



PRESIDENTIAL FAST TRACK INITIATIVE ON ENDING AIDS IN UGANDA:

A PRESIDENTIAL HANDBOOK – 3rd EDITION

2022



Preface

Over the years, Uganda's efforts in combating HIV and AIDS have registered considerable progress. We succeeded in bringing down the HIV prevalence rate from a peak of 18 percent in the 90s to 6-7 percent at the turn of the century. In the last 3-4 years there have been significant improvements in the reduction of new HIV infections, peri-natal HIV transmission and AIDS related death.

These achievements have been a result of scaled up HIV prevention; treatment based on combination HIV prevention including structural, behavioral and biomedical interventions. Core interventions included behavior change communication through Abstinence, Faithfulness and Condom use (ABC), Safe Male Circumcision, HIV counseling and testing; Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (EMTCT), and Care and treatment.

Despite these achievements, challenges remain including high levels of new HIV infections among Adolescent Girls and Young Women, low involvement of men in HIV programs including significantly low uptake of HIV services. As a result, HIV remains a major bottleneck and continues to negatively impact the realization of Uganda's Vision 2040 of becoming a transformed society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country.

I am therefore launching this fast track initiative with a goal of ending AIDS by 2030. Implementation will require a concerted multi-sectoral response involving all Ugandans. I call upon all Ugandans, political, cultural, religious and civic leaders to embrace this initiative. I also call upon all sectors- public, private, civil society, the media and development partners to ensure that we end AIDS as a public health threat in Uganda.

For God and My Country.

Yoweri K. Museveni

President of the Republic of Uganda

THE 5 POINT PLAN

1

Engage men in HIV prevention and close the tap on new infections particularly among adolescent girls and young women.

2

Accelerate implementation of Test and Treat and attainment of 95-95-95 targets particularly among men and young people.

3

Consolidate progress on eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

4

Ensure financial sustainability for the HIV response.

5

Ensure institutional effectiveness for a well coordinated multi-sectoral response.

95-95-95 TARGETS

FIRST
95

At least 95% of all HIV positive persons identified through responsive HIV Testing Services.

SECOND
95

At least 95% of all identified HIV positive persons enrolled on Antiretroviral Therapy.

THIRD
95

At least 95% of all persons on HIV treatment adhering to treatment in order to attain and sustain viral suppression.

COVID-19: Remain on high alert and diligently exercise preventive measures to avoid contracting **Corona Virus**

BACKGROUND

Over the years, Uganda has made progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS by December 2020. HIV prevalence among the adult population (15-49 years) is **5.4%**. Prevalence is higher among female **6.8%** as compared to **3.9%** among men by December 2020.

- ⦿ New HIV infections among adults (15+ years) reduced from **94,000** in 2010 to approximately **38,000** in December 2020; (**21,000** women and **11,000** men). **46%** of new infections are among young people (15-24 years)
- ⦿ New HIV infections among the children dropped from **23,000** in 2010 to **5,300** by December 2020.
- ⦿ An estimated 1.4 million people are living with HIV by December 2019. Of these **4,900** are males (15+ years) and **820,000** women (15+ years) and **98,000** children (0-14 years).
- ⦿ The number of PLHIV (All ages) enrolled on antiretroviral treatment increased from **237,000** in 2010 to **1,279,000** in 2020. ART coverage is higher among women (15+ years) at **91%** as compared to men (15+ years) at **77%**.
- ⦿ Number of AIDS related deaths among all ages decreased from **56,000** in 2010 to **22,000**. Among adults (15+ years) is **16,000** (9,100 women, men **9,000** ; children **4,300**) as of December 2020.

- ⦿ Approximately **50%** of adults (15-49 years) have comprehensive knowledge on HIV. Only **45%** of boys (15-24 years) and **46%** of girls (15-24 years) have comprehensive knowledge of HIV.
- ⦿ Everyweek, approximately **730** people get infected with HIV in Uganda. Of these **67 (44.1%)** are young people.

#EndAIDS2030Ug



Everyday about **104 people** get new HIV infection in Uganda.



are young people.



of Uganda's population is below 30 years



of men (15-24 years) and 22.4% of women (15-24 years) have comprehensive knowledge of HIV by December 2020

To end AIDS by 2030, there is need to build on the successes achieved, address HIV vulnerability and barriers by doing the following:

1. Engage men in HIV prevention and close the tap on new infections particularly among adolescent girls and young women.
2. Accelerate implementation of Test and Treat and attainment of 95-95-95 targets particularly among men and young people.
3. Consolidate progress on eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV
4. Ensure financial sustainability for the HIV response.
5. Ensure institutional effectiveness for a well-coordinated multi-sectoral response.

