

UNITED NATIONS



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MESSAGE ON WORLD AIDS DAY

1 December 2018



Antonio Guterres
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thirty years after the first World AIDS Day, the response to HIV stands at a crossroads. Which way we turn may define the course of the epidemic—whether we will end AIDS by 2030, or whether future generations will carry on bearing the burden of this devastating disease.

More than 77 million people have become infected with HIV, and more than 35 million have died of an AIDS-related illness. Huge progress has been made in diagnosis and treatment, and prevention efforts have avoided millions of new infections.

Yet the pace of progress is not matching global ambition. New HIV infections are not falling rapidly enough. Some regions are lagging behind, and financial resources are insufficient.

Stigma and discrimination are still holding people back, especially key populations—including gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgenders, people who inject drugs, prisoners and migrants—and young women and adolescent girls.

Moreover, one in four people living with HIV do not know that they have the virus, impeding them from making informed decisions on prevention, treatment and other care and support services.

There is still time -- to scale-up testing for HIV; to enable more people to access treatment; to increase resources needed to prevent new infections; and to end the stigma.

At this critical juncture, we need to take the right turn now.



One Dollar HIV & AIDS Initiative

A PRIVATE SECTOR-LED FINANCING PARTNERSHIP FOR HIV & AIDS



In centre Prof Vinand Nantulya –Chairperson One Dollar Initiative together with Mr Cephas Birungi on right and Mr George Tamale launching HIV&AIDS Walk/Run recently at UMA-Lugogo

By Vinand Nantulya, Chairperson

As we commemorate this year's World AIDS Day, let us call to mind the last 36 years of the epidemic and the toll it has had on our lives. Practically, every household in the country has been affected in one way or another— a father or mother, uncle or aunt, brother or sister, nephew or niece, other relative or friend. Over 1,500,000 million Ugandans have died of AIDS related conditions since 1990 (UNAIDS, 2018). For the World of Work, HIV & AIDS increases absenteeism (due to illness, the burden of care and bereavement), causes loss of valuable skills and experience, decline in morale and, above all, it lowers productivity and profitability. It affects suppliers, workers and consumers alike.

Current estimate of the number of adults and children living with HIV&AIDS in Uganda is at approximately **1,324,685**; and of these an estimated **1,141,489** are on life-long treatment with anti-retroviral drugs. Without increased effort, more people will continue to be added to this pool. The rate of new HIV infections stands at **962** people per week which translates to **137** people being infected with HIV daily or **6** individuals per hour (UNAIDS, 2018).

2018).

In terms of treatment costs, the latest National Expenditure Assessment puts Uganda's expenditure budget at **276 million dollars** per year to maintain the **1,141,489** people on AIDS related care and treatment. This includes both the costs of drugs and the equipment used for diagnosis and follow-up to assess the treatment success. This cost is expected to rise as a result of the yet undiagnosed individuals who are yet to step forward to be tested, plus the continuous daily addition of new infections. Most importantly, up to **93%** of the annual AIDS related treatment budget is being supported by external sources through Development Partners. However recent developments indicate lessening commitments of development partners towards HIV&AIDS.

We appreciate very much, as a country, this kind and generous act. However, the situation is not sustainable. Moreover, recent movement in the donor circles indicates that funding from this source is declining owing to competing priorities. Hence, Uganda must start to explore alternative innovations for sustainable financing of our treatment programme to supplement efforts by Government and Development Partners.

Launched on 7th June 2017, the **One Dollar HIV & AIDS Initiative (ODI)** has been set up as an endowment fund to be able to generate sustainable financing to supplement efforts by Government and Development Partners. The endowment fund will create a sustainable financing instrument that can support treatment and care for our fellow citizens and close the tap on new infections. We appeal to private individuals, the corporate sector, business and professional associations, rotary clubs, NGOs/CSOs, religious institutions, Ugandans in the diaspora and well-wishers to come together to build this endowment fund. We appeal to individuals in the general public to make a minimum contribution of one dollar (equivalent to UGX4,000/=) per person per year towards this noble cause.

With your 350,000 Uganda shillings donation, One person living with the condition will be able to receive treatment and viral load testing for a full year.

Higher contributions are expected from the corporate sector, organizations, private individuals and other well-wishers committed to give more. The following recognitions will be given to them as follows: **PLATINUM** (Support for 280 people living with HIV&AIDS), **GOLD** (140 people), **SILVER** (70 people), **BRONZE** (30 people), **COPPER** (15 people), **ALUMINIUM** (8 people) or **IRON** (3 people).

The ODI endowment fund is to be managed by the private sector who have put in place strong integrity, transparency and accountability mechanisms for resources to be secure. The registered ODI trustees are Federation of Uganda Employers and Uganda Manufacturers Association. The members of the Board of Trustees of the ODI (Uganda) are: Ms Patrick Bitature – Private Sector Foundation (Patron), Prof. Vinand Nantulya – Manufacturing (Chairperson), Rosemary Ssenabulya – General Business (Vice-Chairperson), Mr George Tamale – Federation of Uganda Employers (Secretary), Ms Barbra Ofwono – Private Education, Eng. Martin Kasekende – Building Construction Industry, Ms Gideon Badagawa – Private Sector Foundation, Mr Wilbrod Owor – Association of Bankers, Ms Maria Kiwanuka – Media Industry, Mr Cephas Birungi – Hotel & Tourism, Ms Stella Kentusi – Civil Society, Mr Trouble Chikoko –UNAIDS, Dr. Nelson Musoba- Uganda AIDS Commission, Mr Laban Mbulamuko- Min. of Finance, Ms Jackie Katana – AIDS Development Partners, Prof. Edward Kirumira- Chair,

Global Fund CCM, Mr Andrew Kyambadde- Health Development Partners, Mr David Mawejje – International Labour Organization, Dr. Maggie Kigozi – Manufacturing and Ms Esther Nekambi- Horticulture sector.

To kick-start fund raising for the ODI, an **HIV & AIDS Walk & Run** has been organized to take place on Sunday 9th December 2018 under the Slogan **"UNTIL IT'S OVER"**. The Walk & Run is targeting 10,000 people and will be led by Mr Patrick Bitature, Chairperson Private Sector Foundation Uganda, and Prof Maggie Kigozi alongside friends of the private sector (UN Resident Representatives, Ambassadors and Academicians among others). Join us in this walk/run for an HIV&AIDS Free Uganda. **Participation is UGX20,000/= inclusive of Walk/Run Kit.**



Mr Patrick Bitature and Prof Maggie Kigozi, Chief-Walkers at the One Dollar HIV&AIDS Walk/Run 2018

Let us join the Walk & Run for an HIV- free Uganda.

For more information about One Dollar HIV & AIDS Initiative, please contact **0752-354125, 0784-330885, 0702- 801493, Email: odiuganda1@gmail.com, Website: www.odiuganda.org**