

HIV and AIDS: the story so far...

Statistics from various sources including UNAIDS, the Global Fund and WHO

compiled by Alice Keen



'The first cases of AIDS were diagnosed in 1981. Since then there has been a rapid spread of the disease worldwide. Most countries now have people with AIDS or infected with HIV. The spread of AIDS has been very rapid and there is no cure for the disease.'

Isabel Carter
Editorial,
Footsteps 6: AIDS, 1991

'AIDS threatens every recent step of progress in the developing world. With 50 million infected, we may still be in the early stages, hardly nearer an effective low-cost cure or vaccine than ten years ago. Many African nations are already weakened. Fields cultivated by children, villages struggling to function, while in towns and cities foreign investment melts away.'

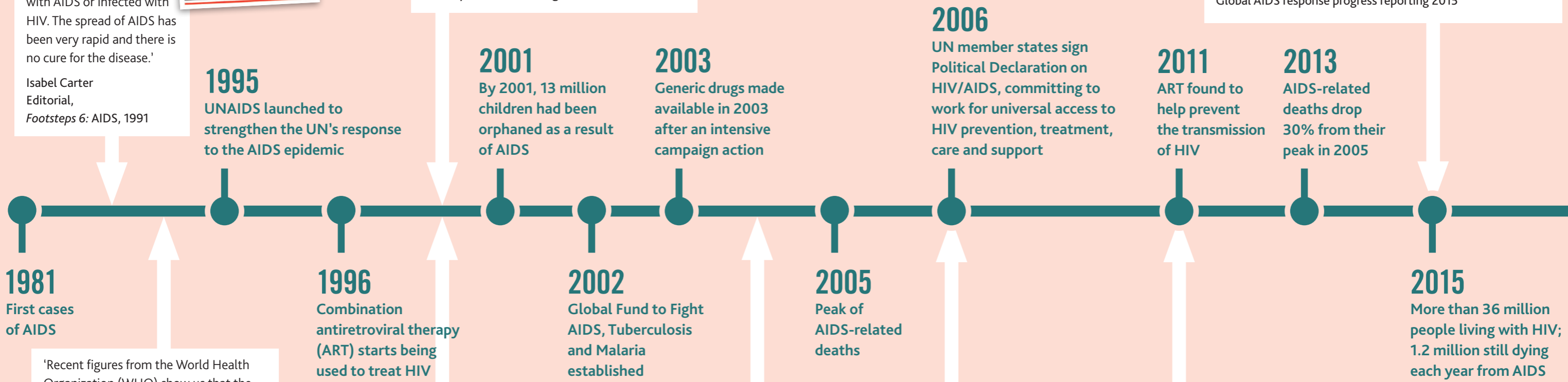
Patrick Dixon
Footsteps 44: Networking, 2000

- Questions for group discussion**
- When was the first case of HIV in your community?
 - When were the worst years for AIDS-related deaths?
 - How has the situation changed in the last 10 years?
 - How are people living with HIV or AIDS being cared for now?
 - What do you think the next 10 years will bring?

'Since 2001, new HIV infections have fallen by 38%. Even better news is that new infections among children have fallen by 58%, dropping below 200 000 in 21 highly affected countries in Africa for the first time. This is a significant milestone on our journey towards 2020 and 2030 in order to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat.'

We have just five years to break the trajectory of the AIDS epidemic. Our progress over the next five years will determine the impact we can have in the subsequent 10 years through 2030. This is new, compelling evidence that we must not ignore.'

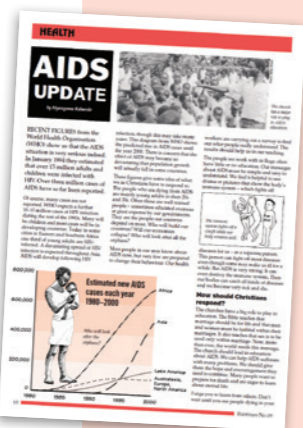
Michel Sidibé, Executive Director UNAIDS,
Global AIDS response progress reporting 2015



'Recent figures from the World Health Organization (WHO) show us that the AIDS situation is very serious indeed. In January 1994 they estimated that over 15 million adults and children were infected with HIV. Over three million cases of AIDS have so far been reported.'

I urge you to learn from others. Don't wait until you see people dying in your community before you take action. Speak out now! Many people still think AIDS is a dream – that it doesn't really affect our country or our community. Be prepared!'

Nyangoma Kabarole
Footsteps 19: TB and AIDS, 1994



'Treatment to slow down the rate at which the HIV virus develops into AIDS is available in a few countries, but has many side effects, needs careful medical supervision and costs a minimum of US \$2,000 per patient, though much cheaper drugs are now being developed.'

Footsteps 44: Networking, 2000



'There are now over 40 million people living with HIV worldwide. In 2005, another 4.1 million people became infected and 2.8 million died of AIDS-related illnesses. The church needs to look beyond its current responses to HIV, which are not adequate.'

Dr David Evans
Footsteps 69: Sexual Health, 2006

'As the daughter of an evangelical pastor in Bolivia, disclosing my HIV status presented the risk of facing blame, guilt and condemnation. When I tested HIV-positive in 2000, I decided to speak openly about my HIV status and my experience as a rape survivor. The decision was based on my belief that faith communities and networks working on HIV and AIDS had to break the silence surrounding the spread of HIV among women.'

Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga
Footsteps 86: Stigma, 2011

