

ADVANCED HIV DISEASE IN CHILDREN BELOW 5 YEARS OLD

Advanced HIV Disease in children living with HIV



WHO define all children living with HIV younger than five years of age are considered to have advanced HIV disease. However, Children older than two years who have been receiving ART for more than one year and are clinically stable should not be considered to have advanced disease.



Children **less than 5 years of age** should be considered as having advanced HIV regardless of CD4 count or WHO staging.



Infants died **4 to 9 times** more frequently than older children, teens, and adults also on HIV treatment.



Children aged **1-4 years** died 2 to 5 times more frequently than older



BACKGROUND

In 2022, UNAIDS reported 630,000 AIDS-related deaths globally, with Sub-Saharan Africa contributing significantly. A quarter of these deaths occurred in the region, with a substantial number attributed to Advanced HIV Disease. Children under 5 Living with HIV (CLHIV) are at a high risk of rapid progression to severe disease, representing a critical area of focus.

Factors Contributing to AIDS related deaths in Children living with HIV



Delayed HIV diagnosis



Delayed diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases and malnutrition



Delayed enrollment in care and ART initiation



Patient disengagement from care and loss-to-follow up



Treatment failure due to non-adherence and drug resistance

Major causes of morbidity and Mortality in Children living HIV (CLHIV)

The major causes of morbidity and mortality in children living with HIV (CLHIV) are pneumonia, tuberculosis, bloodstream infections, diarrhoeal disease and severe acute malnutrition.

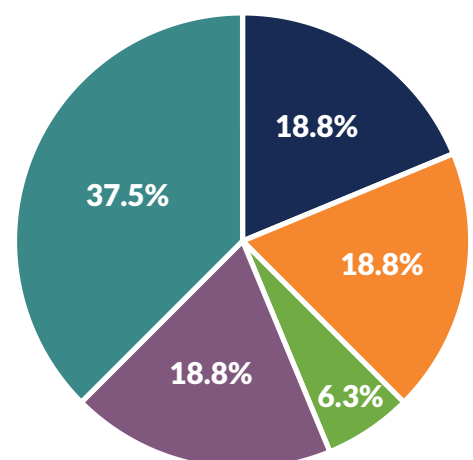
Diarrheal disease

Pneumonia

TB

Blood Infections

Diarrheal disease



The IMPAACT4HIV project emphasizes early AHD screening, identification, and decentralized care in primary facilities and community channels for adults, adolescents and children living with HIV. This includes rapid HIV and AHD and Opportunistic Infections (OIs) diagnosis including Tuberculosis (TB) and cryptococcal meningitis (CM), ART linkage, short course TB preventive treatment (TPT) with enhanced prophylaxis and CM treatment, and a strategy for managing severe bacterial infections (SBIs).

The Consortium is focusing on implementing innovative human-centered and community-informed approaches to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering AHD care. One example is the Vula Mobile digital referral tool, which supports decision-making, reduces loss to follow-up (LTFU), and generates evidence for broader adoption.



Why and how is community/civil society engagement key to achieve improved AHD care in children

With Community/Civil Society Engagement at the center, together we can work towards achieving;

- Increased Representation and Advocacy in AHD decision-making spaces, including facility, district, and national levels to **improve the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering AHD care in children.**
- Advocate for improved **early AHD screening, identification, and decentralized care** in primary facilities and community channels for children living with HIV.
- Generate and use data and evidence to monitor and generate demand for increased **AHD program coverage and advocacy actions for AHD in Children.**
- Awareness raising and enhanced community and CSO knowledge of AHD to **increase and generate demand for AHD services** for children living with HIV.
- Create strong collaboration with health facilities and health providers (caregivers, CHWs etc) to strengthen linkages.



References

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