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# 80 adolescents a day will still die of AIDS by 2030, despite slowdown in epidemic: UN

29 November 2018 | News

**Currently, 3 million persons 19 years and younger, are infected with HIV worldwide**



In a report ‘Children, HIV and AIDS: The World in 2030’,current trends indicate AIDS-related deaths and new infections are slowing, but the downward trajectory is not happening fast enough.

Henrietta Fore, Chief, UNICEF said, “The report makes it clear, without the shadow of a doubt, that the world is off track when it comes to ending AIDS among children and adolescents by 2030.”

The end of AIDS is an ambitious goal envisioned by the UN agency coalition established to tackle the epidemic, known as the UNAIDS, Fast-Track strategy.

The report reveals that, “More than half of those children known to be dying of AIDS won’t reach the age of five.”

Prevention and infection treatment efforts, Henrietta Fore noted, are still missing the mark, specifically when it comes to “HIV transmission from mothers to babies,” she said.

Henrietta Fore added, “Prevention and infection treatment efforts, noted, are still missing the mark, specifically when it comes to HIV transmission from mothers to babies. Programmes to treat the virus and prevent it from spreading among older children are nowhere near where they should be.”

The number of mother-to-child infections have fallen by around 40 percent in the last eight years, but girls still account for two-thirds of all adolescent HIV infections, and rates of infection among older children are the slowest to decline, according to current data.

Furthermore, the report cites a global target reduction in the number of HIV-infected children by 2030 to 1.4 million, while the projected number today of 1.9 million, shows that the world is off-track by around 500,000.

Currently, 3 million persons 19 years and younger, are infected with HIV worldwide.

“We can’t win the fight against HIV if we don’t accelerate progress in preventing transmission to the next generation,” said Fore.

Two million new infections could be averted by 2030, if global targets are met—this means providing adequate access to HIV prevention, care and treatment services, and testing and diagnoses.

The major shortfalls show slow progress in prevention among the young, and a failure to address the key drivers of the epidemic. Many infected children and adolescents are unaware of their illness, and even when tested HIV-positive, rarely adhere to proper treatment.