

JOINT SA/WHO AFRO ADOLESCENT, YOUTH AND HIV WEBINAR

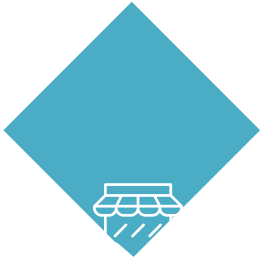
HIV INFECTION IN ADOLESCENTS: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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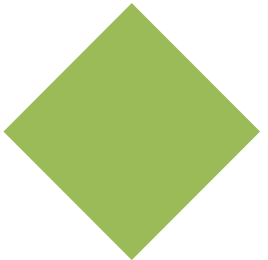
PRESENTATION OUTLINE



1. Trend of HIV infection in adolescents and young people



2. Issues and challenges



3. Opportunities



4. Conclusion

TREND OF HIV INFECTION IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Adolescents and young people represent a growing share of people living with HIV worldwide.

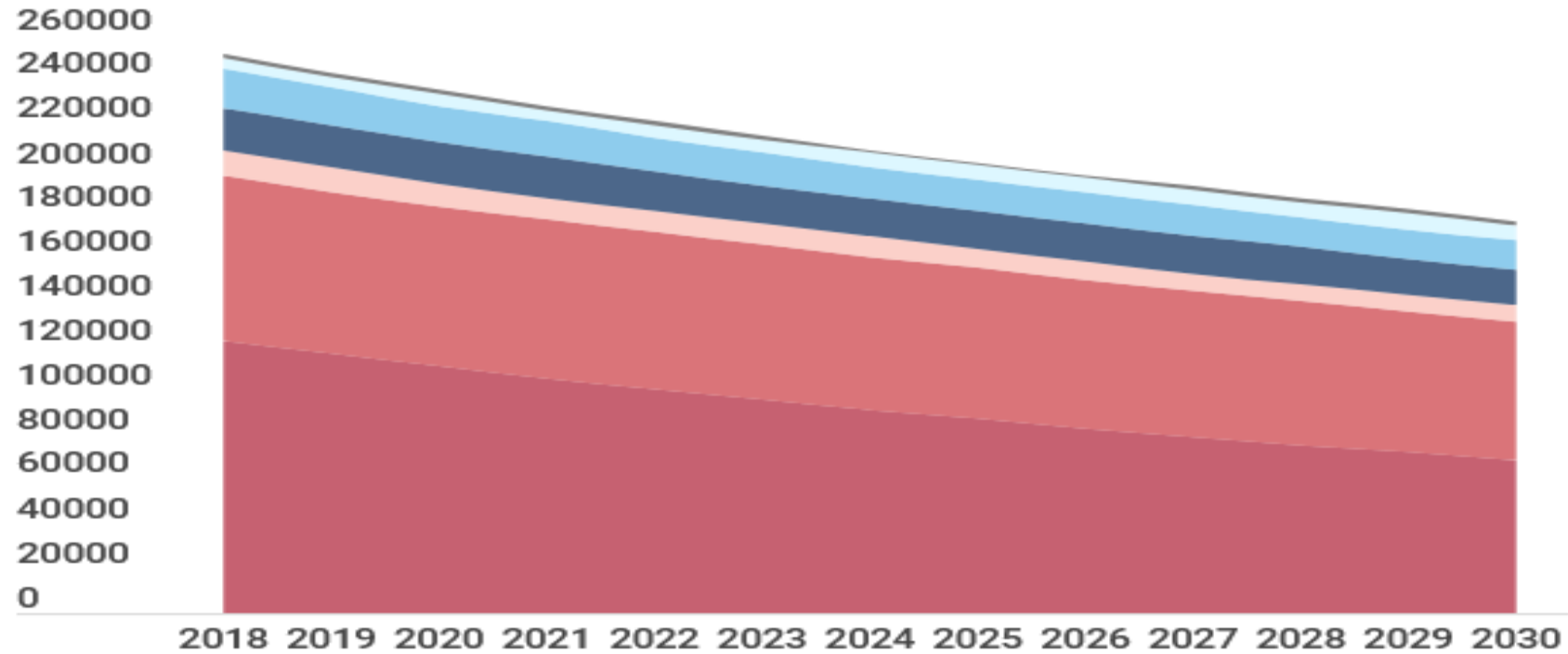
In 2020, about 1.75 million adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 were living with HIV worldwide. Adolescents account for about 5 per cent of all people living with HIV and about 11 per cent of new adult HIV infections.

