

The World Bank, an institution dedicated to the reduction of poverty worldwide, was one of the first international organizations to respond to the HIV/AIDS global emergency. Since 2000, it has provided more than \$1.6 billion to more than 30 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to respond to the AIDS epidemic. The AIDS Campaign Team for Africa (ACTafrica) supports implementation of the World Bank's Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program. This program assists countries by committing substantial Bank resources to affected countries and leveraging co-financing from others on a country-by-country basis.

## THE WORLD BANK'S COMMITMENT TO HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA Our Agenda for Action 2007 – 2011



**ACTafrica**  
AIDS Campaign Team for Africa

ACTafrica  
The World Bank  
1818 H Street, N.W., J9-902  
Washington, DC 20433  
Phone: +1 202 458 0606  
Fax: +1 202 522 7396  
Email: [actafrica@worldbank.org](mailto:actafrica@worldbank.org)  
[www.worldbank.org/afr/aids](http://www.worldbank.org/afr/aids)





Photo: Arne Hoel/World Bank

The *World Bank's Commitment to HIV/AIDS in Africa: Our Agenda for Action 2007-2011*, aims to assist countries develop sustainable responses that are well integrated into national development agendas; accelerate implementation and close the gap between available funding and the capacity to use it effectively; strengthen national and health systems; and improve coordination and learning. This *Agenda for Action (AFA)* is the result of an extensive analytical and consultative process involving more than 30 African partner countries and a wide range of external partners, including U.N. agencies, multilateral and bilateral donors, research institutes, universities, the private sector, labor unions, youth, sexual minorities, local and national governments, people living with HIV/AIDS, and community, faith-based, and civil society organizations.



**Africa remains the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Two-thirds of people living with HIV/AIDS live in Sub-Saharan Africa.**



