

Public Health in the News

UNAIDS announces that the goal of 15 million people on life-saving HIV treatment by 2015 has been met nine months ahead of schedule

The AIDS targets of MDG 6—halting and reversing the spread of HIV—have been achieved and exceeded, according to a new report released today by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). New HIV infections have fallen by 35% and AIDS-related deaths by 41%. The global response to HIV has averted 30 million new HIV infections and nearly 8 million (7.8 million) AIDS-related deaths since 2000, when the MDGs were set. “The world has delivered on halting and reversing the AIDS epidemic,” said Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. “Now we must commit to ending the AIDS epidemic as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Released in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the sidelines of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the [report](#) demonstrates that the response to HIV has been one of the smartest investments in global health and development, generating measurable results for people and economies. It also shows that the world is on track to meet the investment target of US\$ 22 billion for the AIDS response by 2015 and that concerted action over the next five years can end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

“Fifteen years ago there was a conspiracy of silence. AIDS was a disease of the “others” and treatment was for the rich and not for the poor,” said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. “We proved them wrong, and today we have 15 million people on treatment—15 million success stories.”

How AIDS changed everything—MDG 6: 15 years, 15 lesson of hope from the AIDS response celebrates the milestone achievement of 15 million people on antiretroviral treatment—an accomplishment deemed impossible when the MDGs were established 15 years ago. It also looks at the incredible impact the AIDS response has had on people’s lives and livelihoods, on families, communities and economies, as well as the remarkable influence the AIDS response has had on many of the other MDGs. The report includes specific lessons to take forward into the SDGs, as well as the urgent need to front-load investments and streamline programmes for a five-year sprint to set the world on an irreversible path to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030...

Better data

Countries have invested heavily in monitoring and evaluating their responses to HIV. In 2014, 92% of United Nations Member States reported HIV data to UNAIDS. State-of-the-art epidemic monitoring, data collection and reporting have made HIV data the most robust in the world, far more complete than data for any other disease. This has not only enabled the world to have a clear picture of HIV trends, it has also enabled HIV programming to be tailored to the specific dynamics of each country’s epidemic...

Source: [UNAIDS, 14 July 2015](#)

WAMTechnology has been supporting the health and water sectors with custom software development projects for 20 years. WAMTech specialises in providing technology solutions to achieve good governance in private as well as public enterprises. We have ample experience in the custom development (with local conditions in mind) of information systems that support good community health and well-being in Africa. As the needs and desires of the African continent grows, so will we continue to grow and respond by adapting and advancing our product and service offerings in line with our society’s requirements. We constantly rethink our tools, our systems, and our services as we realise that the solutions of today is not the solutions of tomorrow. Our many successful projects include the development and support of the **Electronic Tuberculosis Register (ETR.Net)** and **Electronic Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Register (EDRWeb)** – which are the **official software tools** used by the South African National Department of Health’s Tuberculosis Control Program, to maintain and analyse registered patients. Another successful project we are involved with, is the **TIER.Net system**, which captures data elements and resulting indicators (based on the WHO paper registers) required to monitor HIV and ART services. Monthly and quarterly reports can be generated, with data encrypted dispatch files transferred to higher management levels (e.g. provinces or national) for further analysis. The system also supports WHO reports, such as: WHO Cohort and WHO Cross Sectional Monthly Reports.

Our motto is “service delivery through innovation” and we will continue to innovate our ideas and technology systems in ways that would best support healthy and sustainable communities.

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WAMTech are specialists in implementing technology systems for improved governance, focussing on Water and Public Health Information Systems

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