UNAIDS 2024

Result Area 7: Young people

2022-2023 Results report

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Budget and expenditures and encumbrances for all Cosponsors 2022-2023 (in US$)

Core central and country envelopes		Non-core		Total	
Budget	Expenditures and encumbrances	Budget	Expenditures and encumbrances	Budget	Expenditures and encumbrances
9 945 500	7 439 490	45 313 400	71 882 854	55 258 900	79 322 344

Joint Programme 2022-2023 results

High-level political will from ministries of education and health, among others to establish new commitments to scaling-up access to youth-friendly SRH services, economic empowerment, and quality education (including comprehensive sexuality education) mobilized through advocacy.

Indicator progress on young people (RA 7)

- **50 countries scaled-up multisectoral interventions** that align with ministerial commitments to increase access to youth-friendly SRH services, including CSE, to improve young people's well-being.
- **32 countries** developed and implemented **costed plans** to expand and institutionalize youth-led HIV responses.

Due to the Joint Programme's advocacy and technical support, the HIV response is more responsive to the needs of young people. In 2023, ministers of health and education from 25 countries in western and central Africa endorsed the WCA Commitment for educated, healthy and empowered adolescents and young people. Under the Global Fund's Adolescent Girls and Young Women's Strategic Initiative, UNICEF aided 13 countries to incorporate a defined HIV prevention package in their national strategies. WFP and USAID supported Uganda to develop nutrition guidelines for mothers, infants, young children and adolescents. UNDP partnered with the Ghana AIDS Commission and Young Health Advocates Ghana to co-create and pilot a mobile app to increase the access of young people living with HIV to health and psychosocial information.

The UNAIDS Secretariat, UNFPA, UNESCO, UN Women and UNICEF elevated the visibility of education as an important HIV-related strategy for adolescent girls and young women, through the Education Plus initiative,[1] which promotes access to secondary education. As of 2023, 15 countries had committed to actions in support of Education Plus. The initiative has contributed to policy shifts in seven countries, with the potential to positively affect at least 19.5 million adolescents and young girls. The policy shifts include inclusive education policies in Cameroon and Lesotho and the

[1] The launch of Education Plus occurred at the African Union mid-year summit in Zambia in July 2022 and was attended by 200 high-level decision-makers in Africa.

integration of Education Plus interventions into sector-wide education policies in Malawi, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

UNESCO's General Conference adopted a Revised Recommendation on Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development which reaffirms the role of education and references CSE in the context of learners' health and well-being. With technical support and guidance from UNESCO, the African Union launched a continental strategy on education for health and well-being of young people, which aims to improve the physical, mental and reproductive health of young people while contributing to the achievement of education goals. The World Bank's Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project, which is active in nine countries, has helped 993 000 adolescent girls and young women remain in school, increase their access to SRH services and expand their economic opportunities. In December 2022, the PCB for the first time included a decision point endorsing CSE. UNESCO and partners launched the "Building Strong Foundations" initiative to strengthen support for CSE for younger age groups (5–12 years old). Work done by UNESCO included 50 profiles of CSE in action, catalysing national dialogues and policy debates, and facilitating the sharing of information and experiences between countries.

Activities carried out or supported by the Joint Programme reached tens of thousands of young people around the world with HIV information and services. UNHCR enabled the provision of HIV and reproductive health messages to 75 000 adolescents in five humanitarian settings in Rwanda. UNICEF reached 23 000 young people with social behaviour change communications. In Angola, UNDP reached 60 000 adolescent girls and young women with HIV prevention services through the "*bancadas femininas*" approach. The joint "2gether4SRHR" initiative—which brings together UNFPA, the UNAIDS Secretariat, UNICEF and WHO with governments and diverse partners—developed a toolkit for SRH and HIV which is assisting national programmes to scale up evidence-based services for HIV, sexual- and gender-based violence, SRHR and mental health for young people. This initiative also successfully expanded the coverage of integrated SRH services for key populations, with a focus on the improving health and well-being of sex workers.

During the biennium, the Joint Programme worked to remove factors that increase vulnerability or impede HIV service access for young people. The World Bank supported 10 countries in strengthening national policy frameworks for gender-based violence and supported 15 countries in integrating interventions for gender-based violence in health systems. To expand the access of adolescent girls and young women to PrEP and other HIV prevention technologies, WHO worked with Cameroon and Rwanda to address the age of consent for accessing PrEP and supported countries in eastern and southern Africa to provide PrEP during pregnancy and breastfeeding. WHO published a technical review on the role of age-of-consent laws as barriers to HIV services.

Further expanding evidence for effective HIV response for young people, UNICEF and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine published a strategic review of the evidence base for 33 gender-transformative interventions for marginalized young people.

