AIDS is not over: Ireland’s responsibility to help finish the job

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We are now into the 4th decade of HIV and AIDS

In 1982, the disease still did not have a name

In 1986 - "The name of the virus had itself become a political football as the French insisted on LAV (lymphadenopathy-associated virus), while Gallo's US group used HTLV-3 (human T-cell lymphotropic virus, type 3)."

In May 1986, the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses ruled that both names should be dropped and the dispute solved by a new name, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)

December 1st 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of World AIDS Day which was launched in 1988
HIV in the world - end of 2012

- People living with HIV - 35.3 million globally about half do not know their HIV status (over 350 million people are directly affected)

- New HIV infections in 2012 - 2.3 million

- Deaths due to HIV and AIDS in 2011 - 1.6 million

- Still about 6,300 people are newly infected with HIV every day in 2012 (SSA most affected region)

About 2400 young people are infected daily (15-24 year olds)

UNAIDS/WHO Report Sept. 2013
Lives are being transformed

Don’t leave anyone behind!

- People eligible for HIV treatment now 26 million

- People on HIV treatment 9.7 million (39% ART treatment gap)
  (under the 2010 WHO Guidelines - start ART at CD4 count 350 cells/mm³ or less
  and 66% treatment gap under the 2013 WHO Guidelines - start ART at CD4 count 500 cells/mm³ or less)
Photo: Sauda Ntakiteye (45) is HIV positive. She lost her six children to AIDS. These vegetable gardens enabled her antiretroviral medicine to work. She is now a progressive farmer in her village, supporting others in farming and HIV counselling in Nyankwi Village, Kibondo, Kigoma Region Tanzania.

Photographer: Jennifer O’Gorman, Concern Worldwide
Who is being left behind?

- 75% of children eligible for ARVs do not have access to HIV treatment coverage for children remained half of coverage for adults in 2012.

- Every hour 50 young women are newly infected with HIV - gender inequality and GBV are factors

- HIV prevention efforts and services for young women and men remain inadequate.

- Migrants, Marginalised, Minority, Prison and Mobile populations, MSM, MARPs, IDUs ‘formal’ and ‘informal sex workers’ and LGBTI people remain in the shadows

Punitive laws can inhibit their access to services.
Political leadership -> key to finishing the job

- **MDG 6, Target 7** (2000); **MDG Summit** (2010)
- **UNGASS** Meetings 2001 and 2006 (Ireland’s Head of Government present both years)
- **GFATM** (2002)
- Irish Aid **HAPS** (2002-2006)
- **PEPFAR** (2003)
- WHO/ UNAIDS **3 x 5** initiative (2003)
- **G8 commitment to Universal Access to Treatment** (2005)
Globally AIDS funding is stagnating - the stark funding GAP

By 2015, US$ 22-24 billion per year will be needed

Photo: Members of the Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+) attending an expo day in Mount Darwin, June 2011. ZNPP is a Trócaire partner in Zimbabwe. Photo: Trócaire.
The Dochas HIV and AIDS WG calls on the Irish Government to:

- Renew the commitment to spend €100 million per year on HIV and other communicable diseases, with 20% dedicated to children;

- Clearly state its strategy for addressing HIV in its development and emergency response work, indicating priority areas, approaches, timelines and budgets;

- Address HIV adequately in the implementation plans (in the six priority areas) and budgets associated with Ireland’s new international development policy One World One Future;
The Dochas HIV and AIDS WG calls on the Irish Government to:

• Ensure transparent monitoring and reporting of Irish Aid expenditure on HIV and AIDS;

• Commit to funding the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (GFATM), and deliver on this commitment - at the replenishment in 2013, and on an ongoing basis;

• In the negotiations towards the post-2015 development framework, call for a global health goal, with a HIV-specific target to replace the MDGs in 2015.
Ireland has contributed €157 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria over the period 2002-2013. We have contributed €12 million so far this year, which represents our biggest annual contribution since 2008. Despite the current challenging economic circumstances, we hope to be able to pledge to maintain annual contributions to the Fund at least at current levels until the end of the next replenishment period in 2016.
World AIDS Day Theme 2011-2015

- Zero new HIV infections.
- Zero discrimination.
- Zero AIDS-related deaths

Reaching the TIPPING POINT: when the rate of ART treatment scale-up outpaces HIV incidence (new HIV infections), then we are WINNING, and AIDS may soon be over.

AIDS is not Over until -

HIV transmission is stopped - we are all responsible to help finish the job
In the meantime - we are reinforcing strategies of HIV risk, vulnerability and impact mitigation in all our poverty reduction efforts.

In an effort to deliver on expected Results & Outcomes


2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic (Fig 18)