



1 December 2014 – The [MDG 6](#) , setting the Millennium targets for combating HIV and AIDS, was achieved before the 2015 deadline. New HIV infections have fallen by 38% and among children they have declined by 58% since 2001. We are on track to provide treatment to increasing numbers of people around the world. In June 2014, 13.6 million people living with HIV had access to [antiretroviral therapy](#) , used in the treatment of HIV and AIDS.

However, millions of people still lack access to treatment and prevention services. Worldwide, 2.1 million people became newly infected with HIV in 2013 and 1.5 million people died from AIDS-related causes worldwide. Moreover, 240 000 children became infected. Only 38% of all adults living with HIV are receiving treatment, and just 24% of all children with HIV are receiving the lifesaving medicines.

While great progress has been made in increasing access to HIV treatment and prevention

services, AIDS/HIV remains one of the world's most significant public health challenges, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The new, ambitious goal is to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

On [World AIDS Day](#) (WAD) 2014, the United Nations AIDS agency [UNAIDS](#) [urges](#) us to close the gap in access to HIV treatment. Closing the gap means empowering and enabling all people, everywhere, to access the services they need. By closing the gap, the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, launched in the [Fast-Track Report](#), is possible.

During a meeting in November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, leaders of key continental, regional and national institutions [concluded](#) that the AIDS epidemic remains a key priority for Africa and must be ended by 2030 in the continent. During the meeting, participants discussed the recommendations in the Fast-Track report and encouraged countries to embrace the targets set to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

On this year's WAD, more than 20 mayors from around the world will sign the Paris Declaration, establishing targets and strengthening cooperation between cities to accelerate the global response to HIV. During the event UNAIDS will also release The Cities Report which outlines the important role urban areas will play in ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

"The AIDS epidemic is increasing in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East, fuelled by stigma, discrimination and punitive laws. And the essential work of community systems and support organisations often lacks support", says UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message for the day.

"We must leave no one behind."

UNRIC's related articles:

[AIDS - no longer a death sentence](#)

[End gender-based violence - reduce risk of HIV](#)

[A record 10 million people living with HIV now have access to antiretroviral treatment](#)

[Over 7 million people now receiving HIV treatment in Africa](#)

Other related links:

[World AIDS Day 2014 Report - Fact sheet](#)

[UNAIDS Executive Director's message on World AIDS Day 2014](#)

[Fast-Track - Ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030](#)