## Beyond the Emergency: A New, Sustainable Response to HIV/AIDS in Africa

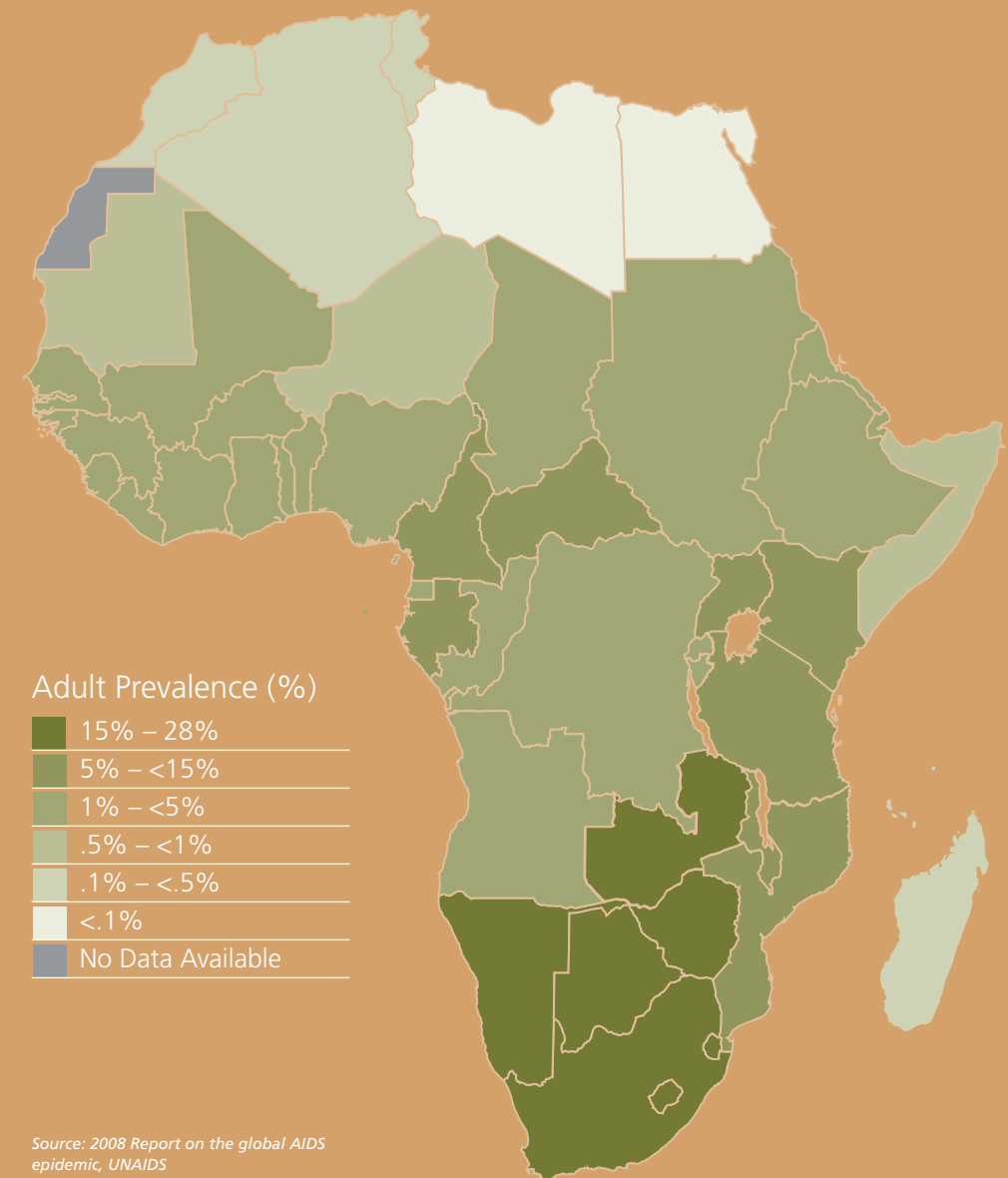
From 2000 through 2006, the World Bank mounted an emergency response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa. As the Bank set out to develop its follow-on strategy, it was clear that the epidemic had evolved. Our understanding of it—from epidemiology, economics, sociology, operations research, and program evaluation—was advancing, alongside significant growth in HIV/AIDS funding from many sources.

*The World Bank's Commitment to HIV/AIDS in Africa, Our Agenda for Action 2007 – 2011 (AFA)* was approved by the Executive Board of the World Bank in November 2007. AFA takes into account the changing HIV/AIDS landscape and reaffirms the Bank's commitment to helping Africa slow and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS – the sixth Millennium Development Goal (MDG). AFA outlines the actions the World Bank will take to help partner countries achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support by integrating AIDS into their national development agendas, scaling up responses, and strengthening critical systems.

The *Agenda for Action* subscribes to the “Three Ones” principles of UNAIDS: improved donor coordination through one national HIV/AIDS authority, one national strategic plan, and one monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. This approach is designed to contribute to a sustainable long-term, multi-partner response to the chronic disease that HIV/AIDS has become and also is in line with the Accra Agenda for Action's focus on country ownership.

## HIV Prevalence in Africa, 2007

22 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa are living with HIV





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## HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Strategic Objectives of the *Agenda for Action*

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the global epicenter of HIV/AIDS, accounting for approximately two-thirds of all people living with the disease. For the foreseeable future, the epidemic will present enormous economic, social, and human challenges to the region. Because HIV/AIDS threatens the human capital investments of the continent, there can be no fruitful planning for Africa's development without taking HIV/AIDS into consideration. AFA guides the World Bank's Africa Region in assisting with this effort.

AFA's strategic objectives include:

- Advising countries on how best to integrate HIV/AIDS in their national development agendas;
- Assisting countries accelerate implementation and undertake long-term, sustainable responses to HIV/AIDS;
- Strengthening the M&E capacity of countries to track the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of their HIV/AIDS response; and
- Building stronger health and fiduciary systems.

