

- 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2: Achieve universal primary education
- 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4: Reduce child mortality
- 5: Improve maternal health

GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

- 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8: Develop a global partnership for development

MDG 6 aims to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Its targets are to:

- have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 and achieve universal access to treatment for people living with HIV by 2010;
- have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Most countries are struggling to meet these targets.

Few crises have affected human health and

threatened social and economic development as much as HIV. HIV and malaria are more prevalent in developing countries, largely in poorer rural communities dependent on agriculture to support their livelihoods. Rural areas are particularly vulnerable to diseases and related impacts due to poor infrastructure, limited access to adequate health services, lack of disease awareness, and widespread poverty.

HIV, malaria and other diseases have a direct and indirect impact on rural development, agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security. At the same time, food and nutrition insecurity and malnutrition can

increase vulnerability to disease. Sickness, absenteeism and reduced capacity to work have an impact on the agriculture and related sectors. People busy caring for those who are ill cannot work full time either, which can lead to distress sales of land and productive resources. These factors lead to reduced levels of agricultural production and diminished food availability and income. Food and livelihood insecurity can in turn create vulnerability to disease exposure and spread, stemming from migration, commercial and transactional sex, and risky sexual behaviour. This bi-directional and reinforcing relationship can undermine the well-being and livelihoods of rural populations.

WHAT FAO IS DOING

FAO's work focuses on:

- Knowledge generation – FAO recognizes the need to study the impact of disease on agriculture, food security, nutrition and farming systems in order to contribute to a better understanding of these interactions and the implications for agriculture and rural development.
- Policy and programme support – FAO supports policy makers and programme planners to incorporate HIV, malaria and other disease considerations into food, nutrition and agriculture policies and programmes.
- Capacity development – FAO supports capacity enhancement for the agriculture sector to respond to HIV, and promotes livelihoods of rural populations by supporting knowledge and skills enhancement within the context of food and nutrition security and agricultural livelihoods.
- Advocacy – FAO promotes awareness among key actors in the food and agriculture sector on the impacts of HIV on food security and agriculture, while advocating for multisectoral responses to the epidemic. FAO holds communication campaigns on prevention, the importance of nutrition and securing the rights of children orphaned and women widowed by AIDS.
- Nutrition-based interventions – FAO recognizes that good nutrition boosts the immune system, prolongs the progression of HIV to full-blown AIDS, is necessary for the effectiveness of medication (especially anti-retroviral drugs), and can help the body fight off some diseases and quicken recovery periods. FAO provides technical

support to governments, organizations and communities to enhance people's access to adequate and nutritious food and provide nutritional care and support.

- Labour-saving technologies and practices and conservation agriculture – FAO identifies and supports opportunities to relieve the burden of labour shortages resulting both from illness itself and in caring for sick family members by creating awareness and promoting farming concepts and practices that reduce time and drudgery required to carry out farm operations.
- Field projects – FAO uses a mix of interventions, including food provision, labour- and time-saving technologies and microfinance to help support food production, diversification and income-generation, as well as to address stigma and discrimination, among HIV-affected households and communities.

FAO has set up a multi-disciplinary team to work on the disease issue. The Organization also collaborates with relevant partners from the United Nations and with NGOs at all levels. FAO works with other Rome-based agencies in coordination with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. Recent collaborations have been with UNICEF through the Regional Inter Agency Coordination Support Office for the Southern Africa Crisis, with the International Food Policy Research Institute for the International AIDS Conference in Mexico, within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on HIV/AIDS.

Key facts

Every day, nearly 7 500 people are infected with HIV and 5 500 die from AIDS-related causes.

The number of people living with HIV rose from an estimated 29.5 million in 2001 to 33.4 million in 2008.

The vast majority of people with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa, where about 60 percent of adults living with HIV in 2007 were women.

More than 14 million children have been orphaned by AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

Over two-thirds of the population of the 25 most-affected countries live in rural areas.

AIDS mostly devastates the productive age group – people between 15 and 50 years.

