

AIDS Action Alert -- Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM)

URGENT: The review and reporting process at country level has already started; Join now! Be involved! Be heard!

Prepared by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations ([ICASO](#)) March 2017

In June 2016, UN Member States adopted the [Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast-Track to Accelerate the Fight against HIV and to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030](#) (2016 Political Declaration). In its paragraph 76, countries agreed to “...provide to the General Assembly [...] an annual report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments made in the present Declaration...”. In 2017, countries are expected to assess their achievements against the targets set in 2016.

The process to review progress on the implementation of the 2016 Political Declaration is an opportunity to measure the effectiveness of national AIDS responses. The reports from these processes must reflect reviews and input from all national stakeholders, including the community sector. However, community sector groups – and particularly key populations- are often not adequately involved or are excluded from these processes.

Progress in responding to the HIV epidemic is measured against a set of 10 global commitments and expanded targets established in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. These commitments are:

1. Ensure that 30 million people living with HIV have **access to treatment** through meeting the [90–90–90](#) targets by 2020
2. **Eliminate new HIV infections among children** by 2020 while ensuring that 1.6 million children have access to HIV treatment by 2018
3. Ensure **access to combination prevention** options, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary medical male circumcision, harm reduction and condoms, to at least 90% of people by 2020, especially young women and adolescent girls in high-prevalence countries and key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and their clients, people who inject drugs and prisoners
4. **Eliminate gender inequalities** and end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, people living with HIV and key populations by 2020
5. **Reduce the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women** to below 100 000 per year by ensuring that 90% of young people have the skills, knowledge and capacity to protect themselves from HIV and have access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2020.
6. Ensure that 75% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV benefit from **HIV sensitive social protection** by 2020.
7. Ensure that at least 30% of all **service delivery is community-led** by 2020
8. Ensure that **HIV investments increase to US\$ 26 billion** by 2020, including a quarter for HIV prevention and 6% for social enablers
9. Empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV to **know their rights and to access justice** and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights
10. Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centered systems to improve **universal health coverage**, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C

The reported data are utilized for national-level reviews (including the Global Fund and similar reprogramming efforts), regional reviews, and global analysis. These reports are designed to identify challenges and constraints and recommend action to accelerate the achievement of the targets.

The 2017 [Global AIDS Monitoring](#) is the first year after the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, and also the first year of reporting for the HIV monitoring framework for 2016–2021. The guidelines¹ reflect a review of the indicator set used for global reporting in previous years and integrate indicators that monitor the treatment cascade.

The review and reporting process for the 2016 period is already underway. Countries need to send their progress reports to UNAIDS by March 31, 2017.

In the past, ICASO and partners have supported community sector groups in different countries to be involved in the review and reporting. Reviews done by the community sector, including by ICASO indicate that involvement of the community sector has been varied: in some countries participation and engagement have been outstanding, while in others, exclusion has been the rule. The quality and completeness of the country progress reports have also been varied.

As more countries submit reports (173 countries submitted reports in 2016) the community sector is expected to play a more prominent role. **It is imperative that community groups start their engagement now, if they have not already done so.** The community sector holds the key to critical data and information that governments may not have or are not willing to report on, particularly with respect to the needs and challenges faced by key populations and those most at risk or marginalized. Community groups can bring to the table relevant and updated information that will present a more realistic picture of the epidemic in the country.

5 Key Actions You Can Take Now to ensure meaningful involvement in the 2017 Global AIDS Monitoring process:

1. **Mobilize** your community sector colleagues and partner organizations to advocate for the meaningful involvement of the community sector in the review and reporting processes. Review [‘More than a seat at the table’](#) as an aid to planning and supporting meaningful involvement.
2. **Ask** the UNAIDS Country Director (UCD) or Strategic Information Adviser in your country what they are doing to facilitate input from the community sector throughout the review process. **Request** that UNAIDS facilitate an inclusive and participatory process among all stakeholders. A list of the UCDs is available by emailing aidsreporting@unaids.org. Review Annex 1 for important information, including key dates, roles and responsibilities of UNAIDS and cosponsors at country level and contact information.
3. **Review** all relevant documents:
 - The indicators in the current [Global AIDS Monitoring](#) and the [National Commitments and Policy Instrument](#). A few important points to consider:

¹ Review the slide-deck available at <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-VYhnpzEcELLE1H4wnG4TYFM-NNMv8d6ZUT5v0sig-A/edit#slide=id.p> to get a sense of how the online tool looks like.

