

# Children and AIDS

## Fifth Stocktaking Report, 2010

### Key Facts

The Fifth *Stocktaking Report*, produced by UNICEF, in partnership with UNAIDS, WHO, UNFPA, and UNESCO is an annual report that examines data on progress, emerging evidence, case studies of best practices and current knowledge and practice for children as they relate to four programme areas known as the 'Four Ps':

- Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Providing Paediatric care and treatment
- Preventing HIV infection among adolescents and young people
- Protecting and supporting children affected by HIV and AIDS



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## General Facts on Children and HIV/AIDS

- Globally, it is estimated that more than 1,000 babies are born with HIV every day. Many will die by age two if they do not receive medication. (In 2009, an estimated 370,000 children contracted HIV during the perinatal and breastfeeding period; p.9, UNAIDS Global Report)
- In 2005, only 15 per cent of HIV-positive pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries received antiretroviral drugs for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, or PMTCT. In 2009, 53 per cent of women who needed antiretrovirals received them.
- In 2005, just 75,000 children under 15 who needed antiretrovirals received them. In 2009, that figure had risen to approximately 356,400 – about 28 per cent of those in need.
- In 2005, 5.2 million young people aged 15-24 were living with HIV. In 2009, the number was estimated to be 5 million.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 9 per cent of maternal mortality is due to HIV and AIDS.

## P1 - Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission

- In 2009, 53 per cent of pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries living with HIV received antiretrovirals, compared with 45 per cent in 2008 – and up sharply from 24 per cent in 2006.
- In Eastern and Southern Africa, the proportion of pregnant women living with HIV who received antiretrovirals rose from 58 per cent in 2008 to 68 per cent in 2009. In West and Central Africa the increase was from 16 per cent to 23 per cent over the same period.
- In low- and middle-income countries, on average, 35 per cent of babies born to HIV-positive mothers received ARV's at birth in 2009, up slightly compared to 32 per cent in 2008, but a significant increase over 18 per cent in 2006.
- By the end of 2009, 27 out of all low- and middle-income countries had reached the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) goal of 80 percent of HIV testing and counseling of all pregnant women. In 2008, only 19 countries had attained that target.
- UNGASS has also set a target of 80 per cent access to HIV testing and counseling for pregnant women. In low- and middle-income countries, the proportion of pregnant women tested for HIV rose from 7 per cent in 2005 to 26 per cent in 2009.

## P2 - PAEDIATRIC CARE AND TREATMENT

- In 2009, there were 2.5 million children under age 15 living with HIV.
- The number of children in low- and middle-income countries living with HIV and receiving antiretroviral therapy rose from 275,300 in 2008 to 356,400 in 2009.

- Only 28 per cent of the 1.27 million children estimated to need antiretrovirals under the revised WHO guidelines were receiving them.
- A greater proportion of adults – 37 per cent – received antiretroviral treatment than did children.
- About 50 per cent of children living with HIV will die before their second birthday.

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### **P3 - PREVENTING INFECTION AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

- In 2001, 5.7 million young people aged 15-24 were estimated to be living with HIV. At the end of 2009, that number was down to about 5.0 million young people.
- An estimated 890,000 new infections occurred among young people aged 15–24 in 2009.
- In 2010, UNAIDS reported a more than 25 per cent decrease in HIV prevalence among young people in 22 key countries in sub-Saharan Africa between 2001 and 2008. In most parts of the world, the number of new HIV infections is falling or stabilizing.
- An estimated 80 per cent of all infections in young people globally are in 20 countries spanning many regions of the world and representing a diversity of epidemic settings.
- In nine countries in Southern Africa, at least 1 in 20 young people is living with HIV, and in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, more than 1 in 10 young people are living with HIV.
- Worldwide, more than 60 per cent of all young people living with HIV are female. Young women still shoulder the greater burden of infection, and in many countries women face their greatest risk of infection before age 25.

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### **P4 - PROTECTION CARE AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV AND AIDS**

- In sub-Saharan Africa, most countries have made progress toward equal schooling for orphans and non-orphans aged 10-14 alike. In 27 out of 31 countries in the region that report data on at least two points in time, school attendance among children who have lost both parents has increased.
- In 25 countries where household surveys were conducted between 2005 and 2009, a median of 11 per cent of households were receiving external support.

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## **REGIONAL SPECIFIC FACTS**

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

- 53% of HIV-positive pregnant women in the region in 2009 received antiretroviral drugs to prevent transmission of the virus to their children, up from 45% in 2009.
- Between 2008 and 2009, the estimated number of children aged 0-14 in sub-Saharan Africa receiving antiretroviral therapy rose from 225,100 to 296,200.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

- The region's percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women who received antiretroviral drugs to prevent mother-to-child transmission remained flat at 54% between 2008 and 2009.
- Some 18,600 children up to age 14 in Latin America and the Caribbean were receiving ART in 2009, up from 16,100 in 2008.

### **South Asia, East Asia and Pacific**

- Thirty-three per cent of HIV-positive pregnant women in the region received antiretroviral drugs in 2009 to prevent mother-to-child transmission, up from 26% in 2008.
- In 2009, 36,400 HIV-positive children aged 0-14 received treatment, up from 30,000 in 2008. This represents an ARV coverage rate of about 44 per cent in 2009, using WHO 2010 guidelines to determine eligibility.

### **Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

- In 2009, an estimated 94% of pregnant women in the region living with HIV received antiretroviral drugs to prevent mother-to-child transmission, down slightly from 95% in 2008.
- The number of children receiving ART rose from 4,100 in 2008 to 4,600 in 2009.

### **North Africa and the Middle East**

- In 2009, 3% of pregnant women living with HIV received antiretroviral drugs to prevent HIV transmission. That figure slightly increased from 2% in 2008.
- The number of children receiving antiretroviral therapy rose from less than 500 in 2008 to 600 in 2009.