



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Zambia records massive reduction in HIV infection - UN report

NEW YORK, Tuesday, November 27, 2012 – A UN report has revealed that Zambia has drastically reduced new HIV infections by 58 per cent and achieved more than 80 per cent HIV treatment.

According to UNAIDS' World AIDS Day report for 2012 titled: *RESULTS*, Zambia was among countries in the world that had made immense progress in combating HIV/Aids.

“This year, Zambia has put a massive injection of funds into its health budget, increasing it by 45 per cent,” said UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

The report most countries in sub-saharan Africa – the region with the highest HIV prevalence rate – had made significant gains in averting deaths related to AIDS.

The UN agency stated that between 2001 and 2011, the rate of new HIV infections dropped by 73 per cent in Malawi, while in Botswana by 71 percent, in Namibia by 68 per cent, in Zambia by 58 per cent and in Zimbabwe by 50 per cent.

South Africa, the country with the largest number of HIV infections, reduced new HIV infections by 41 per cent, according to UNAIDS while in Swaziland, which has the highest HIV prevalence in the world, new HIV infections dropped by 37 per cent.

The report stated that Botswana cut AIDS-related deaths by 71 per cent, Rwanda by 68 per cent, Namibia by 60 per cent, Zambia by 56 per cent and Burundi and Côte d'Ivoire by 51 per cent while Benin, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi and Mali all reduced AIDS related deaths by one third.

In Zambia, Burundi, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa and Togo, the number of children newly infected fell by between 40 per cent and 59 per cent from 2009 to 2011.

Impressive gains were also made in cutting deaths from Tuberculosis (TB) in people living with HIV, according to the UNIADS report.

“India, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe accounted for two thirds of all new people with HIV/TB co-infection being treated, but much more needs to be done. No-one should die of TB and HIV,” UNAIDS stated.

In sub-Saharan Africa, a record 2.3 million people were added to antiretroviral treatment programmes in the last two years – an increase of 59 per cent.

According to the UNAIDS report, upwards of 100 000 people living with HIV were enrolled in HIV treatment in Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia each.

“Five countries in the region have achieved more coverage of HIV treatment—Botswana, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland and Zambia,” the UNAIDS report stated. “Sexual behaviour among men and women has changed to become safer in numerous countries with generalized epidemics including Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria and Zambia.”

However, UNAIDS noted the “worrisome increases in AIDS-related mortality were observed in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (21 per cent) and the middle East and North Africa (17 per cent).”

At least 50 per cent of people living with HIV do not know their status, according to UNAIDS.

The report stated that more resources would be required to fight HIV and reach the zero-infection target.

Issued by:

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