

# THE IMPACT OF AIDS



United Nations

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
Population Division

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United Nations

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## PREFACE

The human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic is one of the major development challenges facing developing countries today. HIV/AIDS is directly threatening the achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals established following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 9 September 2000. In addition to the specific goal of combating HIV/AIDS, the pandemic puts at risk the goals of eradicating poverty, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, ensuring environmental sustainability and creating a global partnership for development.

Soon after the onset of the epidemic, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Population Division began to study the demography of HIV/AIDS and incorporated the impact of HIV/AIDS into the estimates and projections of national populations. In a continuing effort to expand its activities related to the pandemic, the Population Division has also studied HIV/AIDS behaviour and awareness and has conducted a study on the impact of AIDS on fertility.

The present report considers the broader impact of HIV/AIDS on development. The report reviews the impact of AIDS on households, firms, agriculture, health, education and the macroeconomy.

The report makes extensive use of information and data obtained from and studies conducted by United Nations offices and specialized agencies as well as other institutions dealing with HIV/AIDS. Particular recognition is due to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its collaborating agencies (see <http://www.unaids.org>).

*The Impact of AIDS* may be accessed on the DESA Population Division World Wide Web site at <http://www.un.org/esa/populations/publications.htm>. For further information, please contact the office of Mr. Joseph Chamie, Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, New York, NY 10017.



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## Explanatory notes

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

The tables presented in this report make use of the following symbols:

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

An em dash (—) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

A hyphen (–) indicates that the item is not applicable.

A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease.

A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.

Use of a hyphen (–) between years, for example, 1995-2000, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the first year to 1 July of the second year.

Numbers and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

The following abbreviations are used in the report:

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AIDSCAP	AIDS Control and Prevention Project
BIDPA	Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis
CMH	Commission on Macroeconomics and Health
CGE	computable general equilibrium
EAMAT	Eastern Africa Multidisciplinary Advisory Team
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	gross domestic product
GNP	gross national product
HEARD	Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division, University of Natal
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IAEN	International AIDS Economics Network
ILO	International Labour Organization
IRC	International Water and Sanitation Centre
SAfAIDS	Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service
STDs	sexually transmitted diseases
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

