

2017 UNAIDS REPORT ON HIV/AIDS

48% reduction in AIDS deaths since 2005, the peak of the pandemic.

1M deaths per year vs 1.5M in 2005.

37M living with HIV/AIDS globally

22M receiving treatment vs. 800,000 in year 2000.

Target is 30M in treatment by the year 2020. At the 2018 AIDS International Conference, the projection is now that this target will not be met.

1.8M new infections annually.

SLF Commentary

“This report is sounding the alarm on the degree to which young women and girls are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS.

The ages between 15 and 24 years old are an extremely dangerous time for young women. According to its findings, girls between the ages of 15 and 19 account for up to 90% of new HIV infections among young people in many sub-Saharan African locations.

Young women are facing a triple threat. They are at high risk of HIV infection, have low rates of HIV testing, and have poor adherence to treatment. The world is failing young women and we urgently need to do more.

The projects we support know that young people – and adolescent girls in particular – require so much more than antiretroviral drugs. They understand that infection with the HIV virus is just one of the many blows these young people have had to absorb”.

From Stephen:

“What lies at the bottom of all this - as always - is misogyny. It's the pox of this world... No one should misunderstand the truth that gender equality, and the struggle for equality, remains the most important issue on the planet”.

As a result, some SLF funded projects have introduced targeted innovative programs for child and youth care:

- Child-Friendly Clinics: Special clinics for HIV-affected young people, staffed by counsellors trained to relate to children and adolescents.*
- Peer Counselling: Support systems that engage HIV-positive young people as peer counsellors, who can speak with other infected and affected youth from their own experience, and provide a meaningful link to other services. Here they find safety and a sense of community with their peers, free from fear and stigma, and develop the self-esteem they need to take on leadership roles.*
- Capacity Building: Programmes that train community health workers and grandmothers to engage more confidently and effectively with children and teenagers, and to support them in adherence to treatment.*