In 2020 alone, 410,000 young people between the ages of 10 to 24 were newly infected with HIV, of whom 150,000 were adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19.

Number of adolescents dying of AIDS-related causes: 32,000 .

TREND OF HIV INFECTION IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE (Cont')

Annual number of new HIV infections among adolescents aged 10-19 by region, 2018-2030



- Eastern and Southern Africa
- West and Central Africa
- South Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- East Asia and the Pacific
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Middle East and North Africa

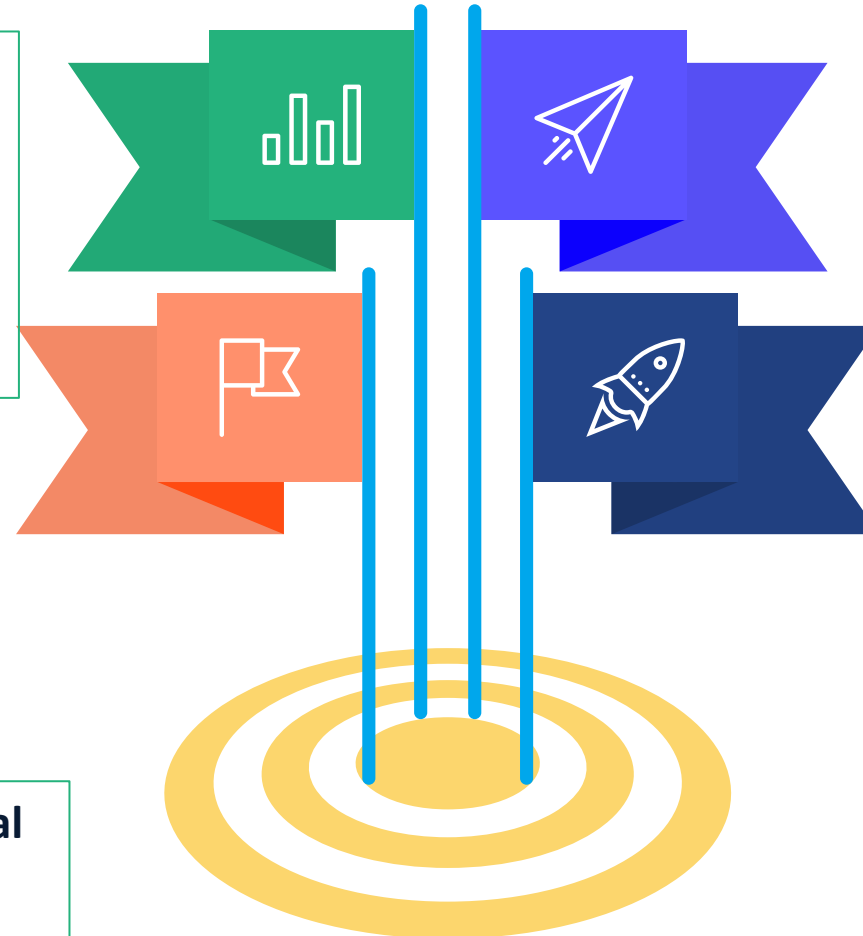


TREND OF HIV INFECTION IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE (Cont')

Access to HIV testing

1. Recent data indicate that only 25 per cent of adolescent girls and 17 per cent of adolescent boys aged 15-19 in ESA have been tested for HIV in the past 12 months and received results.

