

EDITORIAL MESSAGE



World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988, is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection, and mourning those who have died of the disease.

In 2015, global leaders signed up to the Sustainable Development Goals, with the aim to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030. The UHC framework now lies at the centre of all health programmes.

To complement the global World AIDS Day 2017 campaign which promotes the theme "**Right to health**", the World Health Organization will highlight the need for all 36.7 million people living with HIV and those who are vulnerable and affected by the epidemic, to reach the goal of universal health coverage.

Under the slogan "**Everybody counts**", WHO (World Health Organization) will advocate for access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines, including medicines, diagnostics and other health commodities as well as health care services for all people in need, while also ensuring that they are protected against financial risks.

Key messages to achieve universal health coverage

- *Leave no one behind.*
- *HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis services are integrated.*
- *High-quality services are available for those with HIV.*
- *People living with HIV have access to affordable care.*
- *The HIV response is robust and leads to stronger health systems*

Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) is a spectrum of conditions caused by infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Following initial infection, a person may not notice any symptoms or may experience a brief period of influenza-like illness. Typically, this is followed by a prolonged period with no symptoms. As the infection progresses, it interferes more with the immune system, increasing the risk of common infections like tuberculosis, as well as other opportunistic infections, and tumors that rarely affect people who have working immune systems. These late symptoms of infection are referred to as AIDS.[9] This stage is often also associated with weight loss.

As per UNAIDS(united states AIDS) There were approximately 36.7 million people living with HIV at the end of 2016. 20.9 million people living with HIV were receiving ART by mid-2017. 7 out of 10 pregnant women living with HIV received antiretroviral treatment.. Despite recent improved access to antiretroviral treatment in many regions of the world, the AIDS epidemic claims an estimated 2 million lives each year, of which about 2,70,000 are children.

There is currently no cure or effective HIV vaccine. Treatment consists of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) which slows progression of the disease. As of 2010 more than 6.6 million people were taking them in low and middle income countries. Treatment also includes preventive and active treatment of opportunistic infections.

Dr. Renuka .K
Editor In Chief