New York, U.S., December 2 (Infosplusgabon) - The world will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – which include the target of ending AIDS by 2030 – without people attaining their right to health, the United Nations said on Friday, as the world marked the World AIDS Day with a strong appeal for the full realization of this fundamental right by everyone, everywhere.
"The right to health is a fundamental human right – everybody has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights," Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), said in his message on the Day, celebrated worldwide on 1 December.
Indeed, the right to health is linked to all the SDGs and "is interrelated with a range of other rights, including the rights to sanitation, food, decent housing, healthy working conditions and a clean environment."
He explained that it includes: equal access to health care; adequate health-care infrastructure; respectful and non-discriminatory health-care services; and that healthcare must be medically appropriate and of good quality.

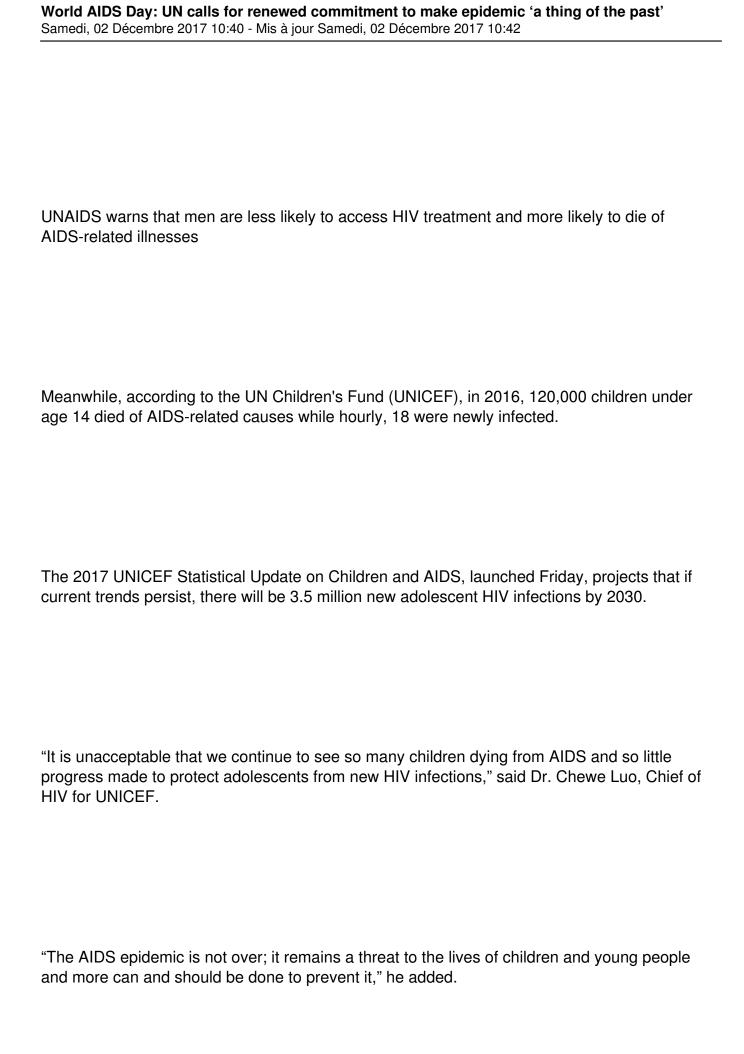
For all the successes, AIDS is not yet over. But by ensuring that everyone, everywhere accesses their right to health, it can be.Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director
"But the right to health is more than that," he continued, saying that with it, "people's dreams and promises can be fulfilled."
Mr. Sidibé pointed out that the most marginalized and affected still face challenges in accessing urgently-needed health and social services, asserting "we all must continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people being left behind and demand that no one is denied their human rights."
"For all the successes, AIDS is not yet over. But by ensuring that everyone, everywhere accesses their right to health, it can be," he concluded.
In his message for the Day, Secretary-General António Guterres said that "the world is well on its way to meeting the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030," noting that nearly 21 million people living with HIV now have access to treatment and this number should grow to more than 30 million by 2020.