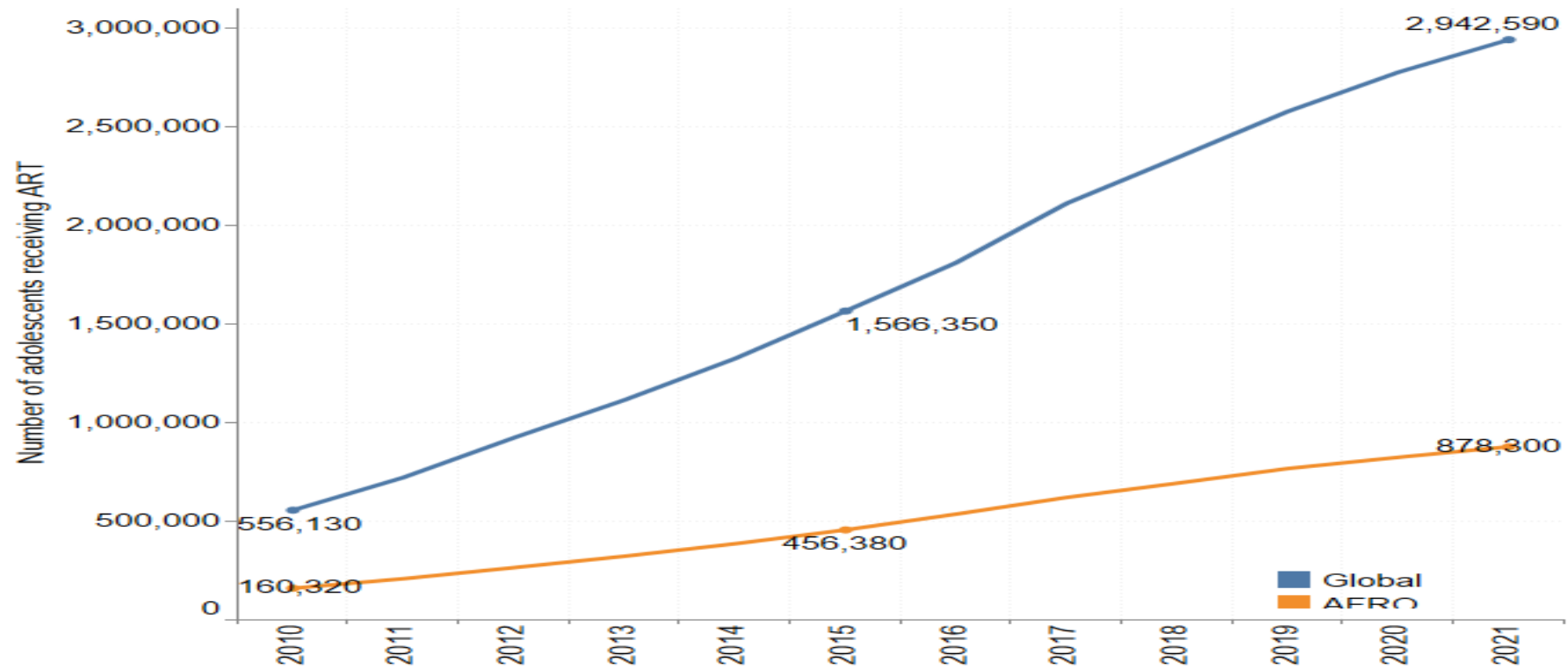
2. The testing rates in West and Central Africa and South Asia are even lower.



3. Hundreds of thousands more will become HIV-positive in the coming years, and without knowing their status, adolescents will miss out on life-saving treatment.

TREND OF HIV INFECTION IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE (Cont')

