World could face over 7 million AIDS-related deaths over the next 10 years

UNAIDS issued a stark warning Monday that if leaders fail to tackle inequalities the world could face 7.7 million AIDS-related deaths over the next 10 years.

At least 300,000 children were newly infected with HIV in 2020, or one child every two minutes.

Another 120,000 children died from AIDS-related causes during the same period, or one child every five minutes.

"Progress against the AIDS pandemic, which was already off track, is now under even greater strain as the COVID-19 crisis continues to rage, disrupting HIV prevention and treatment services, schooling, violence-prevention programmes and more. We cannot be forced to choose between ending the AIDS pandemic today and preparing for the pandemics of tomorrow. The only successful approach will achieve both. As of now, we are not on track to achieve either."

Some countries, including some with the highest rates of HIV, have made remarkable progress against AIDS, illustrating what is feasible. However, new HIV infections are not falling fast enough globally to stop the pandemic, with 1.5 million new HIV infections in 2020 and growing HIV infection rates in some countries. Infections are also following lines of inequality. Six in seven new HIV infections among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa are occurring among adolescent girls. Gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers and people who use drugs face a 25–35 times greater risk of acquiring HIV worldwide.

COVID-19 is undercutting the AIDS response in many places. The pace of HIV testing declined almost uniformly and fewer people living with HIV initiated treatment in 2020 in 40 of 50 countries reporting to UNAIDS. HIV prevention services have been impacted—in 2020, harm reduction services for people who use drugs were disrupted in 65% of 130 countries surveyed.

"It is still possible to end the epidemic by 2030," affirmed United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in his World AIDS Day message. "But that will require stepped up action and greater solidarity. To beat AIDS—and build resilience against the pandemics of tomorrow—we need collective action."

This year marks 40 years since the first cases of AIDS were reported. Since that time, there has been huge progress, particularly in expanding access to treatment. By June 2021, 28.2 million people had access to HIV treatment, up from 7.8 million in 2010, although progress has slowed considerably.

联合国: 未来 10 年 770 万人或死于艾滋病

联合国艾滋病规划署 11 月 29 日发出严厉警告,如果各国不能解决不平等问题,全球未来 10 年可能有 770 万人死于艾滋病。

2020年至少有30万新增儿童艾滋病毒感染者,即每两分钟就有一名儿童感染。

同一时期,另有12万儿童死于艾滋病相关疾病,即每五分钟就有一名儿童死亡。

"随着新冠疫情持续肆虐,原本已经偏离轨道的抗艾进展现在面临着更大的压力,扰乱了艾滋病防治服务、教育、暴力预防计划等。我们不能被迫在今天消除艾滋病和预防明天的流行病之间做选择。同时实现这两个目标才是唯一成功的方法。到目前为止,这两件事我们都没有做好。"

一些国家(包括艾滋病毒感染率最高的一些国家)在防治艾滋病方面取得了显著进展,证明这是可以做到的。然而,全球新增艾滋病毒感染人数下降的速度还不足以阻止这一传染病,2020年新增艾滋病毒感染人数为150万,一些国家的艾滋病毒感染率也在上升。同时,感染还伴随着不平等现象。撒哈拉以南非洲新增的青少年艾滋病毒感染者中七分之六为少女。在全球范围内,男同性恋和其他男男性行为者、性工作者和吸毒者感染艾滋病毒的风险要高出25-35倍。

新冠肺炎削弱了许多地方对艾滋病的反应。在 50 个向联合国艾滋病规划署报告的国家中,有 40 个国家的艾滋病毒检测速度几乎同时出现下降,2020 年新增接受治疗的艾滋病毒感染者减少。艾滋病毒预防服务在 2020 年受到影响,在接受调查的 130 个国家中,65%的国家为吸毒者提供的减少伤害服务中断。

联合国秘书长安东尼奥·古特雷斯在世界艾滋病日致辞中表示:"在 2030 年前消除艾滋病疫情仍然是有可能的。为此需要加大行动力度、加强团结。为了战胜艾滋病并建立抵御未来流行病的能力,我们需要集体行动。"

今年是首次报告艾滋病病例 40 周年。自那时以来,艾滋病防治取得了巨大进展,特别是在扩大治疗机会方面。截至 2021 年 6 月,获得治疗的艾滋病感染者从 2010 年的 780 万人增加至 2820 万人,但进展已明显放缓。