



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
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WHO's contribution to the follow-up of the United Nations General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS

The attached list of core components of a health-sector response to HIV/AIDS has been revised to take account of comments and contributions received from Member States after the deadline for submission of texts.

APPENDIX

CORE COMPONENTS OF A HEALTH-SECTOR RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS

Prevention and health promotion

- Providing support for the development of broad-based programmes to educate the general population about HIV/AIDS
- Promoting safer and responsible sexual behaviour including, as appropriate, delaying the onset of sexual activity, practising abstinence, reducing the number of sexual partners, and using condoms
- Targeting interventions where they will yield the most benefit, for example where risk and vulnerability converge through behaviours, locations and group membership
- Promoting harm reduction among injecting drug users, such as wide access to sterile injecting equipment, and drug-dependence treatment and outreach services to help to reduce frequency of injecting drug use
- Providing widely accessible HIV testing and counselling
- Implementing programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Treatment

- Increasing access to services to diagnose and manage sexually transmitted infections
- Strengthening services to diagnose and treat HIV/AIDS and related opportunistic and concurrent infections such as tuberculosis
- Increasing access to antiretroviral therapy and other advanced HIV-related treatments
- Providing a continuum of care from the home to the health facility supported by a system of client referral (e.g. to nutritional support, psychosocial support and palliative care)

Health standards and health systems

- Ensuring the safety of blood and blood products
- Promoting universal precautions to reduce the risk of occupational HIV infection in health facilities, community settings and the home; and providing post-exposure prophylaxis to those accidentally exposed to HIV
- Setting and promoting national standards for the public, private and community-based delivery of HIV/AIDS prevention, health promotion, treatment and care
- Building capacity and strengthening health systems, as appropriate, including human resource levels and skills mix

Informed policy and strategy development

- Establishing or strengthening epidemiological and behavioural surveillance for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Elaborating plans to generate resources, and strengthening accountability and monitoring systems for both human and financial resources
- Countering discrimination against and stigmatization of vulnerable groups and people living with HIV/AIDS
- Reviewing policies, laws and regulations to ensure that they support programmes on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections
- Mobilizing communities, nongovernmental organizations, people living with HIV/AIDS, vulnerable groups, and the business sector

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