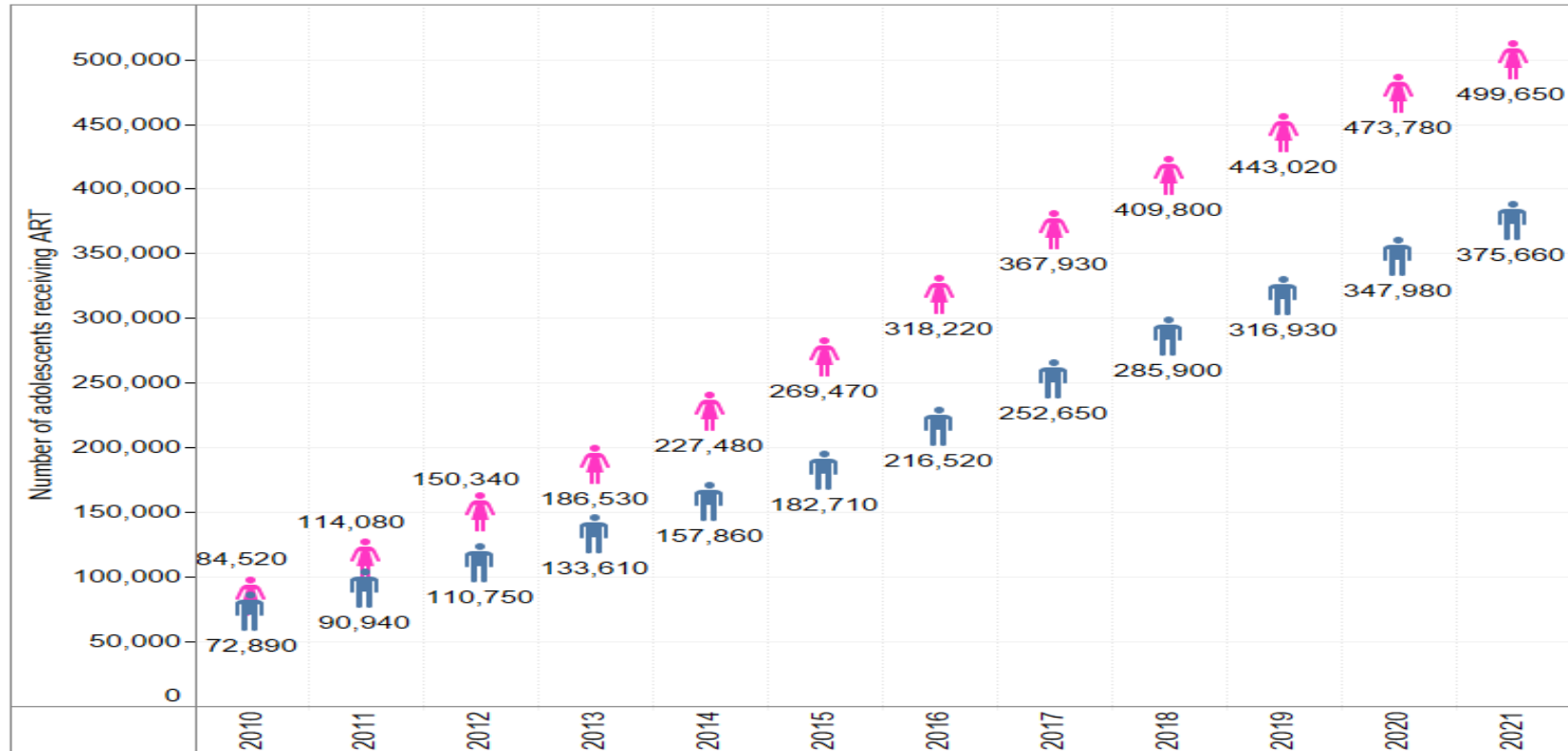
Number of adolescents receiving ART, African Region versus Global, 2010-2021



Source: UNAIDS 2022

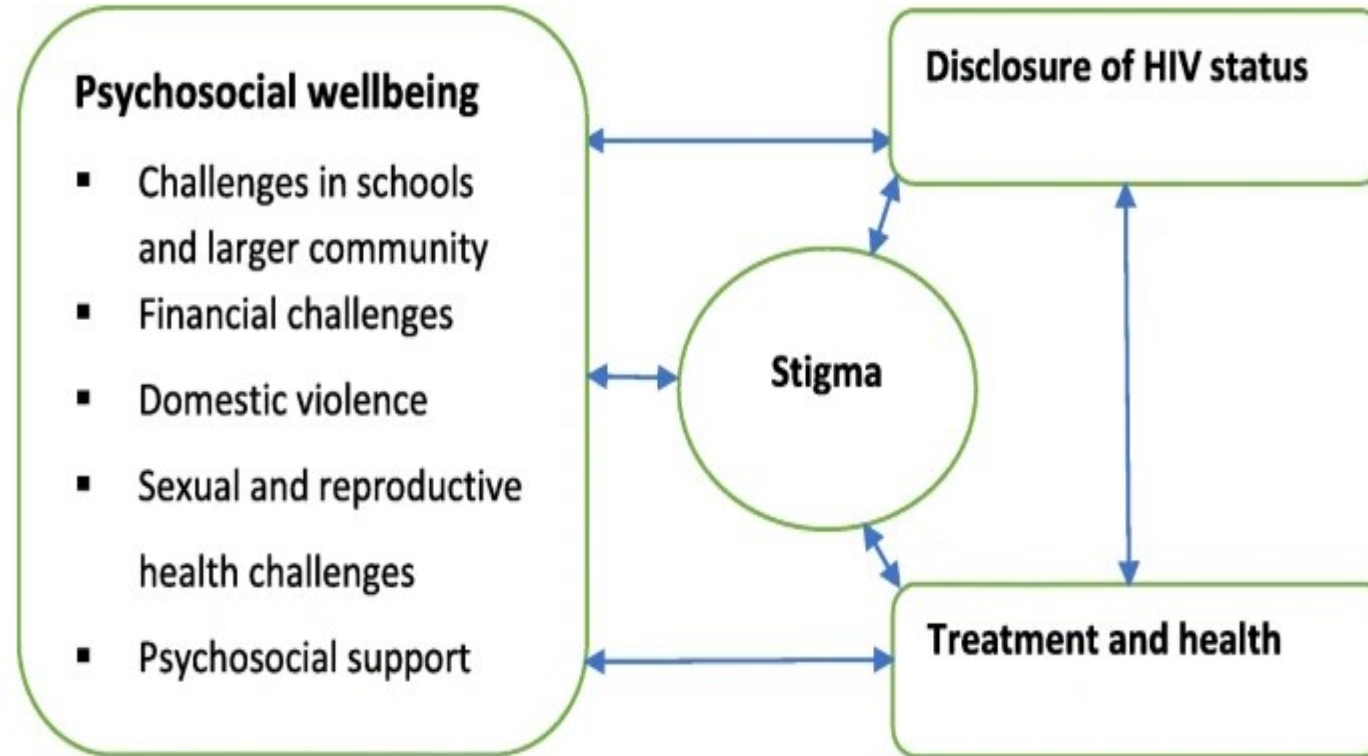
TREND OF HIV INFECTION IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE (Cont')