- i. It is important to mention that UNAIDS is encouraging countries to submit a narrative report as well which consist of brief narrative summaries for each Fast-Track commitment. Alternatively, countries may also choose to submit a recent national report if available.
 - ii. Countries should consider how each indicator applies to their local epidemic [for the matrix of indicators, click [here](#)]. Countries are asked to indicate whether an indicator is considered relevant or not, and if it is relevant, whether new data is available for this indicator. When countries choose not to report on a specific indicator, they should provide their reasons, since this enables an absence of data to be differentiated from the inapplicability of specific indicators to specific country epidemics.
 - iii. Most of the national indicators apply to all countries. The behavior indicators for **key populations at higher risk are relevant in all countries regardless of the national HIV prevalence.**
 - The [2016 Political Declaration](#) contains the commitments and promises countries have made. The 2017 review and report will be based on this document.
 - The country progress reports¹ that your government prepared in the past. **Determine** if the process to review and prepare past reports were inclusive and transparent and if the reports submitted reflect the realities of the epidemic and the response in your country. Ensure that the current 2017 review and analysis are done with the involvement of community sector groups, especially with people living with HIV and other key populations. **Contact** ICASO at icaso@icaso.org for tools and referrals to resources to help undertake this community sector review.
4. **Contact** the National AIDS Program (or equivalent) in your country and ask how they plan to involve the community sector in the 2017 review and reporting process. **Find out** who in your country will be leading the preparation of the report and try to arrange a meeting with that person. **Provide support** to develop and publish a calendar of action and budget, mapping out key milestones for consultation with the community sector. The review process and report preparation should involve meetings with all national stakeholders, including for validating the report. Request that you (or your organization) receive “viewing rights” to the online report.²
5. **Share** all the information you find about these processes and the outcomes with community partners. This will increase accountability and transparency and will provide support for advocacy actions. **Contact [ICASO](#)** if you are interested in receiving more information or if you want to share your experiences with other community advocates.

¹ Country reports are available at <http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/knownyourresponse/countryprogressreports/2016countries> (narrative) and <http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/knownyourresponse/ncpi/2014countries> (NCPI).

² The key person in each country who will manage the reporting process will be issued with a username and password as the sole editor of the data that is entered into the online report. There will also be a second username and password that the lead person may circulate to key partners at a country level. This would grant others viewing rights to the on-line report.



17 January 2017

JOINT 2017 GLOBAL AIDS MONITORING REPORTING

Dear Colleagues,

This note provides information about the global monitoring and reporting on country responses to HIV. On behalf of WHO and UNICEF Headquarters and UNAIDS Secretariat, we are requesting the support of regional and country offices to assist countries complete the ***Joint Reporting process by 31 March 2017***.

A new Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM) framework for 2016-2021 has been defined to measure progress towards the commitments and targets outlined in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast-Track to Accelerate the Fight against HIV and to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030 adopted at the High Level Meeting on AIDS in June 2016. It includes an updated indicator set and a revised policy questionnaire (National Commitments and Policy Instrument). A review of the monitoring framework was conducted in 2015-16, with inputs from government stakeholders, civil society representatives and UNAIDS co-sponsors, including WHO and UNICEF. Revisions to the monitoring framework are detailed in the 2017 GAM reporting guidelines. This new framework is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and reflects the Fast-Track strategy to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, which identifies the next five years as crucial for scaling-up progress and addressing gaps in the AIDS response to achieve ambitious commitments and targets set.

