



HER

HIV EPIDEMIC RESPONSE

Empowering Women and Girls to end AIDS



The Situation

HIV is preventable, and yet nearly 1,000 young women and girls are infected with HIV every day.

Despite great progress made against HIV globally, adolescent girls and young women continue to be disproportionately affected by the epidemic.

In sub-Saharan Africa, there are twice as many HIV infections among 15-24-year-old girls and young women as boys and men in the same age group. In the hardest-hit countries, there are six times more.

Harmful gender norms, discrimination, violence, limited access to education and a lack of tailored services inhibit women's and girls' access to health care and fuel new infections.

With Africa's youth population expected to increase by 40 percent over the next decade, failure to act decisively could lead to a resurgence of HIV, with more new infections than at the height of the epidemic in the early 2000s.

We have reached a critical moment

We will win or lose the global fight against AIDS based on whether we win or lose the battle to protect adolescent girls and young women from HIV over the next few years.

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A Movement for HER

Together with partners, the Global Fund has set a bold target to reduce the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women by 58 percent in 13 African countries by 2022.

A collective global effort is needed to reach this goal. With more awareness, more funding and more energy driving new approaches, we can change the course of the epidemic.

The Global Fund has increased investments more than fivefold to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in the 13 priority African countries.

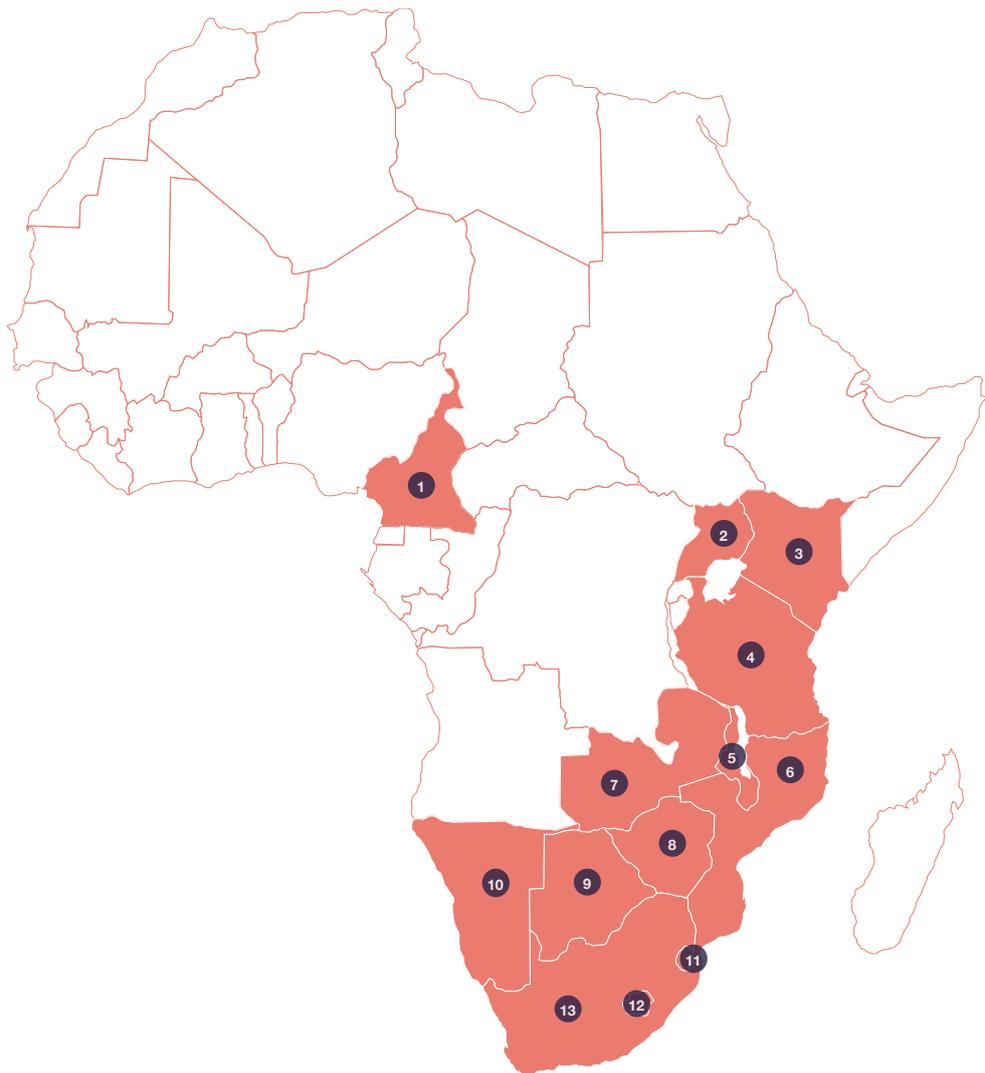
An innovative matching funds program launched in 2017 used US\$55 million to mobilize an additional US\$140 million for programs to reduce new HIV infections, violence, and unintended pregnancies among one million adolescent girls and young women in the 13 countries.

