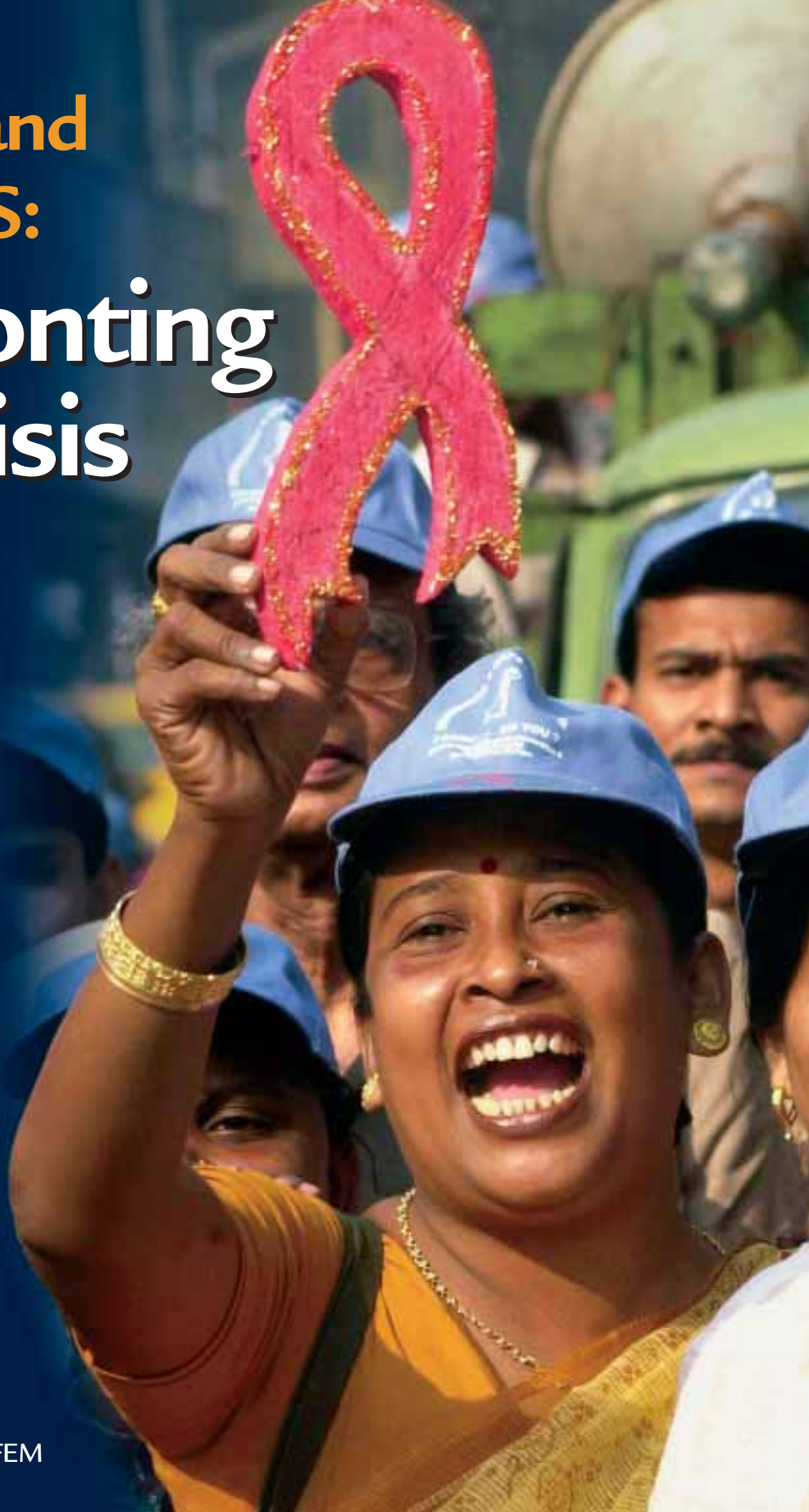


# Women and HIV/AIDS: Confronting the Crisis



A Joint Report by  
UNAIDS / UNFPA / UNIFEM

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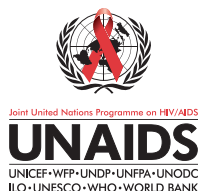
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UNAIDS is the main advocate for global action on the epidemic. It leads, strengthens and supports an expanded response aimed at preventing HIV transmission, providing care and support, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV, and alleviating the impact of the epidemic.