This mechanism coordinates data collection and reporting which will be used at national, regional and global level and will also be the basis for **key global HIV reporting in 2017**:

1. WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS will provide inputs to the Secretary General's report on the SDGs for 2017. Please find attached a letter from UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé to country missions in Geneva regarding this reporting (Annex 1). UNAIDS will present the data and its analysis in global AIDS reports in 2017.
2. WHO will lead the development of a bi-annual progress report on the global health sector response to HIV which will also focus on the implementation of WHO HIV guidelines related to prevention, testing and treatment. This report will build on Global AIDS Monitoring indicators, which include key indicators for the continuum of HIV services.
3. UNICEF will prepare the Children and AIDS Statistical Update, 2017. This will provide an update of the HIV burden among children and adolescents and results achieved in the past year.

At the national level, it is recommended the monitoring data be used to assess progress towards targets and commitments, and inform national consultations to reach consensus on findings and recommendations, as well as to inform programming reviews.

The main elements of the global monitoring and reporting process in 2017:

i) Indicators and reporting format

2017 reporting includes submission of indicator data, as well as the National Commitments and Policy Instrument and a narrative progress report.

Disaggregated data: age and sex

It is vital that countries collect disaggregated data and not simply in summary form. Without disaggregated data, it is difficult to monitor the breadth and depth of the response to the HIV

epidemic at both national and global levels. It is equally difficult to monitor access to services, the equity of that access, the appropriateness of focusing on specific populations, and meaningful change over time. Disaggregated data also aligns with the SDG principle of no one left behind. The three UN agencies should support government and partners to collect, report, analyze and use disaggregated data for improved results, especially for children and adolescents.

ii) Reporting Guidelines

Reporting guidelines with more detailed descriptions of the process and the indicators will be shared shortly.

iii) Joint Online Reporting Tool

The online reporting tool (<https://aidsreportingtool.unaids.org/>) used in 2016 will also be used for this reporting round. The tool includes the self-registration of users, who will be granted different user rights depending on their roles.

iv) Identification of country focal points

Country focal points from the last reporting round will be sent an e-mail reminder in January, advising them to use the online tool for reporting. In cases where we do not get answers we need your support to identify the right person. The country rapporteurs will be the only ones allowed to enter/edit the data, unless they wish to delegate that authority to others.

v) Process and timelines for data collection, validation and submission at country level:

As in previous years WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS will rely on regional offices to liaise with country offices in support of the following processes:

- a. **Communication of the joint memo to country offices:** Each agency should communicate this information note to the heads of country offices and HIV/AIDS country focal points at their earliest convenience, through the respective regional communication channels. The Joint UN Team on AIDS should make sure that this information is communicated to relevant national authorities, for example through a joint letter co-signed by WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS at the country level.
- b. **Data collection at country level:** as in previous years we recommend that WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS country offices jointly support national counterparts to collate and validate data, and build consensus through a single collaborative process, that includes partner agencies, such as other co-sponsors, CDC and USAID and implementing partners. This reporting offers an opportunity to feed into nationally important review processes, such as those informing the Global Fund New Funding Model (building investment case, support country dialogue, evidence for the concept note), and reprogramming efforts. As a first step, we propose that the three agencies organize a joint meeting, and agree on the division of labor for liaising with the government and partners to support the data collection and analysis for country reporting and the progress review of the 2016 Political Declaration.
- c. **Ensuring data quality and validity prior to submission:** Throughout the data collection phase, WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS country staff should work with their Regional Office counterparts and support the country focal point to ensure timely submission and optimal data quality. Following the data compilation, we recommend that a validation meeting is organized by the government with partner agencies, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. This should take place before submission.
- d. **Data submission:** Submission of data will be done through the online reporting tool mentioned above. Country focal points will be contacted in January. As in past rounds there are two user

profiles in the online tool: *the editor*, who can enter and update the data, and *the viewer*, who can only view the entered data. The viewer password will be shared with UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF colleagues from Country and Regional Offices to allow for following data entry and data validation. The deadline for submission of the data through the online reporting system is **31st March 2017**. Should the country focal point need assistance in entering and submitting the country report using the online tool, colleagues in country offices are encouraged to provide the necessary support.

vi) Process for validating the data at regional and global level

The role of the UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF regional offices will remain important in the 2017 data validation process.

