

STEP UP THE FIGHT

**ENDING HIV AMONG
ADOLESCENT GIRLS
AND YOUNG WOMEN**



**IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, TWICE AS MANY
GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN ARE INFECTED
WITH HIV AS THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS.**

WE MUST

STEP UP

THE FIGHT

WITH HER.

THE CHALLENGE

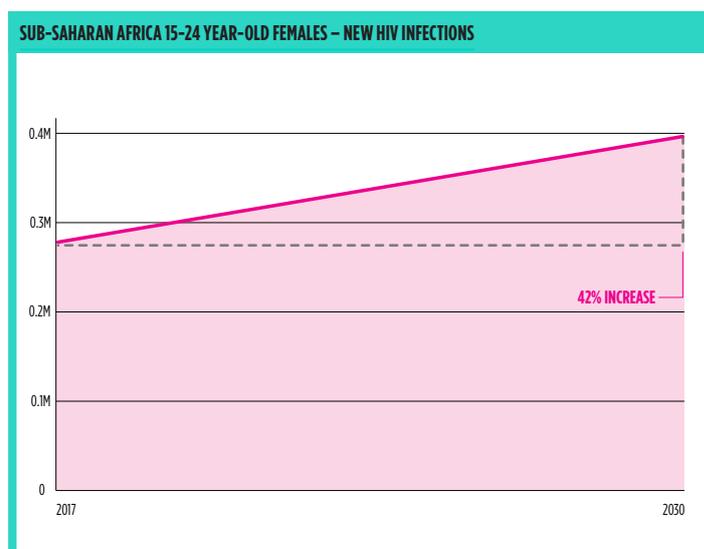
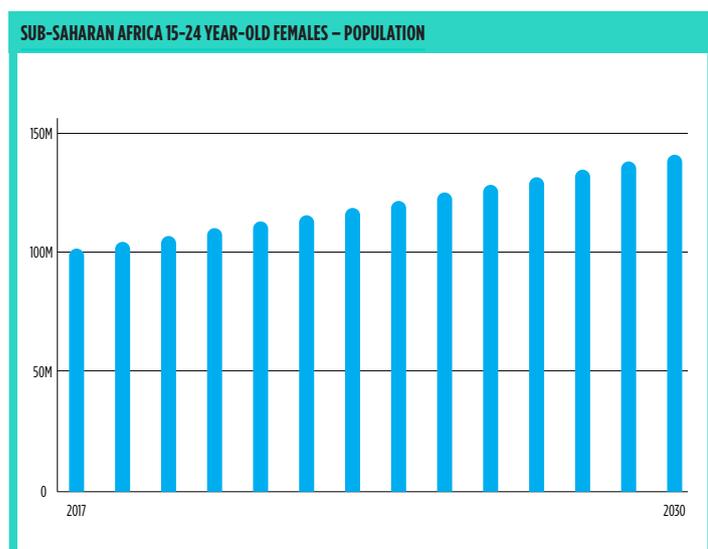
Despite great progress made against HIV globally, adolescent girls and young women continue to be disproportionately at risk of new HIV infections.

Urgent action to reduce the risk of adolescent girls and young women to HIV is vital to end the epidemic. This won't be achieved without addressing the entrenched gender inequalities that exist where these girls and young women live.

In sub-Saharan Africa, twice as many girls and young women are infected with HIV as their male counterparts; in the hardest-hit countries, it's six times more. With Africa's youth population expected to increase by 40 percent over the next decade, failure to act decisively could lead to a resurgence of HIV, with more new infections than at the height of the epidemic in the early 2000s.

**WORLDWIDE,
NEARLY 1,000 YOUNG
WOMEN AND GIRLS
ARE INFECTED WITH
HIV EVERY DAY.**

IF NOTHING CHANGES, NEW HIV INFECTIONS AMONG GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN AGE 15 TO 24 IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA WILL INCREASE BY 42% BY 2030, SIMPLY DUE TO POPULATION GROWTH.