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UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is the world's largest multilateral source of population assistance. Since it became operational in 1969, it has provided help to developing countries, at their request, to meet reproductive health needs and support development efforts. UNFPA helps women, men and young people plan their families and avoid accidental pregnancies; undergo pregnancy and childbirth safely; avoid sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS; and combat discrimination and violence against women.

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UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security. UNIFEM works in partnership with UN organizations, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and networks to promote gender equality. It links women's issues and concerns to national, regional and global agendas by fostering collaboration and providing technical expertise on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment strategies.

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**FRONT COVER:** An AIDS awareness activist at a World AIDS Day march in Calcutta.

*Photo by Deshakalyan Chowdhury—AFP/Getty*

**BACK COVER:** A Brazilian student prepares a poster for World AIDS Day. *Photo by Evaristo Sa—AFP/Getty*

**WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS: CONFRONTING THE CRISIS**

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# Acronyms

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ART	antiretroviral therapy
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEE/CIS	countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
DOTS	directly observed therapy, short-course
FGC	female genital cutting
HEI	HIV Equity Initiative, Haiti
IAVI	International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
ICW	International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
MaP	Men as Partners, a Southern Africa NGO
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
MTCT	mother-to-child transmission
NGO	non-governmental organization
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PEP	post-exposure prophylaxis
PMTCT	preventing mother-to-child transmission
SHAZ	Shaping the Health of Adolescents in Zimbabwe
STI	sexually transmitted infection
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGASS	UN General Assembly Special Session (on HIV/AIDS)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
VCT	Voluntary counselling and testing
VSO	Voluntary Services Overseas, UK
WAR	Women against Rape, Botswana
WHO	World Health Organization

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# Preface

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**HIV/AIDS** is no longer striking primarily men. Today, more than 20 years into the epidemic, women account for nearly half the 40 million people living with HIV worldwide. In sub-Saharan Africa, 57 per cent of adults with HIV are women, and young women aged 15 to 24 are more than three times as likely to be infected as young men. Despite this alarming trend, women know less than men about how HIV/AIDS is transmitted and how to prevent infection, and what little they do know is often rendered useless by the discrimination and violence they face.

This report is an urgent call to action to address the triple threat of gender inequality, poverty and HIV/AIDS. By tackling these forces simultaneously, we can reduce the spread of the epidemic and its devastating consequences.

Women must not be regarded as victims. They are, in many places, leading the way forward. In communities scattered around the globe, women and men are taking action to increase knowledge about the disease, expand access to sexual and reproductive health and educational services, increase women's ability to negotiate safer sexual relations, combat gender discrimination and violence and increase access to female-controlled prevention methods such as the female condom.

All of these efforts, outlined in this report, are critical. As long as women and adolescent girls are unable to earn an income and exercise their rights to education, health and property, or are threatened with violence, progress on the AIDS front will pass them by. As the stories in this report attest, there is no limit to innovative practices. Strategies for survival are pioneered every day on the ground by women living with HIV/AIDS. The limitations lie elsewhere: in the painful shortage of resources—especially for women and women's issues—and in the shameful lack of political will to meet international commitments. For too many years, the voices and demands of women, particularly women living with HIV, have fallen on deaf ears. The world can no longer afford to ignore them. We must find the money needed for care and treatment for all. We must put an end to the stigma and discrimination

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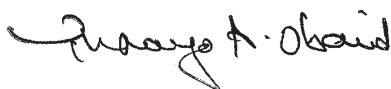
that limit women's access to treatment and leave them responsible for taking care of the ill and dying. We must make it possible for them to envision a future.

This report grows out of our shared belief that the world must respond to the HIV crisis confronting women. It highlights the work of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS—a UNAIDS initiative that supports and energizes programmes that mitigate the impact of AIDS on girls and women worldwide. Through its advocacy and networking, the Coalition is drawing greater attention to the effects of HIV on women and stimulating concrete, effective action by an ever-increasing range of partners.

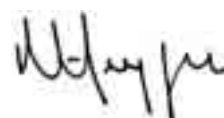
We believe this report, with its straightforward analysis and practical responses, can be a valuable advocacy and policy tool for addressing this complex challenge. The call to empower women has never been more urgent. We must act now to strengthen their capacity, resilience and leadership.



Dr. Peter Piot  
Executive Director, UNAIDS



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Noeleen Heyzer  
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## Estimated number of women and men (15-49) living with HIV/AIDS by region for 2003 (as of 21 June 2004)



预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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