

UNAIDS:

1.Ensuring HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment During Humanitarian Crises

The United Nations (UN) Department of Humanitarian Affairs defines humanitarian crises as occurring “when a critical event, such as the onset of armed conflict or a natural disaster, threatens the health, safety and/or well-being of a community or a large group of people, demanding decision and follow-up through an extra-ordinary response and exceptional measures.” These events, which can be natural or man-made, include armed conflict, famine, and natural disasters, such as earthquakes, droughts, and floods. Humanitarian crises can lead to the displacement of people, great loss of life, and extensive damage to infrastructure and economies.

2.Addressing the Needs of Ageing Populations Living with HIV/AIDS

In the global response to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), a new public health issue and discussion has begun gaining more attention: addressing the health needs of adults over the age of 50 who are currently living with HIV or AIDS, resulting from three main causes. Firstly, due to successful public health and HIV/AIDS interventions, more people living with HIV are receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), thus experiencing improved health outcomes and living longer, especially in developing countries with stronger health systems. Secondly, as increasingly fewer young people become infected with HIV, the older population with HIV will continue to increase as a percentage of total infections. However, the most concerning cause of this trend is that prevention efforts have not been targeted at this age group, although they are often engaging in risk taking behavior, leading to 120,000 new infections every year. In total, there are an estimated 5.5 million adults around the world aged 50 years and older who are living with HIV out of a global total of approximately 36 million. More importantly, the majority of these, totaling around 2.9 million people 50 years or older, are living in low and middle-income countries.