


UNAIDS - UPSC Notes

UNAIDS is an important body under the United Nations system that works in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention and control. This is important from the UPSC exam perspective for both the IR and the health segments. In this article, you can read all about UNAIDS, its functions, and work in India.

UNAIDS - Basics

UNAIDS stands for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. Its chief mandate is to end the prevalence of AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) in the world by 2030, as part of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).



UPSC Prelims Facts: UNAIDS

Name: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
The only co-sponsored Joint Programme in the UN system
Year of formation: 1994
HQ: Geneva, Switzerland
Sector: HIV/AIDS

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- UNAIDS is the chief championing entity for comprehensive, accelerated and coordinated international action on the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- It gives the strategic direction, coordination, advocacy & the technical support required to mobilise and bring together leaders from governments, the private sector and communities to deliver life-saving HIV services.
- UNAIDS generates vital information and analyses that help us in understanding the state of the AIDS epidemic and the progress achieved at the local, national and global levels.
- It collects data on HIV epidemiology, programme coverage, and finance issues, and releases authoritative reports on the HIV epidemic. This is vital for the fight against this global pandemic.

- UNAIDS is the only co-sponsored Joint Programme in the United Nations system.
 - It brings together the action of 11 organisations of the United Nations: UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, UNFPA, UNDP, UNODC, UNESCO, UN Women, ILO, the World Bank and WHO.
- UNAIDS has successfully influenced public policymaking at various levels.
- Founded in 1994, it is headquartered in Geneva. It is headed by an Executive Director.
- UNAIDS was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which is considered as the parent organization of UNAIDS.

UNAIDS Functioning

- It is guided by the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB).
- The PCB is represented by 22 governments from the various geographical regions, NGOs including those of people living with HIV, and the UNAIDS co-sponsors.

Know more about Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in the linked article.

UNAIDS and India

UNAIDS has been working in India since 1999. The nodal agency for UNAIDS functioning in India is the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).

UPSC Questions related to UNAIDS

Is UNAIDS an NGO?

UNAIDS is a programme within the UN system. It is the first UN body to have formal representations from civil society on the governing body. NGOs play an important role in UNAIDS.

Who funds UNAIDS?

UNAIDS is supported by voluntary contributions from governments, philanthropic individuals and organisations from all over the world.

What is the 90-90-90 strategy?

90-90-90 is the codename of a target set by UNAIDS to ensure that 90% of all people living with HIV will know their status, 90% of all people diagnosed will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 90% of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression. UNAIDS hopes to achieve this target by 2020.