However, data has indicated that in these high-risk countries, HIV infection among women and girls is disproportionately high compared with boys of the same age group. Therefore, without renewed and increased investment to scale up existing efforts, we risk the epidemic outrunning the response.

By urgently scaling up prevention programs that put the voices and needs of adolescent girls and young women first, and incubating new and innovative approaches, we have the opportunity to save lives.

Boys and men will be crucial to the success of this effort, and programs will be designed to engage with them. As partners, peers, friends and family, their supportive actions and attitudes are a necessary part of the solution.

With support from private sector partners and influential champions, HER aims to mobilize additional resources, foster new solutions and approaches to reach more adolescent girls and young women, as well as boys and young men, to drive down HIV infections.



1. **Cameroon**
2. **Uganda**
3. **Kenya**
4. **Tanzania**
5. **Malawi**
6. **Mozambique**
7. **Zambia**
8. **Zimbabwe**
9. **Botswana**
10. **Namibia**
11. **eSwatini**
12. **Lesotho**
13. **South Africa**

A Girl-Centered Approach

The specific needs of adolescent girls and young women are at the heart of programs supported through HER.

A girl-centered, rights-based approach to programs, with services that reflect the differing risks and opportunities for women and girls by their age group, country and community context, is key to fighting the epidemic.

HER Voice is a fund that has been launched to address the logistical barriers faced by groups and networks of adolescent girls and young women, to better enable them to participate in Global Fund country processes. It provides practical support, such as small grants to cover expenses, to ensure women and girls have a place at the table during key decision-making forums related to country policy reform, funding applications and the design and implementation of programs for women and girls.

Tackling HIV means addressing both biological and social drivers of the epidemic. The types of programs that create lasting change for adolescent girls and young women include:

- Comprehensive, adolescent-friendly prevention programs that provide sexuality education, condoms and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and HIV testing services – all free from stigma or discrimination
- Life skills, financial literacy and “know your rights” education, which can empower girls and young women to be advocates for their own health and well-being
- Cash incentives, peer networks, mentors and other social protection programs – including prevention of gender-based violence – to support girls as they complete their education
- Community engagement and education, and investment in resilient systems for health that will sustain progress initiated through HER



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Education and HIV

There is strong evidence that keeping adolescent girls and young women in school significantly reduces their vulnerability to HIV infection. A recent study in Botswana showed that secondary school students who stayed in school for an additional year had an eight percent lower risk of HIV infection about a decade later. In countries with a high burden of HIV among adolescent girls and young women, including Kenya, eSwatini, and South Africa, the Global Fund is supporting programs that aim to keep girls and women in school - as well as provide social support.

The Lancet 2015

Peer Support

Kgantsho Makegata leads weekly meetings at the RISE Young Women's Club in South Africa. The clubs provide a safe space for young women to share peer-to-peer experiences on sexual health, gender-based violence and HIV. This is one of many programs that target the needs of adolescent girls and young women in South Africa, and with the support of the Global Fund, South Africa launched a national campaign in 2015 to address the high prevalence of HIV among this high-risk group.