Validation of data submitted by countries

Basic queries for indicators are built into the online tool. They check for considerable changes (increases or decreases) in the data, or inconsistency between values (percentage value cannot be over 100% etc.). After data submission in the end of March, data will be extracted and an initial review will be done at HQ level by UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF. Each agency will coordinate queries with their regional focal points and share them with UNAIDS indicator focal points for relevant indicators. UNAIDS will coordinate the entries to the online tool.

vii) Contact persons: The contact persons for the WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS regional offices and headquarters are listed in **annex 2** below.

viii) Further information

Guidelines, the reporting tool and further information about the process are available at www.unaids.org/aidsreporting.

In case you need more information regarding the data collection and reporting process, you may contact:

WHO Headquarters:
hivstrategicinfo@who.int

UNICEF Headquarters:
hivstrategicinfo@unicef.org

UNAIDS Secretariat:
AIDSreporting@unaids.org

We thank you all for the continued support to countries in reaching their targets. By supporting reporting on progress towards the 2016 Political Declaration commitments and targets, you will help countries to scale up effective, evidence-based responses to HIV.

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Director
Department of HIV/AIDS
WHO

Chewe Luo
Chief, AIDS and HIV Section
Associate Director
Programme Division
UNICEF

Peter Ghys
Director
Strategic Information and Evaluation
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Annexes:

- 1) Letter from UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé to country missions in Geneva**
- 2) Contact persons for WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS regional offices and headquarters**

Executive Director

Reference: EXO/2016/1973

For the attention of all
Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Office
in Geneva

16 December 2016

Dear Ambassador,

I have the honour to refer to the “Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast-Track to Accelerate the Fight against HIV and to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030” (General Assembly resolution A/70/L.52) adopted at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS in June 2016. I would like to request your continued support to maintain the outstanding record of national reporting on the global AIDS response, which continues to be one of the leading international reporting mechanisms.

The 2016 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS reflects the Fast-Track strategy to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and sets ambitious goals and targets for rapid scale-up of essential HIV prevention, treatment and structural approaches to enable the AIDS response to outpace the epidemic. The next five years will be crucial for scaling-up progress and addressing gaps in the AIDS response to achieve these ambitious commitments and targets.

A new global AIDS monitoring (GAM) framework for 2016-2021 has been defined to measure progress against the AIDS targets agreed at the High-Level Meeting on AIDS in June 2016, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. This framework includes an updated indicator set and a revised policy questionnaire, that reflect updated knowledge and understanding of the HIV epidemic and response approaches and scientific breakthroughs, as well as methodological advances in data collection.

The data reported by countries through the global AIDS monitoring process in 2016 were utilized to inform the 2016 Political Declaration and two global reports, “The Prevention Gap Report” and “Get on the Fast-Track – a lifecycle approach to HIV”, as well as numerous other global and regional analyses used to inform programming. The two 2016 global reports demonstrate the important progress and joint success in bending the trajectory of the AIDS epidemic, while highlighting limited progress on HIV prevention among adults as one of the greatest challenges of the AIDS response. An expansion of HIV prevention, testing and treatment, as well as implementation of structural actions, must continue to achieve the Fast-track global targets and commitments.

UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

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To inform the Secretary-General and General Assembly on the progress in the AIDS response, we invite your country to submit its monitoring data and a narrative report for the year ending in December 2016. The data should be entered into the GAM online reporting tool by **31 March 2017**. Technical guidance on the 2017 reporting process will be communicated shortly. In the interim, you may send any questions to AIDSreporting@unaids.org.

Let me express my appreciation to your Government for continuing its efforts in the AIDS response and reiterate the commitment of UNAIDS to support you in monitoring, reviewing, reporting and using evidence on progress towards the targets set in the 2016 Political Declaration.



Michel Sidibé

ANNEX 2: LIST OF WHO, UNICEF AND UNAIDS FOCAL POINTS

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