UNAIDS PRESS STATEMENT

HVTN 702 clinical trial of an HIV vaccine stopped

GENEVA, 4 February 2020—The United States National Institutes of Health has announced that its HVTN 702 clinical trial of an HIV vaccine has been stopped. While no safety concerns were found during the trial, the independent data and safety monitoring board found that the vaccine was ineffective in preventing HIV transmission.

The trial, conducted at 14 sites across South Africa, followed more than 5400 HIV-negative 18–35-year-olds over 18 months. The participants received six injections during the six-month period, either the vaccine or a placebo. An analysis undertaken after at least 60% of the participants had been in the study for more than 18 months showed that there were 129 HIV infections among the people who had the vaccine, while 123 people who had the placebo became infected.

"While we are obviously disappointed with the results, important science has been learned that can be carried forward to future trials. I thank the study team for this important vaccine trial," said Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS Executive Director.

Other major vaccines are currently being tested at scale—the Mosaico trial, which is testing a vaccine among transgender people and gay men and other men who have sex with men in the Americas and in Europe, and the Imbokodo trial, which is testing a vaccine among women in sub-Saharan Africa. An effective HIV vaccine may well prove to be key for sustaining progress against HIV in the future.

Despite considerable investment in prevention during the trial, there was still an HIV incidence of around 4% per year among the women in the trial. This is
simply too high. HIV transmission can be prevented. This requires the right combination of interventions, including HIV testing; antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV; pre-exposure prophylaxis, condoms and other prevention options; sexual and reproductive health services, including comprehensive sexuality education; keeping girls in school; and the lifting of social, legal and economic barriers for women and girls.

UNAIDS
The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Learn more at unaids.org and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

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UNDP
PRESS RELEASE

UNDP and German Ministry of Foreign Affairs partner to provide technical assistance to human rights institutions and stakeholders in Pakistan.

5 February 2020, Islamabad—The United Nations Development Programme and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs have signed a contract for the promotion of rule of law and empowering governmental and non-governmental stakeholders for implementing human rights mandates, to be carried out in collaboration by federal and provincial institutions.
The agreement was signed between Mr. Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck, German Ambassador, and Mr. Ignacio Artaza, Resident Representative a.i. UNDP, in Islamabad today.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Artaza stated, “The German Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been supporting UNDP’s rights-based governance interventions since 2016, which has contributed to the strengthening of the human rights ecosystem in Pakistan.”

“I would like to thank the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs for signing the contract today for the ‘Promotion of Rule of Law and Empowering governmental and non-governmental stakeholders for implementing human rights mandates’ project”, he further added.

Through this latest project, UNDP will continue to assist the Government of Pakistan through rights-based governance interventions in support of national priorities, providing technical assistance to human rights institutions and stakeholders including the federal Ministry of Human Rights, Provincial Human Rights Departments and the National Commission on Human Rights, as well as civil society and the business community. The project will contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation, leading to a more inclusive and peaceful Pakistan and advancing goal 16 of the SDGs.

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