The loss of productive members of society severely affects household capacity to produce and buy food.

in emergency settings, as well as with other UN agencies through UN Joint programmes.

FAO has conducted analytical work on the combined effect of crop, animal and human diseases on food security and rural populations.

In addition, the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease addresses livestock epidemics with major economic, social and public health impacts. Under the centre, FAO, working closely with the World Organisation for Animal Health and the World

Health Organization, has been fighting against H5N1 avian influenza in Africa, Asia and Europe in order to counter the disease in poultry and prevent pandemic risks. While 63 countries had become infected by early 2006, H5N1 avian flu today persists in only 5 countries.

Project profile: Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools

Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools teach vulnerable children and young people about farming and life skills. The schools use an innovative "living classroom" approach in which the students observe the crops throughout the growing season with the help of a facilitator. Agricultural topics are linked to life and entrepreneurship skills so that when children talk about how to protect their plants from diseases they also learn how to protect themselves from HIV and other dangers.

By the end of 2009, more than 20 000 children had graduated from 545 Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools in 12 countries, from Uganda to the Gaza Strip. More schools will soon open in other countries and the approach has been picked up and sustained by FAO partners in at least three other countries.

Project profile: nutrition rehabilitation units and home gardens

FAO provides technical assistance to household gardening projects in HIV-affected communities in many countries of Africa and Asia. Nutrition rehabilitation units target children suffering from malnutrition by providing emergency nutrition interventions through food and medical care. This is complemented by training for caretakers in vegetable and/or small scale livestock production, as well as basic nutrition. Caretakers are given basic information on good nutrition principles, complementary feeding of children, health and sanitation, linkages between nutrition and HIV/AIDS, the importance of kitchen gardens and small scale livestock production for better diets. Participants learn a range of skills, take part in cooking demonstrations, and are provided with a kit including vegetables seeds and basic tools to set up their own gardens. The combination of training and agriculture inputs enhances household access to vegetables throughout the year and contributes to improved diets.

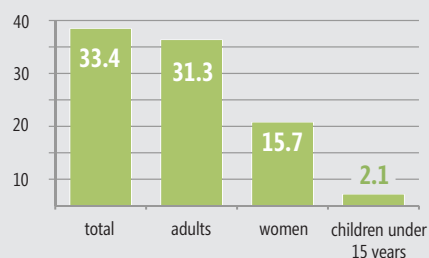
Resource materials

- *The evolving contexts of AIDS and the challenges for food security and rural livelihoods* <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0508e/i0508e00.pdf>
- *Monitoring and evaluation toolkit for Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools* <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1489e/i1489e00.pdf>
- *Getting Started! Running a Junior Farmer Field and Life School*, available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1111e/a1111e00.htm>
- *Incorporating HIV/AIDS considerations into food security and livelihood projects* <http://www.fao.org/docrep/004/y5128e/y5128e00.htm>.
- *Living well with HIV/AIDS: A manual on nutritional care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS* (a joint FAO/WHO publication) <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y4168e/y4168e00.htm>.

FAO's work on HIV

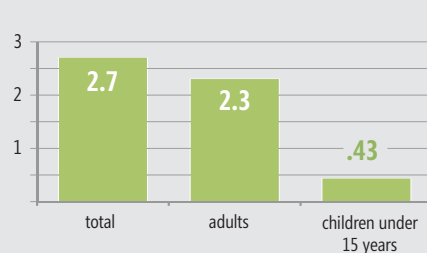
- Agriculture and Health wiki: http://km.fao.org/AgriHealth/index.php/Main_Page
- Nutrition: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/nutrition/household_hiv aids_en.stm
- Fisheries (Sustainable fisheries and livelihoods programme - SFLP): www.sflp.org
- Emergencies: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/current-focus/hiv-aids-and-emergencies/en/>
- Forestry: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/hiv aids/en/>
- Labour and time saving technologies: http://www.fao.org/sd/teca/tools/1st/index_en.html

Number of people living with HIV in 2008 (in millions)



Source: UNAIDS

People newly infected with HIV in 2008 (in millions)



AIDS-related deaths in 2008 (in millions)