1. Engage men and young people in HIV prevention

MEN

The face of AIDS related deaths in Uganda is that of men whose poor health seeking behaviors result in low uptake of testing, prevention and treatment services.

Therefore, every man must take a stand against HIV by doing the following:

- ⦿ Test and receive test results to know your status.
- ⦿ If the test is negative, practice risk reduction and prevention measures such as abstinence, be faithful to your partner and condom use.
- ⦿ If the test is positive, start taking ARVs immediately as prescribed by the health worker and practice safer sex.



Denis Onyango, Star International footballer

Remember, as a man, you can only achieve your dreams if you are alive.

By December 2020

11 %

11% of HIV infected men had not yet been diagnosed

14 %

14% of HIV positive men had not been initiated on treatment

23 %

23% were not virally suppressed



8,900 men died of HIV related illnesses in **2020.**



YOUNG PEOPLE

Every young person must take a stand against HIV by doing the following:

- ⦿ Abstain from sex until you are ready for the consequences and responsibilities that come with it. Just because your friends are having sex, it does not mean you should have it.
- ⦿ If sexually active, adopt safer sex practices such as using condoms and faithfulness.
- ⦿ Before you engage in sex, know your HIV status and that of your partner.
- ⦿ Avoid bad influences and risky places.
- ⦿ Avoid alcohol and drug abuse that compromise your decision making.

Consequences of sex are not shared by your friends.



Remember, your HIV negative status expires every time you have unprotected sex with someone whose HIV status you do not know.

Wear a face mask and keep social distance of at least **2 metres** from one another.

PARENTS

You are the foundation of the family and children depend on you for their safety and wellbeing. Children need someone they trust as a source of information and advise.

Many young people today engage in risky practices like alcohol abuse, drug abuse and early sex that expose them to HIV, teenage pregnancy and premature death.



Therefore, parents you must take a stand against HIV by doing the following:

- Spend quality time with your children and set an example for them to follow.
- Equip your children with skills on how to deal with peer pressure that results in risky behaviors such as early sex, alcohol abuse, drug abuse and premature death.
- Understand and discuss the unique needs of young people especially adolescents such as body changes, attraction to opposite sex, among others.
- Create an enabling environment at home for your children to freely discuss issues of sexuality, body changes and HIV
- Support your children to complete school.

LEADERS

Leaders must take a stand against HIV by doing the following:

- ◉ Provide clear and accurate information on how to prevent HIV.
- ◉ Mobilize communities especially men to adopt risk reduction strategies such as abstinence, faithfulness and condom use to prevent HIV.
- ◉ Encourage people to test for HIV and receive results. Those who are positive should start treatment immediately and adhere.
- ◉ Motivate young people to stay in school and engage in productive activities.
- ◉ Mobilize communities against negative social and cultural practices such as early marriage and gender-based violence that expose people to the risk of HIV.



Remember HIV is still around.

REMEMBER
YOU CAN ONLY
ACHIEVE YOUR
DREAMS
WHEN YOU ARE
ALIVE

Corona Virus is dangerous, spreads quickly and can lead to death

HIV is still
around. Take a stand
to end it.

Be faithful to
your partner and
keep HIV away.

Your partner's
HIV status
is not yours.

**MEN WHAT'S YOUR
STAND ON HIV?**

Stop
the excuses.
Go for HIV
testing.

Ask to be
started on ARVs
the day you test
HIV positive.

If you are on ART
ask the health worker
for a viral load
test today.

2. Accelerate implementation of “Test and Treat” and realization of the 95-95-95 HIV targets

Uganda committed to global UNAIDS targets of ending as a Public Health Threat AIDS by 2030. The targets are:

- By 2025, at least **95%** of all HIV positive persons identified through responsive HIV Testing Services.
- By 2025, at least **95%** of all identified HIV positive persons enrolled on Antiretroviral Therapy.
- By 2025, at least **95%** of all persons on HIV treatment adhering to treatment in order to attain and sustain viral suppression.

An estimated **1.4** million people are living with HIV of which about **52,800** mainly men are still undiagnosed.

There is therefore urgent need to identify the missing people, who are living with HIV but are not aware, to test and start treatment.

Therefore, every body should take a stand against HIV by doing the following:

- Test for HIV, receive results and encourage sexual partners to do the same.
- If the test is positive, start taking ARVs immediately as prescribed by the health worker.
- Take your ARVs daily as advised by the health worker.
- Go for Viral Load Monitoring to know how your body is responding to treatment.

