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# Fact Sheet

## THE GLOBAL HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

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The HIV/AIDS epidemic has claimed over 21 million lives and more than 36 million people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. HIV/AIDS cases have been reported in all regions of the world, but most people with HIV (95%) live in developing nations, where most AIDS-related deaths occur. The nations of sub-Saharan Africa have been particularly hard-hit.<sup>1</sup> AIDS is now a leading cause of death worldwide.<sup>2</sup> HIV/AIDS is also a threat to the economic well-being and social and political stability of many nations.

### Current Global AIDS Statistics

- During 2000, an estimated 5.3 million people became newly infected with HIV.<sup>1,3</sup>
- There were an estimated 3 million AIDS-related deaths in 2000. Of these, 1.3 million were women and 500,000 were children under 15.<sup>1</sup>
- AIDS is the number one cause of death in Africa, and the fourth leading cause of death globally.<sup>2</sup>
- Worldwide, nine out of ten HIV-positive individuals are unaware they are infected.<sup>1</sup>

### Impact on Women, Children, Adolescents

- HIV is increasingly affecting women. In 1997, 41% of adults living with HIV/AIDS were women; in 2000, almost half (47%) were women.<sup>4</sup> Gender inequalities in social and economic status and access to medical care increase women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.
- Adolescents are at elevated risk for HIV infection in many countries. In South Africa, approximately 60% of all adults who acquire HIV are infected before they turn 25.<sup>5</sup> Infection rates are five times higher among young women than young men in some African countries.<sup>5</sup>
- At the end of 1999, an estimated 13.2 million children under age 15 had lost their mothers or both parents as a result of AIDS; 90% of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>7</sup>

### Impact by Region

The major route of HIV transmission worldwide is heterosexual sex, but risk factors for HIV vary around the world. In many regions of the world, men who have sex with men, injection drug users, and sex industry workers have been particularly affected.<sup>1</sup>

Several regions and countries have been particularly hard-hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic (see Figure 1). Even in areas where HIV incidence has leveled, such as the U.S., there are increasing numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS and continued risk of HIV infection in many communities. The regions most affected by HIV/AIDS include:

- **Sub-Saharan Africa.** Sub-Saharan Africa has 70% (25.3 million) of the population living with HIV/AIDS but only 11% of the world's population. The region has accounted for

three-quarters of all deaths caused by AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic. In some sub-Saharan African nations, up to a third of adults are estimated to be infected with HIV.<sup>1</sup> South Africa has the largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world (4.2 million).<sup>6</sup>

Figure 1: AIDS Prevalence & Incidence by Region<sup>1</sup>

Region	Adult Prevalence Rates	Total Living with HIV/AIDS	Newly Infected in 2000
<b>Global Total</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>36.1 million</b>	<b>5.3 million</b>
Sub-Saharan Africa	8.8%	25.3 million	3.8 million
Caribbean	2.3%	390,000	60,000
North America	0.6%	920,000	45,000
South & South-East Asia	0.56%	5.8 million	780,000
Latin America	0.5%	1.4 million	150,000
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	0.35%	700,000	250,000
Western Europe	0.24%	540,000	30,000
North Africa & Middle East	0.2%	400,000	80,000
Australia & New Zealand	0.13%	15,000	500
East Asia & Pacific	0.07%	640,000	130,000

- **Caribbean.** The Caribbean is the next hardest hit region, as measured by AIDS prevalence. In Haiti, for example, 8% of adults in urban areas and 4% of adults in rural areas are HIV positive.<sup>4</sup>
- **Eastern Europe/Central Asia.** Driven largely by injection drug use, HIV prevalence rates have risen sharply over the last several years in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. The estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS grew from 170,000 at the end of 1997 to 700,000 at the end of 2000.<sup>4</sup>
- **Asia.** In India, 3.7 million adults and children are already infected with HIV. Three countries – Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand – have HIV prevalence rates above 1% among 15 to 49 year olds,<sup>6,8</sup> and there are increasing concerns about the spread of the epidemic in China and elsewhere.
- **Latin America.** In this region, an estimated 150,000 adults and children became infected in 2000, bringing the total number infected to 1.4 million.<sup>1</sup>

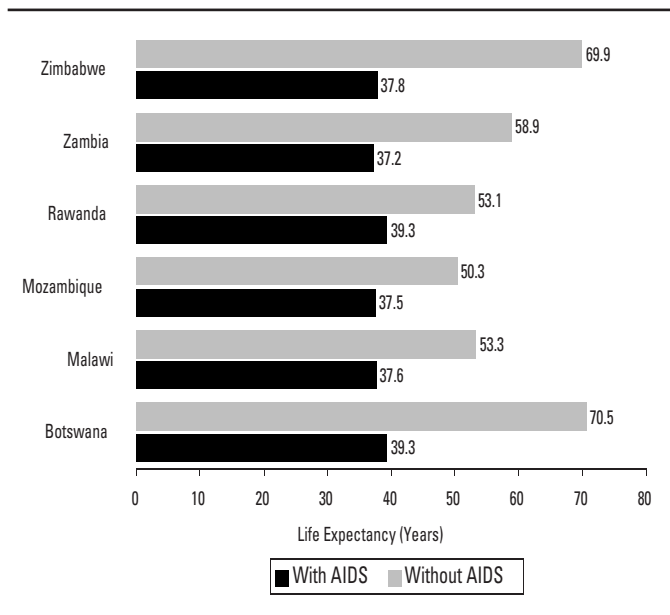
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## Multi-Sectoral Impact of AIDS

The global HIV pandemic has had a profound, multi-sectoral impact on the structure of many nations, affecting their development and economic growth, communities, households, and individuals.