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How to Support HER

The Global Fund has created a collaborative platform for a range of partners to support adolescent girls and young women in countries with a high risk of HIV.



Financial Support

Partners can contribute financial resources to accelerate impactful HIV prevention programs and catalyze domestic funding for adolescent girls and young women.



Innovation

Partners can provide their expertise to support countries to design, develop and implement innovative programs and, take proven solutions to scale.



HER Voice

Partners can support HER Voice, a fund which helps ensure young women's and girls' voices are heard at key decision-making forums related to funding applications, country policy reform, and the design of HIV prevention programs that meet their needs.



Awareness Raising

Partners can help drive awareness of the issue and give a voice to adolescent girls and young women through high-level advocacy moments at global, regional and country levels, to help keep the next generation HIV free.



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Coca-Cola

Partner story: Innovation

Tapping into Coca-Cola's network of best-in-class creative marketing and consumer insight capacities, Project Last Mile worked with the Global Fund and eSwatini's Health Promotion Unit to develop Girl Champ. It's an innovative concept rooted in specialized research to better understand why HIV is an epidemic among young girls in eSwatini. Girl Champ enables adolescent and young girls to become informed and empowered to consider their future and protect their health. It sets up safe spaces for youth-centered dialogue on pressing health issues in a girls-only health club. Nearly 2,000 girls have registered for health services so far.



Partner story: Financial Support

(RED) and partners have contributed over US\$600 million to the Global Fund, investing in smart, innovative HIV/AIDS programs that empower and support young women and girls. Partnering with (RED), Durex has committed at least US\$5 million to the Keeping Girls in School program in South Africa. To combat increasing rates of HIV infections and unwanted pregnancies, the program provides sexual and reproductive health education and services to young women and girls in South Africa and supports school retention.



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Partner story: HER Voice

Through its Positive Action programs, ViiV Healthcare (ViiV) supports community-led responses around the world to tackle the HIV epidemic in their local communities. As a HER Voice partner, ViiV focuses on financing and capacity building among adolescent girls' and young women's groups to improve programmatic effectiveness, strengthen participation in Global Fund country processes and build the capacity of organizations and networks of young women, primarily in partnership with the HER Voice Fund.



Partner story: Financial Support

Standard Bank, Africa's largest banking group in terms of assets, has partnered with the Global Fund since 2008. The bank is an active HER supporter – both financially and through advocacy efforts. The collaboration has generated major impact and awareness for the support of young women and girls most vulnerable to HIV, positioning Standard Bank as a role model for African businesses in the fight against the HIV epidemic.



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Invest in Girls for a Better Future

By working together to galvanize the necessary strengths, technical expertise and financial support, we can support adolescent girls and young women to become healthy, empowered and financially independent women who are free to fulfill their potential. Addressing the disproportionate impact of HIV by investing in the

health and rights of adolescent girls and young women reduces gender inequality and creates a ripple effect that delivers numerous societal and economic gains – benefitting families, communities and countries.

Invest in Girls for a Better Future

When **10%** more girls go to school, a country's GDP increases by an average of **3% ↑**



(USAID, 2011)

Advancing women's equality and closing the gender gap in work and society could add

11%

to global GDP by 2025



(McKinsey Global Institute Report, 2015)

Every additional year of secondary schooling equals a

15-25%

increase in a girl's potential income



+ 1 year + 2 year + 3 year



+ 4 year + 5 year

(UNICEF, 2011)



Keeping a girl in school beyond grade 7 means they have an average of

2.2 fewer children

(PMNCH, 2013)



Each additional year of schooling increases the average annual GDP by

0.37%

(UNESCO, 2010)



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Investing in girls
means investing in
the future. Together,
we can empower
the next generation
to stay free from HIV.

The Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics.

For more information on how to support HER

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria
Global Health Campus
Chemin du Pommier 40
1218 Grand-Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland

T: +41 58 791 1179
privatesector@theglobalfund.org
theglobalfund.org