totalling

**\$546.7 million**

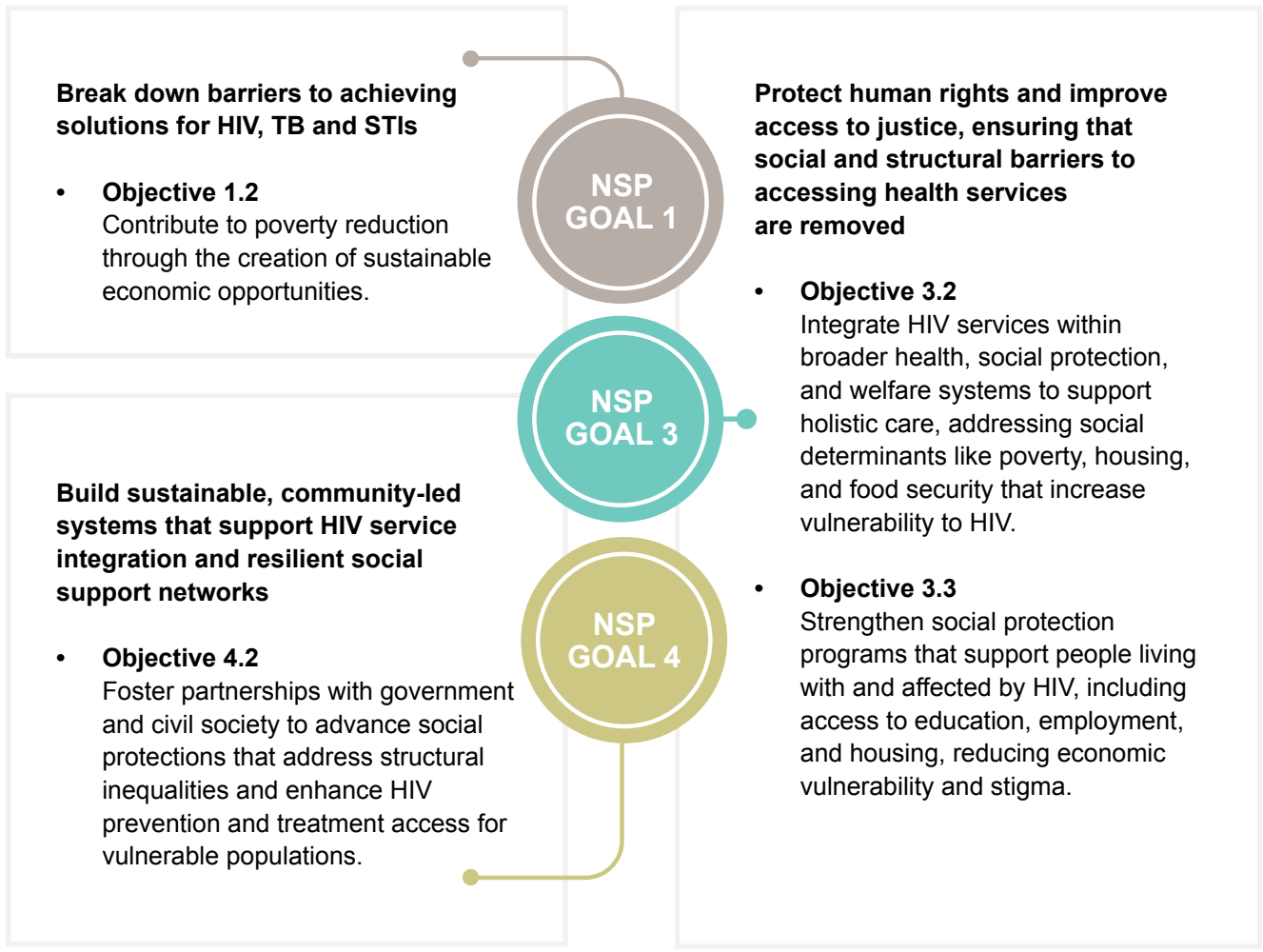
for April 2022 - March 2025.