To achieve these objectives and help Africa contain HIV/AIDS, the Bank will:

- Provide demand-driven financing to client countries to fill gaps in their national HIV/AIDS strategic plans and assist in making other donors' money work more efficiently;
- Establish an HIV/AIDS Incentive Fund to promote capacity building, policy analysis, and mainstreaming HIV/AIDS responses in key sectors such as health, education, transport, and public sector management;
- Use innovative ways to engage with fragile states, regional initiatives, and middle-income countries (MICs) heavily burdened with the disease in southern Africa; and
- Facilitate learning and knowledge sharing.

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Photo: Arne Hoel/World Bank

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## Four Pillars of the *Agenda for Action*

AFA rests on four pillars that reflect critical challenges – human, institutional, and financial – countries need to address:

*Pillar 1: Focus the response, through evidence-based and prioritized HIV/AIDS strategies.*

Through its analytical and advisory role, the Bank will support countries' efforts to:

- Embed HIV/AIDS into national development strategies and plans;
- Better understand their own epidemics, what works in the specific situations they face, and how best to assist vulnerable groups;
- Facilitate stronger linkages between HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, malaria, reproductive health, and nutrition programs.

*Pillar 2: Scale up targeted multi-sector and civil society responses.* The World Bank is uniquely placed to promote civil society engagement, as well as multi-sectoral responses in areas such as education, transport, and infrastructure. Under AFA, the Bank will help:

- Strengthen health and fiduciary systems;
- Address HIV/AIDS as a multi-sector issue needing a multi-sector response;
- Tackle gender issues and reach groups at most risk;
- Foster partnerships with civil society, faith-based organizations, and the private sector.

*Pillar 3: Deliver more effective results through increased country M&E capacity.* To promote evidence-based decision-making, the Bank will assist countries:

- Strengthen M&E frameworks, and thereby enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of the HIV/AIDS response;
- Improve governance, public sector management, and social accountability through community-level engagement; and
- Support the generation and sharing of knowledge about the different HIV/AIDS epidemics in Africa, what works, and what doesn't—via good practices case studies and cross-country learning.

*Pillar 4: Harmonize donor collaboration.* Working with key partners to make harmonization and alignment of the global response more effective at the country level, the Bank will:

- Participate in annual joint meetings with UNAIDS and other partners;
- Carry out joint planning and analytical work; and
- Improve harmonization and ensure that partners operate within one national HIV/AIDS authority, one national strategic plan, and one system for monitoring and evaluating results.



Photo: Ame Hoel/World Bank

## Expected Outcomes

The *Agenda for Action* will contribute to achieving MDG 6, to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS and improve access to and utilization of prevention, treatment, care, and support services. We anticipate countries will better understand their epidemics and develop evidence-informed national responses; resources will be allocated more efficiently and effectively; M&E systems will be functional and more harmonized; human resource capacity and national fiduciary and health systems will be enhanced; and governance and accountability of AIDS programs strengthened. We expect improved donor coordination, with donors adhering to national processes. We also expect that countries and partners will be fully engaged in extensive knowledge generation and sharing.

**Effective partnership is a core element of AFA. By helping strengthen health and fiduciary systems and enhancing knowledge sharing among partners, AFA will facilitate more efficient and effective use of available funding.**



