Progress on HIV prevention and treatment for children and adolescents and UNICEF responses to decisions of the Programme Coordinating Board

Dr. Chewe Luo, MD, MMed, PhD, FRCP
Associate Director, Chief HIV/AIDS

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Item 6 – Oral report on UNICEF follow-up to recommendations and decisions of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinating Board meetings
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There has been great progress in treating pregnant women and children with HIV and in reductions in new infections and HIV mortality

- **Marked increases in treatment access** to 85 per cent in pregnant women (red bars) and 53 per cent in children (blue bars) in 2019

- Resultant **reductions in new child infections** (solid line) and related mortality (dotted lines)

- But antiretroviral treatment (ART) coverage in children lags behind that in pregnant women

- Progress in treatment has also slowed over the last 4 years

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2020 target for maternal and paediatric treatment coverage is 95%

2020 target for new child infections is 20,000

UNAIDS/UNICEF/WHO data and UNAIDS 2020 estimates
Despite progress in reducing HIV infections in adolescents and youth, girls are disproportionately affected and key populations are left behind.

- New infections have reduced by 35% in adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and 34% adolescent boys and young men (ABYM) since 2010.
- However, AGYW are disproportionately affected and the 280,000 new infections in AGYW in 2019 is almost 3X higher than the 2020 target of 100,000.
- In some countries where the epidemic is predominantly in key populations, new infections in adolescents and young people are rising.

UNAIDS/UNICEF/WHO data and UNAIDS 2020 estimates
Key challenges and UNICEF’s response

5 key factors contributing to slow-down

- Competing priorities, waning political will
- Weak systems and structural barriers
- Declining finances and inequities in response
- Sub-optimal one-size-fits-all programming that doesn’t consider regional or local variation
- Lack of granular data to understand barriers, including lack of age- and sex-disaggregated information

UNICEF’s response

- Data-informed, evidence-based **differentiated responses** for regional, national and subnational programme prioritization (e.g., focus on PMTCT in WCA, key populations in ECA/EAP)
- **Innovation** using novel diagnostic, treatment, prevention and information technologies and strategies, combined with knowledge leadership to enhance programme responses
- **Strategic partnerships** to leverage resources for children and adolescents
- **Advocacy** for enhanced focus on women, children and adolescents and for adoption of best practices by national programmes, stakeholders, implementers
- **Effective integration** with other sectors for joint results based on clearly defined and shared accountabilities
## UNICEF responses to the Programme Coordinating Board decision points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCB Decision 1</th>
<th>UNICEF response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accelerate HIV prevention</td>
<td>• Country coordination, strategic planning and implementation</td>
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<td>• Global Prevention Coalition technical working group</td>
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<td>• AGYW convener with PEPFAR, Education Plus partner, Global Fund technical assistance provider, toolkit and guide for AGYW country programming</td>
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<td>• Capacity strengthening of peer networks and digital innovations</td>
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<th>PCB Decision 2</th>
<th>UNICEF response</th>
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<td>Strengthen and integrate HIV response into sustainable health systems for universal health coverage</td>
<td>• Multi-disease HIV diagnosis integration</td>
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<td>• Integration of HIV in social protection services, newborn care malnutrition services and community care points</td>
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**UNICEF responses to the Programme Coordinating Board decision points**

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<th>PCB Decision 3</th>
<th><strong>Reduction of stigma and discrimination in all its forms</strong></th>
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| **UNICEF response** | - Use of digital applications to deliver services to vulnerable adolescents  
- Training adolescents as advocates for change  
- Generating evidence for policy and legislation reform (e.g., adolescent age of consent for HIV testing) |

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<th>PCB Decision 4</th>
<th><strong>Support to the development of the new UNAIDS strategy</strong></th>
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| **UNICEF response** | - Participated in multiple consultations and surveys  
- Reviewed evidence/provided feedback to key documents  
- Convened a virtual partner group discussion to provide recommendations on health and community systems strengthening for women children and adolescents |
Thank you.

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