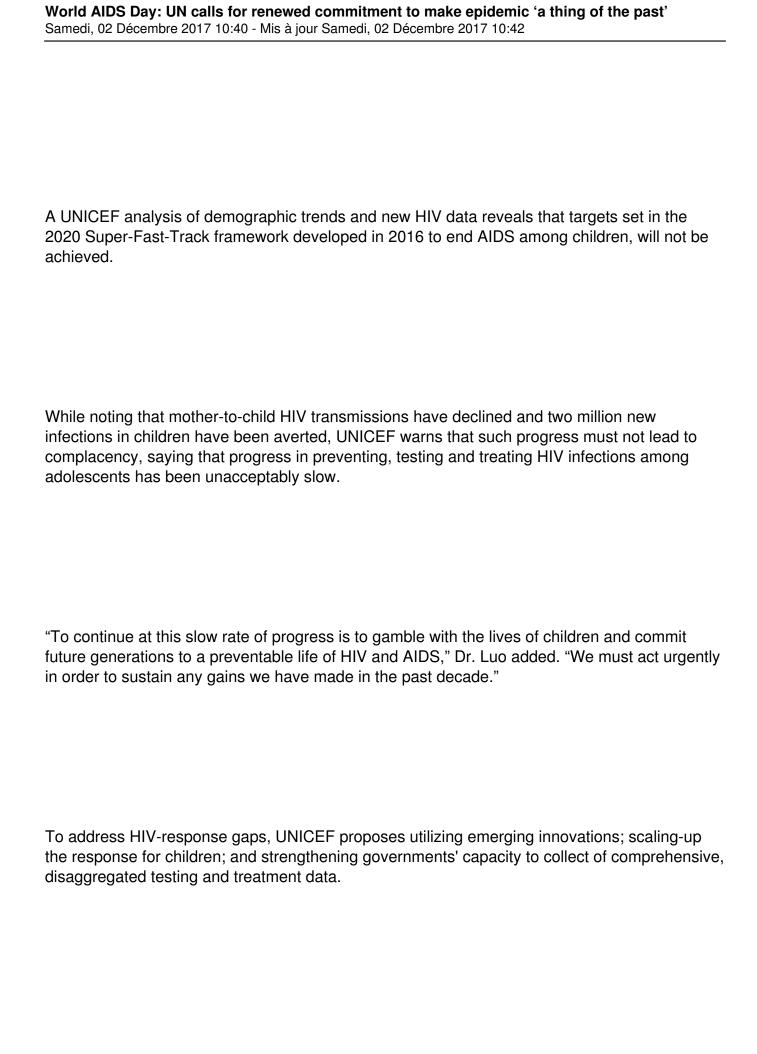
to health," Ms. Azoulay continued, stressing that in a world where young people – especially girls and young women – bear a disproportionate burden of HIV and AIDS, "we all must

World AIDS Day: UN calls for renewed commitment to make epidemic 'a thing of the past'

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recognize that comprehensive sexuality education is central to their right to health, and to the health of all societies."
Picking up that thread in her message, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the Executive Director of UN Women, said that according to UNAIDS, every four minutes, three young women become infected with HIV.
"They are clearly not enjoying their right to health, nor will they, until we are able to reverse the inequalities and discrimination that fuel HIV spread. Those whose health and future are currently least prioritized must become our focus, if we are to achieve the changes we seek," she said.
As such, leaving no woman or girl behind in the HIV response means ensuring their meaningful participation and engagement in designing that response, improving access to services and demanding their right to health.
"To do that, we foster women's voices and leadership and support their place at decision-making tables," Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka continued, adding that in 2016, UN Women supported networks of women living with HIV in 31 countries to increase their engagement in the national HIV responses. "This World AIDS Day, UN Women calls for a commitment to prioritize and reach all the women and girls being left behind in the HIV response: every last woman and girl."





Innovative solutions must be adopted to speed up progress in preventing HIV infection of children and ensuring those living with HIV get the treatment they need.
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