Number of adolescents receiving ART, African Region, 2010-2022



Source: UNAIDS 2022

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES(Cont')

1. Barriers to testing

Lack of confidentiality, access to testing sites, stigma, discrimination, poverty and low HIV risk perception were identified as key barriers to HIV testing.

These barriers often contributed to late HIV testing and were associated with delayed treatment initiation and decreased survival rate.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES(Cont')

2. Barriers to ART

1. Unavailability of HIV testing and services.
2. Lack of adolescent and youth friendly health services.
3. Lack of medicines and required equipment.
4. Financial barriers.
5. Fear of disclosing the HIV status.
6. Lack of group support or treatment supporters.
7. Lack of education about HIV/AIDs.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES(Cont')

2. Barriers to adherence

1. Support groups are not accessible to all adolescents.
2. Not all adolescents have access to support network.
3. Cost related barriers.
4. Changes to daily schedule.
5. Fear of disclosing the HIV status.
6. Lack of group support or treatment supporters.
7. Lack of education about HIV/AIDs and ART.
8. Poor management of physical side effects.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES(Cont')

3. service delivery considerations

1. Integration to facilitate provision of comprehensive and consistent care (HIV, MCH, SRH, TB and HPV, mental health, Psychosocial support.
2. Aspects of capacity building, resources mobilization, supervision, drugs supply, monitoring and evaluation need consideration. .
3. Ensure referral and linkage to care.
4. Decentralization of activities: Providing services near home and using adolescent friendly approaches.
5. Task-shifting to ensure the availability of services everywhere.
6. Ensure the provision of essential services to adolescent in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Ending the silence, stigma and shame.
2. Providing adolescents with knowledge and information.
3. Equipping adolescents with life skills to put knowledge into practice.
4. Availability of adolescent and youth friendly health services.
5. Promotion of voluntary and confidential HIV counselling and testing.
6. Meaningful participation of adolescents and young people.
7. Engagement of adolescents and young people who are living with HIV/AIDS.
8. Creation of safe and supportive environment;
9. Reach out to adolescents and young people most at risk.
10. Strong partnerships and progress monitoring.
11. Mobilization of resources (domestic and external).

CONCLUSION

- ❑ Despite number of challenges and unfavorable environment created by the COVID-19 Pandemic, WHO (at all levels), partners and young people organizations should continue to make efforts to:
 - foster country commitment to improve the health and well-being of adolescents;
 - develop and implement evidence-based strategies and plans to better tackle the HIV infection in adolescents;
 - support countries in providing AYFHS and maintaining essential services for adolescents and young people, even in the context of health crisis.



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION