

Information note

UNAIDS/WHO HIV estimates for 2008

Geneva, 11 November 2008 – This year the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have decided not to publish an “AIDS Epidemic Update” in 2008. Instead, UNAIDS and WHO plan to publish an “AIDS Epidemic Update” in 2009 that will report on 2008 estimates, incorporating the 2008 programme coverage data.

Estimates of new HIV infections, deaths due to AIDS, and number of people living with HIV are now more and more affected by information coming from HIV services including HIV treatment coverage and prevention of mother to child transmission programmes. This information is usually made available after the year ends, meaning that it is no longer possible to provide credible estimates of a current year.

This change in reporting cycle was endorsed by leading epidemiologists during the International Consultation on Epidemiological Estimates organized by UNAIDS in November 2007.

For the latest epidemiological information about the AIDS epidemic, please refer to the *UNAIDS 2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic*, released in July 2008.

A media kit can be accessed at:

www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/HIVData/GlobalReport/2008/2008-gr-mediakit.asp

About the “AIDS Epidemic Update”

For more than a decade, UNAIDS and WHO have produced a detailed report titled “AIDS Epidemic Update” prior to World AIDS Day that provided the most recent epidemiological figures and trends for the current year.

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UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland—with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through UN theme groups, and joint programmes on AIDS. UNAIDS’ Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS Web site at www.unaids.org