THE SOLUTION

Effective prevention programs need to account for the multiple factors that influence a young woman's opportunities and decisions: education, job opportunities, sexual education, risk of violence, access to health care.

Countries need to take these programs to scale. The Global Fund has increased investments by more than five-fold to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in 13 priority African countries¹. Our partnership approach supports national governments and communities to work with women's rights organizations, schools, donors, private sector companies, and technical partners. Perhaps most importantly, we support the meaningful engagement of adolescent girls and young women in the design and implementation of the programs that impact their lives.

An innovative matching funds program launched in 2017 used US\$55 million to mobilize an additional US\$140 million for programs to reduce new HIV infections, violence, and unintended pregnancies among 1 million adolescent girls and young women in the 13 countries. These countries are on track to see a 40-45% reduction in incidence by 2022. That's a solid foundation to build on, but we need to learn from these programs, and support countries to leverage domestic and partner investments to quickly scale up the programs that work to reach our goal of reducing new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women by 58% across the 13 priority countries by 2022.

The Global Fund is working with countries to adopt sustainable and diverse strategies to address and finance interventions for adolescent girls and young women over the long term. Each country and community tailors its approach to its own needs, but elements of a comprehensive package of services to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women include:

KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL

Global Fund investments support girls to stay in school. The approaches countries take to keep girls in school vary but can include simple interventions like providing sanitary pads and feminine hygiene packs so girls don't miss school when they are menstruating; education subsidies to enable girls to attend school; helping pregnant girls succeed in school and return to school after they have delivered.

GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT GROUPS

Groups such as Rise Clubs in South Africa provide safe spaces to discuss challenges ranging from applying to schools or jobs, preventing unwanted pregnancy, building self-esteem and avoiding unhealthy sexual relationships. Understanding HIV and how to protect oneself from infection is a theme in many of the conversations, from relationship scenarios to seeking counseling and testing for HIV.

SCALING UP TREATMENT

The Global Fund has increased funding to HIV treatment adherence programs with a focus on services for adolescent girls and young women. In Lesotho, the Global Fund worked with PEPFAR, Sentebale and Skillshare to support the Baylor Center to provide community and clinical adherence support options to adolescents living with HIV. HIV-positive women also are up to five times more likely to develop cervical cancer. The Global Fund partners with organizations like Gavi, UNICEF, Global Financing Facility and WHO to make comprehensive screening and treatment programs available.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

The Global Fund partnership helps equip young women to be economically independent through livelihood and economic empowerment interventions. The Global Fund is supporting 10 countries in interventions such as vocational training, savings groups, and programs to refer out-of-school adolescent girls and young women to social protection services, small business loans, and entrepreneurship training.

PREVENTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The Global Fund invests to support the prevention of gender-based violence and treatment and care services for survivors. More than US\$15 million dollars of Global Fund investments go to violence prevention programs for adolescents.

Since 2016, the Global Fund has been supporting the SASA! project focused on adolescent girls and young women in two provinces of DRC – Kinshasa and Kasai Oriental – with the aim to reduce HIV prevalence and gender-based violence. SASA! seeks to change behaviors and reinforce gender equality by creating safe environments in schools and communities where all students, teachers and community members are sensitized to the issues of gender-based violence, HIV and sexual and reproductive health.

ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Comprehensive sexuality education equips children and adolescents with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to protect their own health and understand how their actions impact the health and well-being of others. Global Fund investments ensure that quality comprehensive sexuality education is available for girls and boys in schools, and through community-based structures and organizations for those adolescents who are unable to attend school.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

The Global Fund works with partners with an aim to see that women and girls are at the table to design prevention and treatment programs that are effective for both men and women. HER Voice is a fund that was launched with a US\$500,000 initial investment from the Global Fund and is now continuing through private sector support. In its first year, nearly 200 groups, networks or organizations of adolescent girls and young women were supported with small grants enabling them to participate in Global Fund country processes.