- AIDS has been declared a development crisis by the World Bank.<sup>9</sup> For example, South Africa's GDP is expected to be reduced 17% below where it would have been in 2010 without AIDS.<sup>1</sup>
- Across sub-Saharan African, AIDS is claiming the lives of thousands of teachers and leading to school closures. In the first ten months of 1998, for example, Zambia lost 1300 teachers, two thirds of the total trained annually.<sup>6</sup>
- The United Nations has estimated that AIDS could kill up to 26% of the labor force in the hardest-hit African countries by 2020.<sup>10</sup>
- Increasing demand for health care services is overwhelming the public health infrastructure in many developing countries. It is estimated that by the mid-1990s, treatment for people with HIV consumed 66% of Rwanda's public health spending.<sup>5</sup>
- HIV/AIDS is likely to significantly affect the population structures of affected countries, including their life expectancies, population sizes, and age structures.<sup>2,3</sup>
- By 2010, life expectancies in many countries in southern Africa are estimated to fall to near 30 years of age compared to regional life expectancies of approximately 70 years of age without AIDS.<sup>2</sup> (see Figure 2)

**Figure 2: Projected impact on life expectancy in selected African countries with high HIV prevalence<sup>2</sup>**



## The Global Response

- Scarce resources and political constraints have limited many nations' ability to implement scientifically-based prevention interventions.<sup>1</sup> Most people with HIV in the developing world do not have access to treatment, including antiretroviral therapy and other medications needed by people with HIV, due to their high prices and to limited healthcare infrastructure.<sup>1,11</sup>
- The United Nations estimates that \$1 billion is spent annually on AIDS in developing countries but UNAIDS estimates that \$7 billion to \$10 billion is needed per year to address the pandemic.<sup>12,13</sup>
- In FY 2000, U.S. federal spending on international HIV/AIDS efforts totaled \$242.7 million or 2.2% of total federal HIV/AIDS spending (\$10.8 billion).<sup>14</sup> In FY 2001, estimated U.S. spending on such efforts was \$464.5 million.<sup>15</sup> The U.S. recently pledged an initial contribution of \$200 million to a "Global Trust Fund" for HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan and others.<sup>16,17</sup>

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), *AIDS Epidemic Update*, December 2000.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *The AIDS Pandemic in the 21st Century: The Demographic Impact in Developing Countries*, paper prepared for presentation at the XIII International AIDS Conference, Durban, South Africa, July 9-14, 2000.
- <sup>3</sup> Piot, P., *Facing the challenge of AIDS*, speech to the UN ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition, Symposium on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS, Nairobi, April 3, 2001.
- <sup>4</sup> UNAIDS Fact Sheets: *Gender and HIV, HIV/AIDS in Africa, HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean, HIV/AIDS in the Newly Independent States*.
- <sup>5</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, Love Life Program, *The Impending Catastrophe: A resource book on the emerging HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa*, June 2000
- <sup>6</sup> UNAIDS, *Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic*, June 2000.
- <sup>7</sup> USAID, *USAID Efforts to Address the Needs of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS*, Report to the U.S. Congress, March 15, 2001
- <sup>8</sup> UNAIDS, Press Release, *UN Secretary-General Calls On Governments to Take Up AIDS Challenge*, February 20, 2001
- <sup>9</sup> World Bank, *Intensifying Action Against HIV/AIDS in Africa: Responding to A Development Crisis*, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2000
- <sup>10</sup> Committee of World Food Security, United Nations, *The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Food Security*, May 2001
- <sup>11</sup> Gellman, B., "An Unequal Calculus of Life and Death: As Millions Perished in Pandemic, Firms Debated Access to Drugs", *Washington Post*, December 27, 2000.
- <sup>12</sup> United Nations, Press Release, *United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan Appeals to Donors for Large-Scale Mobilization in Fight Against AIDS*, April 30, 2001
- <sup>13</sup> UNAIDS, Press Release, *UNAIDS Welcomes Landmark US Contribution to International Fund*, May 11, 2001.
- <sup>14</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, *Federal HIV/AIDS Spending: A Budget Chartbook, FY 2000*, October 2000.
- <sup>15</sup> U.S. House of Representatives, Appropriations Committee, 2001
- <sup>16</sup> United Nations, Press Release, *Secretary-General Proposes Global Fund for Fight Against HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases at African Leaders Summit*, April 26, 2001.
- <sup>17</sup> White House Press Release, May 11, 2001.