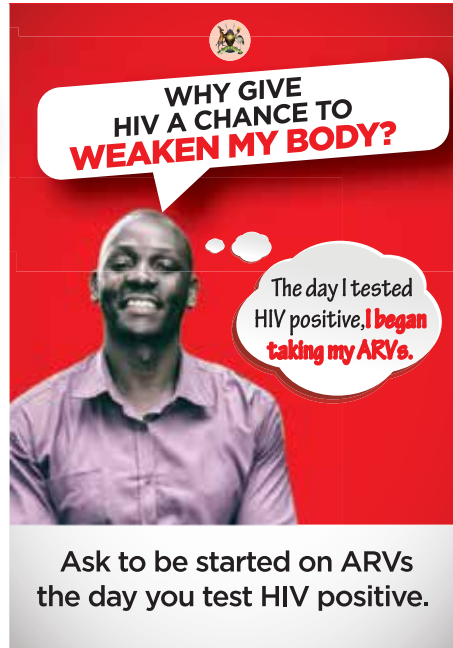


MAN, WHAT'S YOUR **STAND ON HIV TESTING?**

My wife tested **so I think I'm okay.**

Your partner's HIV status is not yours.

STOP THE EXCUSES. GO FOR TESTING.



WHY GIVE HIV A CHANCE TO **WEAKEN MY BODY?**

The day I tested HIV positive, **I began taking my ARVs.**

Ask to be started on ARVs the day you test HIV positive.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR VIRAL LOAD?

Testing for viral load helps you to know if your ARVs are working well and get support from a health worker.

GO TO THE HEALTH CENTER FOR VIRAL LOAD TESTING.

You can get infected with **Corona Virus** if an infected person sneezes or coughs and their droplets come into contact with you

3. Consolidate progress on eliminating Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV

Whereas Uganda is on track to meet global targets, Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV is still a problem. One of the major barriers to eliminating Mother to Child Transmission of HIV is limited male involvement.

Therefore, men should take a stand to eliminate Mother to Child Transmission of HIV by doing the following:

- ⦿ Take your pregnant partner for antenatal care services.
- ⦿ Test for HIV and receive results together.
- ⦿ If your tests are positive, support each other to take ARVs as advised by the health worker.
- ⦿ If one of you tests positive, accept the results and support each other to take ARVs and protect yourselves by using condoms.
- ⦿ Support your partner to deliver at the health center under skilled care.
- ⦿ Support your partner to breastfeed the child, have adequate healthy meals and take ARVs as told by the health worker.
- ⦿ Go for Viral Load Monitoring together to know how you are responding to treatment.



4. Ensure financial sustainability for the HIV response

According to NASA 2018/19, the Ugandan Government's contribution in absolute numbers has increased by 48%.

Contribution by various entities was:

- ◉ International Entities US\$. 1.7 trillion (83%)
- ◉ Domestic Private Entities US\$. 179.7 billion (8.4%)
- ◉ Public Entities US\$. 183.3 billion (8.5%)



To ensure financial sustainability for this response, leaders should:

- ◉ Leverage on existing resources and integrate HIV and AIDS activities in on-going government and other non-state sector programs.
- ◉ Ensure efficient allocation and utilization of available HIV and AIDS resources.
- ◉ Mobilize additional domestic resources from public and private sectors for HIV.
- ◉ Fast-track establishment of the HIV/AIDS Trust Fund.
- ◉ Ensure timely and adequate supply and utilization of medicines and supplies.
- ◉ Ensure HIV mainstreaming in all sectors and local Governments.

5. Ensure institutional effectiveness for a well-coordinated multi-sectoral response

Ending AIDS by 2030 will require a strong and well-coordinated multi-sectoral response.

However, over the years, a number of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) have not prioritized HIV response yet it is a major threat to achieving Vision 2040 of “a transformed Ugandan Society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years.”



Therefore, there is need to:

- Prioritize HIV and AIDS as a national development issue that impacts all sectors.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Uganda AIDS Commission to effectively coordinate the national multi-sectoral HIV response.
- Streamline program implementation, tracking and reporting.
- Strengthen the capacity of District Local Governments to implement and monitor HIV programs. This includes reviving the decentralized response to oversee scaled programming at community level.
- Recruit and motivate health workers for quality service delivery.

REMEMBER

HIV IS STILL AROUND.

**TAKE A  STAND
TO END IT.**

STAY SAFE FROM CORONA VIRUS



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Obulamu?