¹Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

BUILDING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH THAT SUPPORT A GIRL THROUGHOUT HER LIFE

The Global Fund invests nearly US\$1 billion a year to build resilient and sustainable systems for health, which form the foundations for universal health coverage. Systems for health do not stop at a health facility but run deep into communities and can reach those who do not always go to clinics or hospitals, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized, including adolescent girls and young women. Approximately 33% of Global Fund investments go to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care (including the cost of HIV treatment), linking HIV services with reproductive health services, newborn and pediatric and adolescent care.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The Global Fund acts as a connector to bring together the different partners needed to reduce infection rates among

young women, including women’s rights organizations, schools and communities, donors and technical partners, and national governments. The Global Fund counts on the learning and synergies gained from the PEPFAR investments in the DREAMS program also working to reduce new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women.

Partnerships with UNICEF and the World Health Organization have delivered timely and critical technical assistance to countries and organizations implementing programs for adolescent girls. Private sector partners have stepped up to bring innovation and additional resources where there were critical gaps. Civil society organizations, including the grassroots women’s rights and health organizations that have been advocating on behalf of adolescent girls and young women for decades, are indispensable in both the design and the implementation of rights-based, gender-responsive approaches.



Kgantsho Makegata leads weekly meetings at the RISE Young Women’s Club in South Africa.

With support from the Global Fund, South Africa launched a national campaign in 2015 to address the high prevalence of HIV among this high-risk group.

**“YOUNG WOMEN ARE THE ONES MOSTLY
AFFECTED BY HIV IN KENYA BECAUSE THEIR
VOICES ARE NOT HEARD WHEN IT COMES
TO MAKING DECISIONS CONCERNING THEIR
BODIES. FOR THIS REASON I BELIEVE THAT
INVESTING IN WOMEN TODAY IS INVESTING IN
OUR FUTURE IN COMBATING THE SPREAD OF
HIV/AIDS, BECAUSE WE CANNOT WIN THIS
WAR WHEN SOME OF US ARE HELD BACK.”**

**BEVERLY MUTINDI,
HER VOICE AMBASSADOR IN KENYA**

STEP UP THE FIGHT

ENDING THE EPIDEMICS OF HIV, TB AND MALARIA BY 2030 IS WITHIN REACH, BUT NOT YET FIRMLY IN OUR GRASP.

But after years of remarkable progress, new threats such as stalled funding and growing drug resistance have pushed us off track. We now face a decisive moment. Do we step up the fight, or do we allow ourselves to slip back? The Global Fund's fundraising target for the next three-year cycle is at least US\$14 billion. These funds will help save 16 million lives and cut the mortality rate from HIV, TB and malaria in half by 2023, while building stronger systems for health that will enable the achievement of universal health coverage. It is time to step up the fight.



HER IS THE GLOBAL FUND'S CAMPAIGN TO DRIVE DOWN HIV INFECTION RATES AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

Private sector partners can support HER in multiple ways; contributing financial resources toward HIV prevention programs for adolescent girls and young women; providing expertise and know-how to support countries to design programs that are tailored to meet the needs of adolescent girls and young women; partnering with HER Voice to ensure young women and girls' voices are heard at key decision-making forums; and helping to raise awareness of the issue.



THE GLOBAL FUND IS A 21ST-CENTURY ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO ACCELERATE THE END OF AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA AS EPIDEMICS.

As a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries. By challenging barriers and embracing innovative approaches, we are working together to better serve people affected by the diseases.

STEP UP THE FIGHT

 The Global Fund

THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT
AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

GLOBAL HEALTH CAMPUS
CHEMIN DU POMMIER 40
1218 GRAND-SACONNEX
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

PHONE: +41 58 791 1700

WWW.THEGLOBALFUND.ORG