

# The state of HIV globally in 2026



FRIENDS  
OF THE GLOBAL FIGHT | AGAINST AIDS,  
TUBERCULOSIS  
AND MALARIA

Thanks to more than two decades of leadership by the United States, the world is winning the fight against HIV—but serious challenges remain, and we could miss our best chance to end the epidemic if we don't sustain funding, invest in prevention, help countries manage their own health systems and care for the most vulnerable communities.

An estimated 40.8 million people were living with HIV in 2024, 77% of whom were accessing antiretroviral treatment. Just 15 years ago, fewer than 8 million people were on treatment. But those who remain without treatment are often from the communities that are hardest to reach and who face social and legal discrimination. Forty-five percent of all new HIV infections are among women and girls.

The U.S. government supports the fight against HIV through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and by making contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund). In fiscal year 2025, Congress appropriated \$4.725 billion for PEPFAR and \$1.65 billion for the Global Fund. In February 2026, Congress enacted a new spending bill with \$4.634 billion for PEPFAR and \$1.25 billion for the Global Fund.

*Photo: A lab worker prepares samples at a laboratory in Bamako, the first HIV clinic in Mali. The Global Fund/Vincent Becker.*

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## What is PEPFAR?

- Established in 2003, PEPFAR provides funding and technical support to prevent and treat HIV infections in more than fifty low- and middle-income countries. PEPFAR supports HIV testing, delivers antiretroviral medications, provides social support services and strengthens health systems.
- PEPFAR is overseen by the State Department, which coordinates with the Centers for Disease Control and other federal agencies (formerly including USAID) to create data-driven interventions in each country.
- Since the establishment of PEPFAR under the George W. Bush administration, PEPFAR has saved an estimated 26 million lives and prevented 7.8 million babies from being born with HIV. PEPFAR has provided life-saving antiretroviral therapy to over 20 million people as of 2024.

PEPFAR and the Global Fund are close partners in the fight against HIV. PEPFAR works with the Global Fund to procure health products like medication and testing kits, which the Global Fund can buy at lower prices and higher volumes by pooling the resources of all its donors. U.S. officials participate at every level of the Global Fund's governance: serving permanently on its board, providing technical assistance and collaborating on implementing programs on the ground.



## What is the Global Fund?

- The Global Fund is a multistakeholder partnership that finances programs to control HIV, TB and malaria epidemics in low- and middle-income countries. Established with the support of the United States in 2002, the partnership has saved an estimated 70 million lives as of 2025.
- Governments, philanthropies and private corporations pledge money to the Global Fund in three-year commitments. In November 2025, the Global Fund raised about \$12.6 billion for the next three-year cycle, including a strong pledge of \$4.6 billion from the United States.
- The Global Fund works by funding disease-specific programs in over 120 countries, which includes support for clinics and health workers, education and prevention campaigns, and the procurement of medication and other health products. These programs are designed and implemented by committees that include national health ministries, UN agencies, local and international NGOs and community organizations. The Global Fund has no staff on the ground, ensuring funding goes to disease programs, not operating expenses.
- The United States is the biggest contributor to the Global Fund, but doesn't bear this burden alone. The U.S. provides no more than one-third of the Global Fund's total resources, requiring other donors to match the U.S. with twice as much money.

## The future of the fight against HIV

Global HIV programs are undergoing significant changes. The U.S. Agency for International Development, which was the largest implementer of U.S. HIV programs, was dissolved as an independent agency in 2025. Hundreds of HIV programs around the world were terminated. Though many programs faced significant interruptions, most funding has been restored by Congress—which strongly supports PEPFAR on a bipartisan basis. Now, the focus of PEPFAR and other U.S. global health programs has shifted to a process of gradually reducing U.S. funding and helping partner countries assume responsibility for their own health programs. The State Department has concluded agreements with at least 16 countries to reduce funding over the next five years, and is developing transition plans for dozens of other countries.

An exciting new opportunity for progress in the fight against global HIV is the advent of long-acting Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), including the injectable drugs cabotegravir and lenacapavir. The U.S. government is partnering with the Global Fund and drug manufacturers to procure these

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innovative products at cost and distribute them to high-incidence countries. The ongoing rollout of lenacapavir marks the first time that an HIV prevention innovation is being made available simultaneously in high-income and low- and middle-income countries. If access to long-acting PrEP accelerates in the coming years, it could allow countries to more successfully manage HIV epidemics as they reduce reliance on external financing—and prevent millions of people from becoming HIV-positive.