Ongoing support to ensure effective utilization of funds and progress monitoring through quarterly program progress meetings.



9

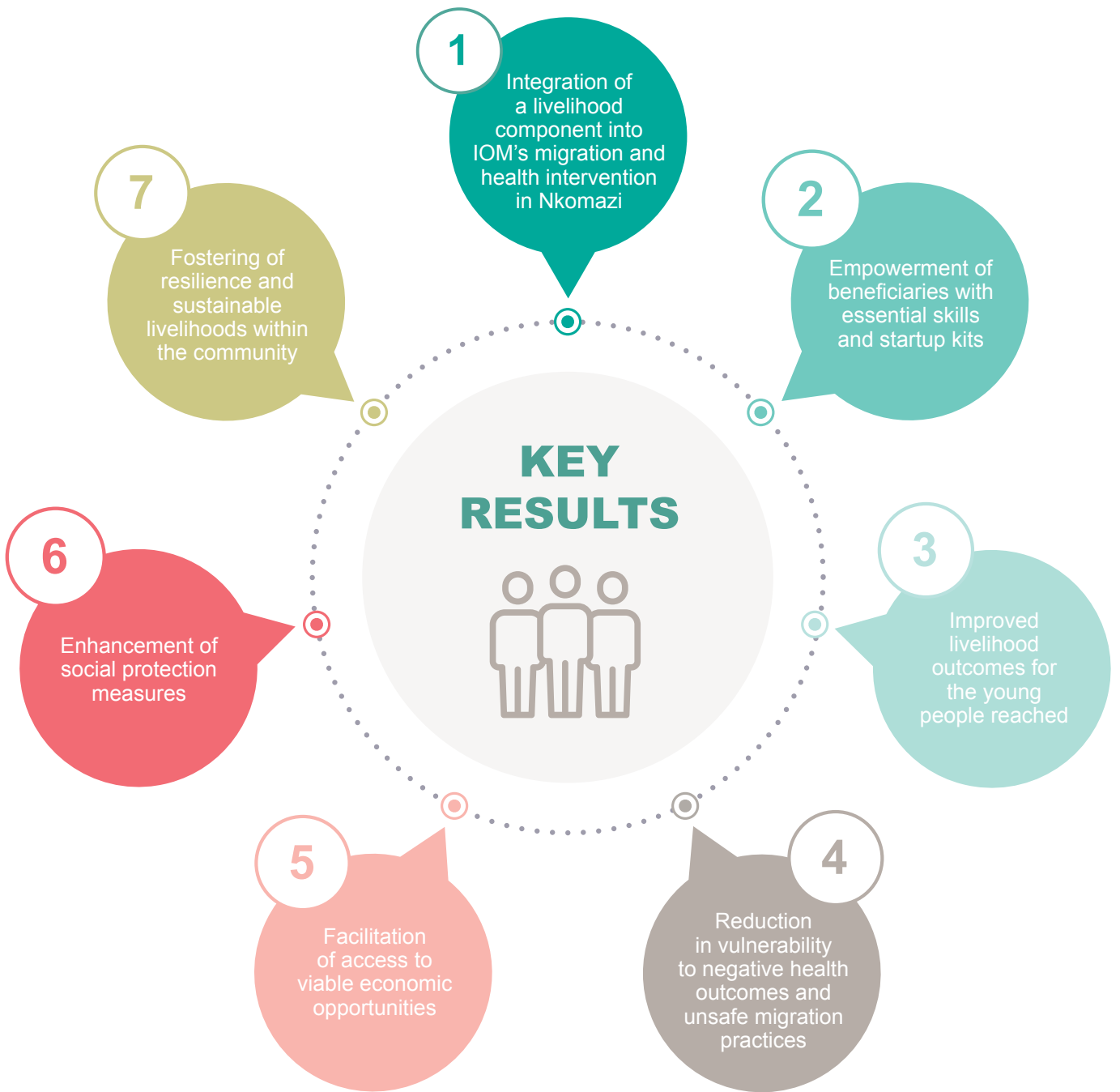
# INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION



Through stakeholder engagement, IOM integrated a livelihood component into its migration and health intervention in Nkomazi, empowering beneficiaries with essential skills and startup kits. This strategic addition resulted in improved livelihood outcomes for the young people reached,

reducing their vulnerability to negative health outcomes and unsafe migration practices. By facilitating access to viable economic opportunities, the intervention enhanced social protection measures, fostering resilience and sustainable livelihoods within the community.









