



# UNAIDS Report: Progress & Challenges in HIV/AIDS Fight

**For Prelims:** World AIDS Day, AIDS, HIV

**For Mains:** Status of AIDS Globally and Nationally, AIDS, HIV, Related Initiatives

**Source:** DTE

## Why in News?

A recent report titled "**The Path That Ends AIDS**" by the [Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS \(UNAIDS\)](#) sheds light on the progress made in combating reveals the ongoing challenges and progress in the global fight against [Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome \(AIDS\)](#) and [human immunodeficiency virus \(HIV\)](#).

- The report emphasizes the need for continued efforts to ensure access to treatment, address inequalities, combat stigma and discrimination, and secure adequate funding.

## What are the Key Highlights of the UNAIDS Report?

- **AIDS-Related Deaths and Access to Treatment:**
  - AIDS **claimed a life every minute in 2022.**
  - Approximately **9.2 million people living with HIV worldwide lacked access to treatment in 2022.**
  - Out of the **2.1 million people receiving treatment, many were not virally suppressed.**
- **Treatment Progress and Global Targets:**
  - **29.8 million out of 39 million people** living with HIV globally are receiving life-saving treatment.
  - Between **2020 and 2022, 1.6 million additional people received HIV treatment** each year.
  - The **global target of 35 million people receiving HIV treatment by 2025** is within reach if the progress is sustained.
- **Slow Treatment Progress in Certain Regions:**
  - **Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa** exhibited slower treatment progress.
  - Only around half of the over two million people living with HIV in these regions received **antiretroviral therapy in 2022.**
- **Gender Discrimination and Treatment Rates:**
  - **Men living with HIV** in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia **are less likely to receive treatment compared to women.**
  - Gender discrimination needs to be addressed to ensure equal access to treatment.
- **Impact on Children:**
  - AIDS-related deaths among **children reduced by 64% from 2010 to 2022.**
    - However, approximately **84,000 children lost their lives to HIV in 2022.**

- Around **43% of the 1.5 million children living with HIV did not receive treatment in 2022.**
- **Challenges in HIV Prevention:**
  - **Women and girls accounted for 63%** of all new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa.
  - Only about 42% of districts with high HIV incidence in the region have dedicated prevention programs.
  - Enhanced prevention efforts are needed to address this gap.
- **Funding Gaps:**
  - HIV incidence has declined in regions with **increased prevention funding.**
  - Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa face challenges in their HIV epidemics due to a lack of funding.
  - In **2022, only USD 20.8 billion was available for HIV programs in low- and middle-income countries,** falling short of the **USD 29.3 billion required by 2025.**
  - **Fluctuating Funding Levels:**
    - In the early 2010s, funding substantially increased, but it has since fallen back to 2013 levels.
    - In 2022, there was a 2.6% drop in funding compared to the previous year, with only USD 20.8 billion available for HIV programs in low- and middle-income countries.
    - The funding gap remains significant, as the required amount by 2025 is USD 29.3 billion.

## Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS:

- It is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat **by 2030** as part of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). It was started in **1996**.
- UNAIDS has a **vision** of zero new **HIV infections, zero discrimination** and **zero AIDS-related deaths,** and a **principle of leaving no one behind.**
- The UN Political declaration on ending AIDS was adopted in 2016 which seeks to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

## What is AIDS Disease?

- **About:**
  - **AIDS** is a chronic, potentially life-threatening health condition caused by **HIV** that interferes with the body's ability to fight infections.
  - HIV attacks **CD4, a type of White Blood Cell (T cells)** in the body's immune system.
    - T cells are those cells that **move around the body detecting anomalies and infections in cells.**
  - After entering the body, HIV multiplies itself and destroys CD4 cells, thus severely damaging the human immune system. Once this virus enters the body, it can never be removed.
  - The CD4 count of a person infected with HIV reduces significantly. In a healthy body, CD4 count is between 500- 1600, but in an infected body, it can go as low as 200.
- **Transmission:**
  - HIV spreads through **contact with certain body fluids (blood, semen, etc.) from an infected person.**
  - Transmission routes include **unprotected sex, sharing contaminated needles, and mother-to-child during childbirth or breastfeeding.**
- **Symptoms:**
  - Initial symptoms include **fatigue, fever, and sores.**
  - Progression to **AIDS may lead to severe symptoms like [pneumonia](#) and certain cancers.**
- **Prevention:**
  - Precautions can be taken to prevent mother-to-child transmission.
  - Early diagnosis and treatment should be sought.
  - Pre-marital testing can be considered, including an HIV test, for overall safety.

- Protective techniques should be used to ensure safety from Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

## What are India's Initiatives to Curb AIDS Disease?

- **HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017:**
  - According to this act, the central and state governments shall take measures to prevent the spread of HIV or AIDS.
- **Access to ART:**
  - India has made **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)** affordable and accessible to over 90 per cent of people living with HIV in the world.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):**
  - The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** signed a MoU with the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** in 2019 for enhanced HIV/AIDS outreach and to reduce the incidence of social stigma and discrimination against victims of drug abuse and Children and People Living with HIV/AIDS.
- **Project Sunrise :**
  - Launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016**, to tackle the rising **HIV prevalence in north-eastern states in India**, especially among people injecting drugs.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. Which of the following diseases can be transmitted from one person to another through tattooing? (2013)**

1. Chikungunya
2. Hepatitis B
3. HIV-AIDS

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (b)**