Strengthened youth leadership and youth-led responses, including engagement in decision-making, organizational capacities, monitoring and research, advocacy and service delivery through advocacy and country-level guidance.

The Joint Programme prioritized support for young-led advocacy to improve national responses. The “UNITED!” movement, with over 100 youth leaders from 14 countries in eastern and southern Africa, was created in 2023 with the support of UNICEF, UNFPA, the UNAIDS Secretariat and “AfriYan” to raise the voices of young people who are engaged in HIV and SRHR activities.

UNDP collaborated with AIDS-FONDS, the Southern Africa Sex Workers Alliance and the African Sex Workers Alliance to strengthen the capacity of young sex workers in 10 countries in southern Africa to advocate for advancing equitable access to HIV and SRH services and protection of human rights.

Through support to youth-led networks and organizations, the Joint Programme catalysed greater and more meaningful engagement in the HIV response. Thirteen countries implemented the PACT’s “#UPROOT” scorecard, which was developed with UNAIDS technical support, and used findings to catalyse improvements in HIV responses for young people. In Burundi, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Uganda, the scorecards were used to influence the drafting of Global Fund country requests.

In partnership with the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV, the UNAIDS Secretariat developed “Youth Next Level”, a suite of resources to support countries in strengthening youth leadership in national HIV responses. Through the Secretariat-supported “#GENENDIT” youth ambassadors programme and the “#GENENDIT” youth steering group, 21 young leaders from 18 countries received capacity-building support to undertake advocacy and awareness activities which reached more than 50 000 young people across seven regions. The “Safeguard Young People” programme, a flagship initiative by UNFPA in 12 countries in eastern and southern Africa, supported the development of the SADC youth protocol, a strategic regional cooperation framework to harmonize youth policies, strategies and action plans to ensure a multisectoral approach to youth development and to increase investments in young people, including in their SRHR. The youth protocol is a binding document for all SADC Member States.

Launched at the 2022 International AIDS Conference, the Joint Programme-supported “ayKP partnership” of young key population networks developed knowledge products and a toolkit on leveraging infrastructure and lessons learned from COVID-19. UN Women, in partnership with PEPFAR, the African Women Leaders Network, the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, provided 185 young women leaders from 15 sub-Saharan African countries with mentoring and leadership training, culminating in a high-level meeting on championing the priorities of women and girls in the HIV response. With the support of UN Women, the youth-organized “Young Women for Life Movement”, which provides young women with HIV-related information, has grown to 3000 members in South Africa and is being expanded to Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia.

UNESCO promoted the global research agenda on CSE by launching two major studies. One focused on filling evidence gaps about learners' social and emotional life skills, or knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, and values relating to gender and healthy/equitable interpersonal relationships. It also documented the sociocultural factors and contexts of national CSE programmes in six countries. The other study investigated adolescents' and young people's perspectives, attitudes and experiences on CSE around the world.

UNODC, jointly with WHO, UNICEF, INPUD and Youth RISE, organized a consultation on "Tailoring harm reduction services to the needs of young people who use drugs" to establish a dialogue between the academic community and young people who use drugs. The meeting introduced the latest evidence on health and human rights for young people who use drugs, highlighted the barriers they face in accessing HIV services and shared best-practices on how to fully involve them in the design and implementation of services that can meet their health needs.

The Joint Programme built young people's capacity to exercise leadership in the HIV response. For example, in eastern Europe and central Asia, more than four million young people improved their knowledge and attitudes on HIV and SRH via UNESCO-supported youth-led digital platforms and artificial intelligence-powered chatbots which operate in three languages. With PEPFAR support, UN Women built the feminist advocacy and leadership skills of 185 adolescent girls and young women in 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. UNICEF improved the youth-friendly "U-Test" model, which combines social media, digital outreach and traditional HIV prevention methods and includes modelling to help identify priority groups. UNFPA through the "SYP" programme reached over 62 000 of the targeted 65 458 primary and secondary schools to provide life skills-based HIV and sexuality education.

A stronger evidence base is now available on effective HIV responses for young people. Results from the World Bank's Sitakhela Likusasa Impact Evaluation indicated that when financial incentives were linked to education participation, HIV incidence in adolescent girls and young women was reduced. The UNAIDS Secretariat and UNICEF generated, validated and published the first global consolidated dataset with age disaggregation for adolescent girls and young key populations (aged 15–24 years). A World Bank study validated the effectiveness of two interventions for reducing girls' exposure to intimate partner violence. UNESCO launched a research partnership in Latin America and the Caribbean (with FLACSO Argentina) for teaching competencies that are required to implement effective CSE for children and adolescents with disabilities. UNICEF published the first report on HIV and young key populations in the Middle East and North Africa and collaborated with UNAIDS Secretariat to publish an advocacy brief on HIV and young key populations in Asia-Pacific.

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