10

# HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS AND PANDEMICS

## Improve health outcomes for all people living with HIV

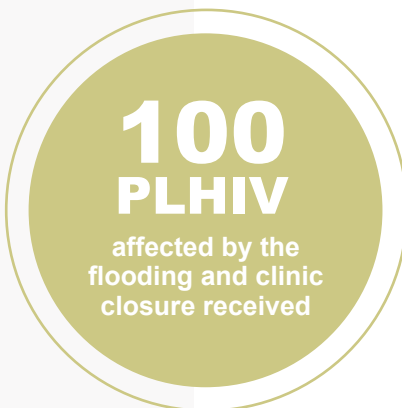
- **Objective 2.6**  
Ensure continuity of care for people living with HIV during humanitarian crises.



## Fully resource and sustain an efficient NSP led by revitalized, inclusive, and accountable institutions

- **Objective 4.1**  
Ensure resources are allocated to maintain HIV services in humanitarian settings.
- **Objective 4.2**  
Strengthen systems for effective monitoring and evaluation of program implementation.
- **Objective 4.5**  
Enhance capacity for rapid response to health emergencies, integrating HIV services into broader emergency health responses.

In response to the flooding in KwaZulu-Natal in 2022, which led to the destruction of health facilities and posed specific vulnerabilities for people living with HIV, UNAIDS provided financial and technical support to the South African Positive Women Ambassadors (SAPWA) to ensure adherence to HIV treatment.



- A** 3-months supply of non-perishable food parcels
- B** Psychosocial support
- C** Adherence counselling
- D** Linkage to treatment pick-up points and health care facilities



UNHCR's South Africa Multi-Country office implemented community-based HIV programs in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces in 2023. South Africa, with over

**7.5 million**

people living with HIV/AIDS, has a high prevalence rate of **13.7%**, ranking fifth globally.

**A**

UNHCR targeted at-risk populations, including LGBTQIA+, GBV survivors, and refugees or asylum-seekers engaged in sex work

**B**

Implemented through partners Future Families (Gauteng) and Adonis Musati Project (Western Cape)

**C**

**Trained 58 community leaders** as peer educators on HIV and other diseases

**D**

Conducted therapeutic groups and info sessions, reaching **1687 individuals**

**E**

Partnered with clinics in Western Cape, reaching **576 individuals** with HIV testing and awareness

**F**

Assisted 842 individuals in Gauteng with accessing health services, including HIV testing, TB screening, and access to PrEP and ART, in collaboration with Red Cross, ANOVA, and Wits RHI testing partners

## KEY RESULTS

**UNAIDS** provided support to SAPWA for HIV treatment adherence among

**100 PLHIV**

affected by flooding in KZN



Trained

**58 community leaders**

as peer educators on HIV and other diseases



Conducted therapeutic groups and info sessions, reaching

**1687 individuals**



Partnered with clinics in Western Cape, reaching

**576 individuals**

with HIV testing and awareness



Assisted

**842 individuals**

in Gauteng with accessing health services, including HIV testing, TB screening, and access to PrEP and ART



**UNHCR** implemented HIV programs in Gauteng and Western Cape, targeting at-risk populations





# CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDG AGENDA



## SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Target 3.3**  
Ending AIDS, TB, malaria, and other diseases (specifically S.3 SEC3, 3.3.1)
- Target 3.5**  
Prevention and treatment of substance abuse
- Target 3.7**  
Universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare (specifically 3.7.2)
- Target 3.8**  
Universal health coverage and access to quality healthcare (also 3c)



## SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY

- Target 5.1**  
End discrimination against women & girls
- Target 5.2**  
Eliminate all forms of violence against women & girls
- Target 5.3**  
Eliminate all harmful practices against women & girls
- Target 5.5**  
Ensure women's participation and equal opportunities (also 5.a, 5.c)
- Target 5.6**  
Universal access to SRHR (specifically 5.6.1)



## SDG 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

- Target 10.3**  
Eliminate discriminatory laws, policies, practices



## SDG 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- Target 17.3**  
Mobilize additional financial resources
- Target 17.6**  
Enhance South-South cooperation
- Target 17.18**  
Increase availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data

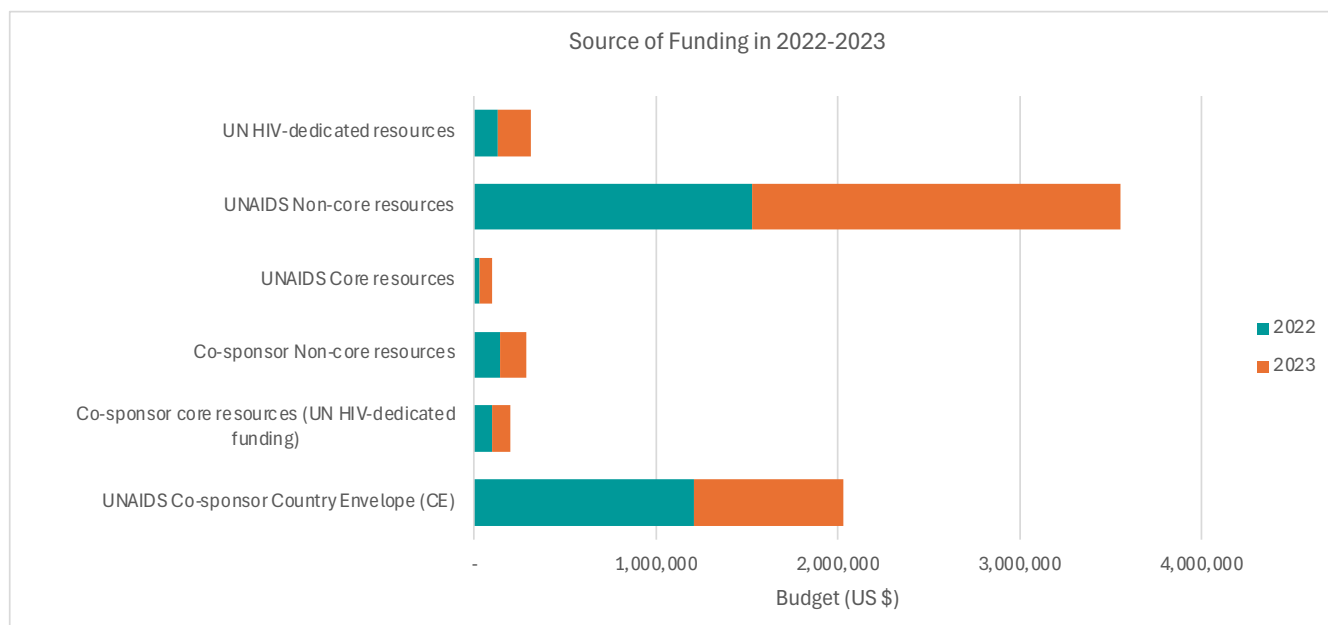


## FINANCING THE UN HIV RESPONSE

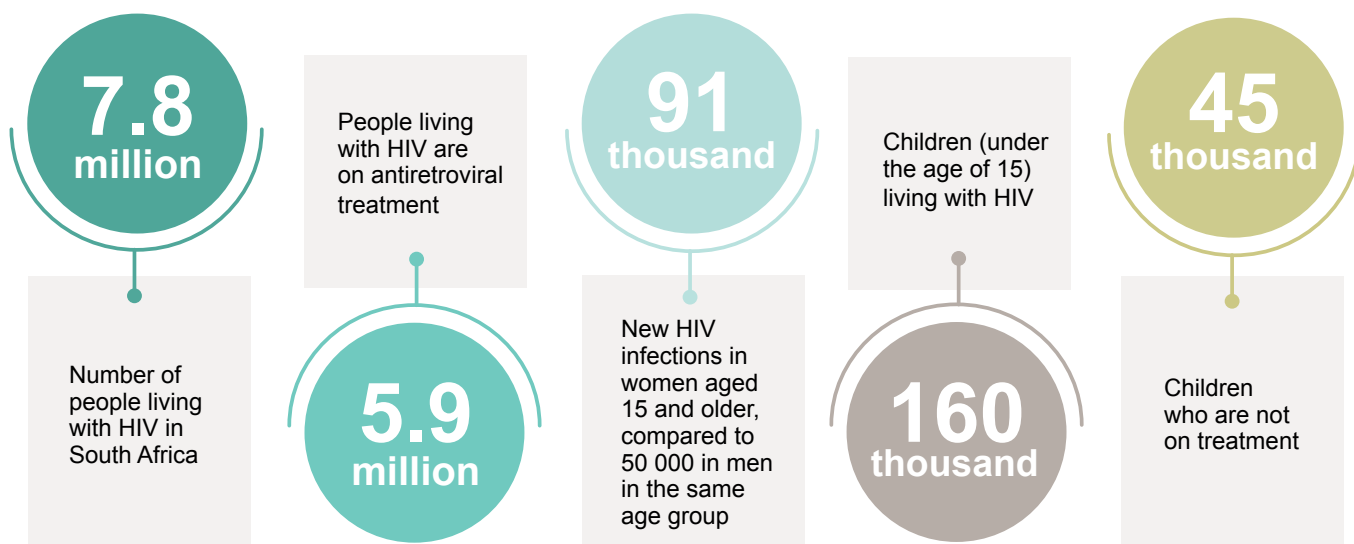
### 2022 -2023 Budget

The Country Envelope (CE) was introduced in 2017 as part of a refined operating model to improve the transparency, efficiency and results focus of the UN Joint Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

The CEs were established to incentivize joint planning and action, as part of Joint Plans on HIV (Joint Plan) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF). The UN HIV response in South Africa is financed from UN agencies core and non-core funding.



## HIV ESTIMATES IN SOUTH AFRICA 2023







## LOOKING AHEAD

Despite progress in the HIV response in South Africa, the fight is not over. To end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 globally, we must succeed in South Africa. The bold agenda set out in “The People’s” National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs (2023 - 2028) that was launched by the Deputy President of South Africa in 2023 is paving the way to end HIV and AIDS. But it will require all of government and society to address the social and structural factors that perpetuate inequalities that drive HIV and AIDS. The Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS reaffirms its commitment, to continue collaborating with the Government and people of South Africa in their efforts towards achieving our shared goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. Moving from the 2022/2023 biennium to the 2024/2025 biennium, our focus will centre on key areas to strengthen HIV prevention, treatment, and care, with renewed emphasis on reaching vulnerable populations and addressing structural barriers to health equity.

To accelerate progress, the Joint Team will enhance collaboration with government agencies, civil society, and community-led organisations. Our efforts will prioritise the integration of HIV services within

broader health and social protection programmes, ensuring a holistic approach that meets the complex needs of people living with HIV. We will also continue addressing gender inequality and work towards eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, recognising their critical role in reducing HIV risk, particularly for young women, girls, and other vulnerable groups.

A key part of our strategy moving forward includes a stronger commitment to digital health innovations, which will enable real-time data analysis and tailored interventions to improve health outcomes. Additionally, we will strengthen advocacy and awareness campaigns to combat HIV stigma and discrimination, creating a supportive environment for testing, treatment, and prevention.

By scaling up these targeted initiatives and maintaining collaborative partnerships, the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS reaffirms its commitment, to continue collaborating with the Government and people of South Africa in their efforts towards achieving our shared goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.