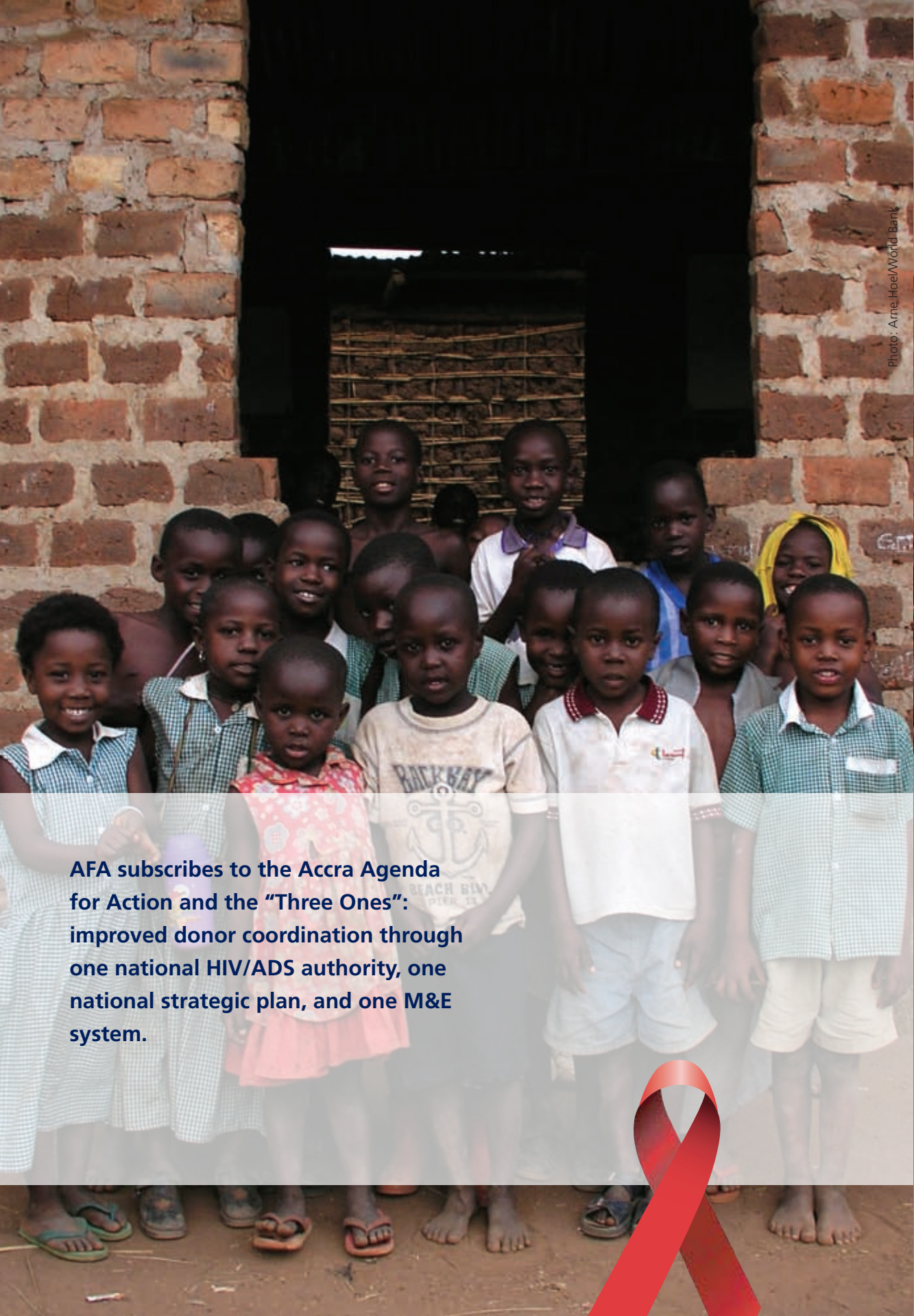


Photo: Arne Hoel/World Bank

**AFA subscribes to the Accra Agenda for Action and the “Three Ones”:** improved donor coordination through one national HIV/AIDS authority, one national strategic plan, and one M&E system.



Photo: Arne Hoel/World Bank

UNAIDS reports that in Sub-Saharan Africa:

- For every two people gaining access to antiretroviral therapy, five more become infected.
- Adolescent women in Southern Africa are two to four-and-a-half times more likely to be HIV positive than are young men in Southern Africa.
- Nearly 12 million children under age 18 have lost at least one parent to HIV/AIDS.

*We cannot talk about more inclusive and sustainable development in Africa without also committing to the long-term battle against AIDS, the largest single cause of premature death on the continent.*

World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick