



INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK FOR AIDS: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What is the investment framework?

The Investment Framework is a tool to help countries

- a) decide where to focus investments and how much to invest;
- b) understand what the impact of investment choices is likely to be;
- c) understand the cost drivers of the response; and
- d) better match the overall national AIDS response to national objectives and commitments.

The framework combines **basic programme activities** that have a direct effect on HIV risk, transmission, morbidity and mortality and need to be delivered at scale according to the size of the relevant population; **critical enablers** that are essential to the successful implementation and scale-up of HIV programmes; and **synergies with development sectors**.

A large body of published evidence, expert opinion and programme experience shows there are six programme activities essential to an adequate HIV response. These activities work together for maximum impact and should therefore be delivered as a package. The six basic programme activities are:

1. Elimination of new HIV infections among children;
2. Programmes that focus on the reduction of risk of HIV exposure through changing people's behaviour and social norms;
3. Focused programmes for key populations at higher risk (particularly sex workers and their clients, men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs);
4. Procurement, distribution and marketing of male and female condoms;
5. Voluntary medical male circumcision (in countries with high HIV prevalence and low rates of circumcision);
6. Treatment, care and support for people living with HIV.

Underlying the success of basic programme activities are the enablers that are critical to achieving programme access and success. Social enablers create environments where responses can flourish (e.g. outreach for HIV testing, stigma reduction, human rights advocacy, and community mobilization). Programme enablers systematically create demand and improve programme performance (e.g. strategic planning, programme management and capacity-building for community-based organizations).

HIV programmes are not implemented in isolation and should be aligned with country development objectives. Social protection, increasing education participation, legal reform, poverty reduction, reducing gender-based violence, and improving health, community and employment systems are all key areas where there are **synergies** between HIV-specific efforts and development and where there are benefits in integrating common programme elements across sectors.



Q: Why is the investment framework needed?

Though much has been achieved in the global HIV response over the last 30 years, HIV prevalence and incidence remain alarmingly high. And there continue to be important gaps in the HIV response all over the world.

There are few cases where effective interventions are implemented at sufficient scale and intensity relative to need. Programmes are scattered across geographic areas and implemented in parallel so full benefit of implementing multiple interventions to scale together is not achieved. Interventions are often not sufficiently focused on those populations most in need. And there are important inefficiencies in HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes.

The current economic crisis and dwindling international resources have reduced the financial resources made available for the AIDS response. It is becoming increasingly important to get more value for the available HIV money even while continuing to advocate for additional resources from both domestic and international sources.

Q: What is new about the investment framework?

The investment framework builds on good programming experience and the ‘know your epidemic and response’ philosophy. It draws together this thinking with a new emphasis on investment approaches and a simplification of programming advice. Its analysis that effective investment over the next five years will result in a subsequent gradual decline in resource needs is new.

The investment framework provides a tool for countries to invest wisely in order to maximise return and ensure value for money. The framework emphasises **focussing** on a core set of programmes that are known to work, **prioritizing** these programmes in the locations and populations where the problem is greatest, and ensuring that these programmes are implemented as **efficiently** as possible – i.e. at the lowest cost without compromising on quality.

Q: What would be the impact if countries invested according to the investment framework?

Modelling of the framework’s impact and cost shows that implementation of the investment framework in low- and middle-income countries would avert at least 12.2 million new HIV infections, and 7.4 million AIDS deaths between 2011 and 2020 compared with a continuation of current approaches. This modelling also shows that implementation of the investment framework in low- and middle-income countries is highly cost-effective and sustainable; an increase in strategic investment in the HIV response in the near term will mean a steady decline in the resources required for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in the longer term. This modelling shows for the first time that investing wisely to maximize returns on investment now, will prevent persistently escalating costs in the future.



Q: What is the scientific basis for the investment framework?

The investment framework was developed by an international group of experts and is based on analysis of published evidence and expert opinion on what programmes work and are cost-effective. The peer reviewed journal article which proposed the investment framework includes 88 references to key studies and analyses which the investment framework drew upon (see Schwartländer et al. (2011). The Lancet 377: 2031-2041. Accessible at:

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(11\)60702-2/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(11)60702-2/fulltext)).

The assumptions which underlie the modelling contained in the investment framework are detailed in the appendix to the publication (available at the same link). They detail the evidence base for the assumptions made concerning coverage, projections of the number of people living with HIV and in need of treatment, the impact of different programme activities, and how cost estimates were arrived at. That appendix also includes definitions of each of the activities included in the framework.

Q: How does the investment framework relate to the 2011 Political Declaration on AIDS?

In the 2011 Political Declaration on AIDS, Member States agreed on a new set of global targets including making at least US\$ 22-24 billion available for the global HIV response annually by 2015. The investment framework informed the discussions that led to these targets. The framework should be seen as a vehicle for achieving the targets of the Declaration.

Q: What are countries expected to do with the investment framework and what are the expected outcomes?

Uptake of the investment framework will give countries additional tools and leverage to realize their goals more effectively. Specifically, it would include:

- Using the investment framework to help guide periodic reviews of country HIV responses or in support of major planning and budgeting decisions;
- Detecting programme misallocations, major cost drivers, possible efficiency gains and gaps in the HIV response;
- Identifying and implementing options to address these issues including but not limited to re-programming of HIV efforts.

Applying the principles of the investment framework in countries can help governments and their partners to achieve more strategic alignment of resource allocation and programming with country needs for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

Using the investment framework to focus, prioritize and increase efficiency in their HIV programmes should also enable countries to design HIV responses that are country owned and more sustainable.



Q: Is the investment framework applicable to all countries?

The principles of better investment in the framework are applicable to all countries, regardless of epidemic type. Increasing the focus of HIV programmes on the key activities which change the course of the epidemic, prioritizing these programmes in the locations and among the populations most affected, and increasing the efficiency of these programmes is relevant to all countries.

Q: When should countries consider using the investment framework?

The investment framework is relevant to all stages of a country's planning and budgeting cycle. For example, the investment framework can be used to guide the development of new national strategic frameworks and plans and inform midterm reviews of strategic plans. It can also be used to assess and adjust existing national plans when new costing or budget allocation exercises are carried out.

Ideally, the framework would be applied to the whole HIV response in a country, although it can also be used to guide or assess parts of the HIV response such as programmes funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Q: Is the investment framework a blueprint for resource allocation across the AIDS response?

The investment framework is not a blueprint for resource allocation. The investment framework establishes a framework against which a country can examine the extent to which its resource allocation to different programmatic activities is in keeping with local epidemiology, and will meet the country's objectives in reducing new infections and in keeping people with HIV alive.

The investment framework will help a country to assess readily whether the basic programme activities are delivered at the scale of the relevant populations needs, whether programme effectiveness is supported through critical enablers, and whether synergies are being effectively realized between HIV efforts and wider development sectors.

Q: Does the investment framework prescribe funding allocations for each national HIV programme element?

The investment framework is not a prescription of the exact funding allocation for each national programme element, it is a framework for optimizing country resource allocation.

The assumptions and calculations made to build the model for its global assessment of resource needs are available in the June 2011 publication of the investment framework and its appendix and UNAIDS is able to share with countries further details on assumptions made for the framework. In any detailed country modelling to support resource allocation decision making, countries will need to examine and adjust their assumptions in the context of national and local data.



Q: What is the role of civil society groups in country applications of investment framework thinking?

At the core of the framework is the assumption that affected communities must be at the centre of the next phase of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support through community mobilization and community-led service delivery. Civil society groups should therefore be integrally involved in uptake of the investment framework in countries together with governments and other relevant partners.

Q: No information is available on the size of key populations such as men who have sex with men, sex workers or injecting drug users. Can the investment framework still be used?

Yes, the investment framework can still be used. Limited or imperfect data on the size of MSM, sex worker and IDU populations should not be a reason not to assess the needs of these key affected populations. Interim measures can be used including assessing whether data from neighbouring countries provides a suitable 'working assumption' while national data collection is under way, or using expert opinion to fill in the information gaps.

Q: Is the investment framework a tool to guide cuts in HIV funding?

The investment framework is a tool to fully fund the AIDS responses and make the most of investments. The investment framework is not a tool to guide cuts in HIV funding. It does not represent an exit strategy for donors or an opportunity for governments to reduce domestic resource allocations to HIV. On the contrary, investment framework thinking and dialogue should create an opportunity to do more with the money available, to allocate resources more strategically, to identify the most important gaps in funding and to identify sustainable sources of funding to fill these gaps – including both domestic and international financing of HIV activities.

Q: Will the investment framework lead to more resources being made available for national AIDS responses?

More focused, prioritized and efficient HIV responses should lead to additional resource availability in areas they are needed through efficiency gains and more strategic allocation. A country which is able to demonstrate that it is using its current resources in the most effective way possible will also be in the best position to advocate for additional resources, either through national budget decision making processes, in developing innovative financing options, or in seeking funding from international partners.

Q: What kind of support will UNAIDS provide to uptake of the investment framework?

UNAIDS Country Coordinators and country office staff will be available to countries to identify entry points and take up opportunities for the application of investment framework thinking. Focal points for the investment framework have been identified in each UNAIDS Regional Support Team to assist country office efforts. UNAIDS headquarters in Geneva is also available to support country and



regional efforts, to answer queries, and to assist global partners to take up investment framework opportunities. UNAIDS Cosponsors and interagency mechanisms are also engaged in identifying key opportunities for use of the investment framework in specific thematic areas (for example education, social protection, TB/HIV, integration of HIV in development planning, etc.).

In addition, UNAIDS will coordinate a team of expert consultants who will be available to provide support to country needs as they address investment issues. This team will include experts in policy and stakeholder analysis, programme planning and budgeting, modelling, programme evaluation, programme communication, and financial planning and risk management.

Q: Where can I find additional documentation on the investment framework?

UNAIDS Issues brief: A new investment framework for the global HIV response in English, French, Spanish and Russian:

http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2011/JC2244_InvestmentFramework_en.pdf

http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2011/JC2244_InvestmentFramework_fr.pdf

http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2011/JC2244_InvestmentFramework_es.pdf

http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2011/JC2244_InvestmentFramework_ru.pdf

Additional UNAIDS investment framework documentation is available on AIDSSpace:

http://aidsspace.org/group.php?group_id=322&v=documents&sort=userupload_time&sort_direction=asc

Original Lancet publication of the Investment Framework: “Towards an improved investment approach for an effective response to HIV/AIDS” Schwartländer et al. (2011). The Lancet 377: 2031-2041, together with supplementary web appendix.

Accessible at: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(11\)60702-2/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(11)60702-2/fulltext)

International HIV/AIDS Alliance. Discussion paper: What is the investment framework for HIV/AIDS?

Accessible at: <http://www.aidsalliance.org/publicationsdetails.aspx?id=90547>

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