



UNAIDS statement, World Health Assembly 76th.

Item: 12 - Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030)

Delivery: UNAIDS

- I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS welcomes the Director-General's report on the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030).
- While the aggregate rate of new HIV infections is declining globally, inequalities mean that the rate of new HIV infections continues to rise at an alarming rate for some groups around the world.
- Every day in 2021, 4,000 people—including 1,100 young people (aged 15 to 24 years)—became infected with HIV. Adolescent girls and young women (aged 15 to 24 years) are three times more likely to acquire HIV than adolescent boys and young men of the same age group in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Inequalities not only cause disparity in who can access prevention, they also impact who can access care. For example, of the approximately 1.7 million children under 14 years of age who were living with HIV in 2021, only 52% were accessing lifesaving antiretroviral therapy while 76% adults with HIV were able to access ART.
- If current trends continue, 1.2 million people will be newly infected with HIV in 2025. We must redouble our prevention efforts and address the inequalities that drive, and that perpetuate, the AIDS pandemic.

- As we recommit to the shared goal of “saving lives and driving health for all,” - the theme of this 76th World Health Assembly, UNAIDS underlines the urgency of addressing the structural, systemic, and societal barriers that lead to inequalities, and, in turn, fuel new infections and limit access to life saving information, testing, treatment and care.
- The human rights of women, adolescents and children must be central to our efforts. Only by eliminating violence in all its forms and ensuring that women and girls can access their full sexual and reproductive health and rights, will we achieve this goal.
- Thank you.