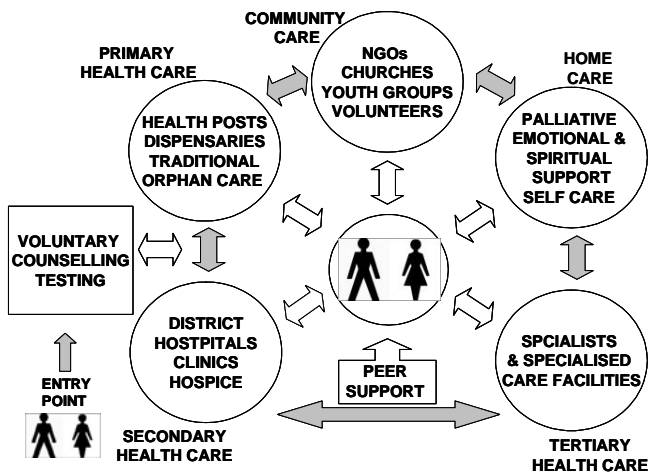


## Health Infrastructure

Advanced anti-retroviral therapy, widely available in rich countries, is available to only 8% of the estimated 6 million in urgent need of it (WHO, 2003). HIV/AIDS care & treatment services must be coordinated & integrated within health systems & other sectoral & national plans, to support preventative efforts & be delivered as a part of a continuum of care in which health systems reinforce community & home based service delivery.

### HIV/AIDS Continuum of Care



Source: WHO/UNAIDS, 2000

In many highly affected countries, over 55% of hospital beds are occupied by people living with HIV/AIDS.

Source: WHO, 2000

## Campaign objective

The Stop AIDS Campaign of the UK Consortium on AIDS & International Development believes that **universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS care & treatment**, including anti-retroviral therapy, is crucial in monitoring an effective response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Young people world wide have inherited a lethal legacy that is killing them & their friends, their brothers, sisters, parents, teachers & role models. An estimated 11.8 million young people aged 15-24 are living with HIV/AIDS.

Source: Student Stop AIDS Campaign, SPW Report, 2003

**Student Stop AIDS Campaign** was launched to educate & inform young people, mobilising their energy & commitment to stop AIDS.

**Young people can make a difference by:**

- building youth **solidarity**
- training young people to **catylse change**
- empowering young people to find **solutions** & strengthen **political will**

## HIV/AIDS care & treatment

**C**ampaigning is essential because the HIV/AIDS epidemic can not be addressed unless universal access to comprehensive care & treatment in developing countries is ensured.

**HIV/AIDS care & treatment:**

1. **improves life quality** & survival, & reduces the number of children orphaned by AIDS.
2. **supports prevention** by reducing viral load & therefore decreasing the likelihood of HIV transmission.
3. **reduces stigma & discrimination** since the availability of anti-retroviral drugs can "normalise" HIV/AIDS.
4. encourages the **involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS**.
5. **reduces socio-economic impact**. The provision of affordable or free treatment reduces the asset-stripping effect of HIV/AIDS for families struggling to cover health care, nutrition & funeral costs, & alleviates the impact of poverty on HIV/AIDS affected households.
6. **reduces spread of infectious diseases** such as tuberculosis & other sexually transmitted infections common to people living with HIV/AIDS, through early diagnosis & treatment.

## Recommendations

The UK Government should support the expansion of HIV/AIDS care & treatment services in developing countries in the context of **health infrastructures** by:

- developing **sustainable & equitable care & treatment programmes** that serve to strengthen health care systems & ensure that poor & marginalized populations are key beneficiaries.
- retaining & **building skills & capacities** of both health sector staff & community & home based care & treatment providers through:
  - ensuring that the expansion of care & treatment programmes **does not drain human resources** from the public sector or wider health programmes.
  - enabling the provision of adequate **training, education & information** relating to HIV/AIDS care & treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS & their families.
- recognising & supporting the unique & integral role of **civil society** in providing care & treatment services to hard to reach populations.

## Campaign with us

**S**tudent **Stop AIDS** launched in September 2003 & seeks to build a new social movement of young people as the key agents of change.

**Stop AIDS Societies** undertake awareness raising activities working alongside other student groups such as **MEDSIN, UNYSA, STAR & People & Planet.**

The campaign support unit is based at Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW)  
Web page: [www.spw.org](http://www.spw.org)  
Contact e-mail: [spwnetwork@gn.apc.org](mailto:spwnetwork@gn.apc.org)  
Join a society:  
[www.spw.org/campaigns/stopaidssociety.htm](http://www.spw.org/campaigns/stopaidssociety.htm)

Main source: Access to Care & Treatment, Stop AIDS Campaign, 2004

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CAMPAIGN  
TO  
IMPROVE  
HEALTH  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
2004/2005

stop **AIDS** campaign

