

## KEY FACTS: PROGRESS IN LOW -AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES BY REGION

# “TOWARDS UNIVERSAL ACCESS” ON HIV/AIDS GLOBAL LAUNCH OF THE 2010 REPORT

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### Global facts

- At the end of 2009, 5 250 400 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle-income countries, an increase of over 1.2 million people from December 2008. This represents a 30% rise from a year earlier and a 13-fold increase in six years.
- Based on the new set of criteria for treatment initiation, coverage increased from 28% in December 2008 to 36% at the end of 2009. Under the previous criteria for treatment initiation (CD4 count at or below 200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>), global coverage would have reached 52% in 2009 up from 42%.
- Eight low- and middle income countries have achieved universal access target or coverage of 80% or higher for antiretroviral treatment (ART) based on data from end of 2009<sup>a</sup>. The countries are Botswana, Cambodia, Croatia<sup>b</sup>, Cuba, Guyana, Oman<sup>b</sup>, Romania and Rwanda.
- There were 21 countries that are moving closer to achieve the universal access target, with coverage rates between 50%-80% for antiretroviral treatment. These include Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Slovakia<sup>b</sup>, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia<sup>b</sup>, Turkey and Zambia.
- In 2009, 53% of pregnant women living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries (727 600 of 1.4 million) received antiretrovirals to reduce the risk of HIV transmission to their infants, including antiretroviral therapy for their own health. This represents an increase from 45% in 2008 and 15% in 2005.
- In 2009, an estimated 26% of pregnant women in low- and middle- income countries received an HIV test, up from 21% in 2008, and 7% in 2005.
- Fifteen countries have reached the 80% coverage target for delivering of antiretrovirals for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). It includes four countries: Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa that are part of the list of 25 countries with the largest numbers of women needing PMTCT services. In addition, 11 other low- and middle-income countries have also achieved the target (Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Romania, Russian Federation, Thailand and Ukraine).

<sup>a</sup> Coverage estimates are calculated based on the new 2010 WHO guidelines of treatment initiation at a CD4 count < 350 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> Countries with an estimated antiretroviral therapy need of less than 1000 people. Data for these countries should be interpreted cautiously due to the impact of ranges of uncertainty around these estimates on coverage.

- By the end of 2009, an estimated 356 400 children were receiving ART in low- and middle-income countries, up from 275 300 in 2008, an increase of almost 30% in the past year. It represents an estimated 28% of all children in need of ART, rising from 22% in 2008 and 7% in 2005, using the new treatment criteria retrospectively.
- At the end of 2009, 14 countries had reached more than 80% coverage of antiretroviral therapy for children: Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Guyana, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Namibia, Panama, Paraguay, Thailand, Ukraine and Uruguay.

### Sub-Saharan Africa

- An estimated 3.91 million people in sub-Saharan Africa received ART in 2009, compared to about 2.95 million in 2008, showing an increase of 33%. The region accounted for 72% of the estimated treatment need in low- and middle-income countries, and 74% of the total number of people receiving treatment at the end of 2009.
- ART coverage rate for the region was 37% in 2009 compared to 28% in 2008. However, important intraregional differences in coverage were observed with greater access (41%) seen in Eastern and Southern Africa than in West and Central Africa (25%).
- Intraregional differences were also seen in the coverage of HIV testing and counselling among pregnant women. In Eastern and Southern Africa, the region with the highest HIV prevalence, 50% of pregnant women received HIV testing and counselling, an increase from 43% in 2008. In Western and Central Africa, coverage increased from 16% to 21% between 2008 and 2009.
- Some 54% of HIV-positive pregnant women in the region received antiretroviral drugs to prevent HIV transmission to their children in 2009, up from 45% in 2008. However, sub-regions had distinguishing coverage rates (68% in Eastern and Southern Africa and 23% in West and central Africa).
- Between 2008 and 2009, the estimated number of children in sub-Saharan Africa receiving antiretroviral therapy rose from 224 100 to 296 000. Total ART coverage among children in the region is about 26%.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, home to 12 million out of the 15.7 million women living with HIV globally, women accounted for approximately 60% of estimated HIV infections. Ninety-one percent of all new infections among children in 2008 occurred in this region.

### Latin America and the Caribbean

- About 478 000 people were receiving ART in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2009, up from 439 000 in 2008. ART coverage in the region was 50% in 2009, compared to 48% in 2008, using WHO guidelines of 2010.
- In Latin America, the percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women who received antiretroviral drugs to prevent mother-to-child transmission stood at 54% in 2009.
- Some 18 600 children in Latin America and the Caribbean were receiving ART in 2009, up from about 17 300 in 2008. By end-2009, 58% of eligible children in this region were receiving treatment.
- However, differences were observed between the Latin America and the Caribbean sub-regions. The estimated coverage for Latin America was 68% and 29% for the Caribbean.



## East, South and South-East Asia

- Approximately 739 000 people received ART in low- and middle-income countries in the region—up from 571 000. Antiretroviral therapy coverage in the region was 31% in 2009, compared to 25% in 2008.
- Some 32% of HIV-positive pregnant women in the region had access to antiretroviral drugs to prevent mother-to-child transmission in 2009—up from 25% in 2008.
- In the region, representing 55% of the estimated 125 000 000 pregnant women in 2009, the coverage of HIV testing and counselling among pregnant women was much lower (17%).
- In 2009, 36 500 HIV-positive children received treatment, representing a coverage rate of about 44%.

## Europe and Central Asia

- In 2009, 114 000 people were receiving ART in Europe and Central Asia, compared to 84 400 in 2008, and increase of 36%.
- ART coverage among low- and middle income countries in the region was 19% in 2009.
- An estimated 93% of HIV-positive pregnant women in this region received antiretroviral drugs to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, a small decrease from 94% in 2008.
- The number of children receiving ART rose from 4200 in 2008 to 4800 in 2009, representing approximately 49% of those in need.

## North Africa and the Middle East

- Approximately 12 000 people in North Africa and the Middle East had access to ART in 2009, compared to 9100 in 2008.
- ART coverage in the region remains low: only 11% of those in need of antiretrovirals in 2009 were able to access them, up from 10% in 2008.
- In 2009, 3% of pregnant women living with HIV received antiretroviral drugs to prevent mother-to-child transmission. And only 6% of children who need ART in this region had access to it.

You can download the full report and related materials at [www.who.int/hiv/pub/2010progressreport/en/](http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/2010progressreport/en/)