## POPULATION AND HIV/AIDS 2005

### Introduction

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has been tracking global population and HIV/AIDS data since 1988. The latest report, POPULATION AND HIV/AIDS 2005, provides comprehensive data on the global population and HIV/AIDS prevalence as of 2005. This report is based on the latest available data and analyses the impact of HIV/AIDS on population and socio-economic development.

### Key Findings

- **Total Population 2005:** The total midyear de facto population is estimated at 6.5 billion in 2005, an increase of 1.6 billion from 1900. The majority of the increase has occurred in less developed regions, particularly in Asia and Africa.

  - **Population Growth:** The population growth rate is highest in less developed regions, with an average growth rate of 2.1% per annum. In contrast, the population in more developed regions is growing at a slower rate of 0.5% per annum.

- **HIV/AIDS Prevalence:** The percentage of adults (15-49 years) infected with HIV at the end of 2003 is highest in Africa, with an average of 6.1% in the region. In contrast, the prevalence in more developed regions is much lower, at an average of 0.1%.

  - **AIDS Orphans:** As of 2004, there were an estimated 7.1 million AIDS orphans worldwide, with the majority in sub-Saharan Africa.

- **AIDS Prevention Strategies:** Governments are implementing various strategies to combat HIV/AIDS, including increasing condom use, promoting antiretroviral treatment, and improving access to information and education.

  - **Condom Use:** Condom use is highest in countries with the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS, with an estimated 80% of adults using condoms.

### Data Preview

The report provides detailed data on population by country, including midyear population estimates, HIV/AIDS prevalence rates, and other relevant indicators. The data is available online at the United Nations website.
The international response

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has prompted an unprecedented array of global, regional, national and local responses. Beginning in 1994, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations established the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to mount and support a coordinated response from the United Nations system. The urgency of a concerted response was recognized by the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2, paragraph 19), which noted the resolve of Governments to halt and reverse the spread of the epidemic by 2015. This resolve was reiterated in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the United Nations General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS in 2001, which acknowledged that prevention of HIV/AIDS must be the mainstay of responses to the epidemic. Additional resources are being brought to bear by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, created by the General Assembly in 2002.

Noting the devastating toll of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa, the Secretary-General of the United Nations established the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa in 2003 to make recommendations for combating the disease. Most recently, the high-level meeting to review the achievement of the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (26 June 2005) afforded an opportunity for the international community to take stock of its efforts to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Although there have been many examples of progress, the global response to HIV/AIDS still falls short of what is required to successfully tackle the epidemic.

The national response

Although Governments began formulating policies concerning HIV/AIDS by the mid-1980s, these policies were fragmented and frequently had a narrow health sector focus. This contrasts sharply with the current situation which is characterized by comprehensive policies and programmes in many countries. Effective national leadership combined with policy measures and broader political will has contributed to the significant reductions in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths observed in many countries. However, the evidence of progress is not uniform across the world. Although some countries have made significant advances, the epidemic continues to grow rapidly in others.

Governments are pursuing a multipronged strategy to combat HIV/AIDS by focusing on (a) prevention; (b) care and treatment; (c) support in the form of protection from discrimination and stigmatization; (d) development of multisectoral strategies; (e) creation of HIV/AIDS coordination bodies; and (f) establishment of partnerships with civil society, people living with HIV/AIDS, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Most Governments have implemented programmes that focus on HIV/AIDS prevention. Comprehensive prevention programmes include strategies such as information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns; programmes to modify sexual behaviour; condom promotion; voluntary counselling and testing; blood safety; and targeting high-risk groups (sex workers and injecting drug users) and vulnerable groups (young people and pregnant women).

While antiretroviral treatment has significantly prolonged life and reduced the suffering of AIDS victims, access to antiretroviral treatment remains low. Concerted international and national efforts have slashed the price of these medicines, but treatment remains beyond the reach of most victims in low-income countries.

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