



Media Update

30 Nov 2015



World AIDS Day-2015

Media Advisory

ISLAMABAD, 1 December 2015: The National AIDS Control Programme [NACP] in collaboration with UNAIDS is organizing “World AIDS Day-2015” at the Maternal Child Health [MCH] Auditorium-Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences [PIMS] in Islamabad.

Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, the honorable minister of State of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The formal launch of community testimonials entitled “Positives Diaries” will also be part of this event. For the first time in this country, these people felt so empowered to share their stories on HIV-related stigma and to describe their courage, inspirations, concerns and determination to trigger change in the society and eliminate stigma & discrimination. This is a very vital opportunity to interact with key Government Officials, Representatives from United Nations and Community, working collectively to address HIV epidemic in Pakistan.

When: Tuesday, 01 December, at 09:30 am

Where: Maternal Child Health [MCH] Auditorium, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences [PIMS]

Programme:

- **Welcome Remarks** by Dr. Mamadou. L. SAKHO, UNAIDS Country Director for Pakistan and Afghanistan
- **HIV treatment in Pakistan** by Professor Javed Akram, Vice Chancellor, SZABMU
- **HIV and Human Rights by representative** from National Commission of Human Rights
- **HIV Epidemic and National Response** by Dr. Abdul Baseer Khan Achakzai, National Programme Manager, NACP



- **Role of UN for HIV response in the country** by Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Pakistan
- **Role of GoP for HIV response in the country** by Honourable Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, Minister of State, National Health Services Regulation and Coordination
- **Launch of Positive Diaries**
- **Short Panel Discussion**
- **Q & A**
- **Lunch**

How to Participate:

Entry at Registration desk at the venue!

Background

World AIDS Day is held each year on 1st December and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to show compassion for people who lost their precious lives because of this epidemic. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988.

On the occasion of World AIDS Day-2015, the National AIDS Control Programme [NACP] in collaboration with UNAIDS is organizing “World AIDS Day-2015”. This national level event will be observed to redouble collective efforts, to fast-track our actions and close the gap between people who have access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services and people who are being left behind. An interactive brief Panel Discussion will also be part of the event that will offer an unprecedented opportunity for highlighting the role of the many stakeholders involved in addressing HIV epidemic in Pakistan, including the Government of Pakistan, UN agencies and civil society/community.

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UNICEF

PRESS RELEASE

Adolescent deaths from AIDS tripled since 2000 – UNICEF

ISLAMABAD, 30 November 2015 – The number of adolescent deaths from AIDS in the world has tripled over the last 15 years, says UNICEF in its recently released data.

AIDS is the second leading cause of death among adolescents globally. Among HIV-affected populations, adolescents are the only group for which the mortality figures are not decreasing.

According to the data in UNICEF's Statistical Update on Children, Adolescents and AIDS, less than half of children under 2 months old are tested for HIV. Only 1 in 3 of the 2.6 million children under the age of 15 living with HIV are on treatment.

“It is critical that young people who are HIV-positive have access to treatment, care and support,” said Craig McClure, head of UNICEF's global HIV/AIDS programmes, at the Critical Thinking Forum in Johannesburg today. “At the same time, those who are HIV-negative must have access to the knowledge and means to help them to stay that way.”

In Pakistan, HIV is concentrated mainly among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) and sex workers. At the end of 2014, there were an estimated 94,000 people living with HIV in the country, of which nearly 1,700 were pregnant women in need of Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) services. UNICEF supports PPTCT and paediatric AIDS treatment programmes in collaboration with UNAIDS and WHO. Another area that UNICEF is focused on are cases where women are infected by their husbands. Under a special initiative, 1,900 wives of HIV positive PWID were provided access to HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC).



“We must have enough early infant diagnostic (of HIV) facilities across Pakistan so that infants exposed to HIV are diagnosed at earliest possible stage and have timely access to treatment, care and support enabling them to live a healthy life, says Tania Goldner, Chief of Health in UNICEF Pakistan Country Office.

According to the new global data released by UNICEF, most adolescents who die of AIDS-related illnesses acquired HIV when they were infants, 10 to 15 years ago, when fewer pregnant women and mothers living with HIV received antiretroviral medicines to prevent HIV transmission from mother to child. These children have survived into their teenage years, sometimes without knowing their HIV status.

However, since 2000, nearly 30 million new infections have been averted, largely due to advances in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

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Note to Editors:

UNICEF’s *Statistical Update on Children, Adolescents and AIDS* report can be downloaded here: www.childrenandaids.org

Multimedia assets can be downloaded here: <http://uni.cf/1TeMEI>

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About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere. For more information about UNICEF and its work visit: www.unicef.org.

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