

People left behind:
Children and pregnant women
living with HIV

[Link with the pdf, Children and pregnant women living with HIV](#)



I am a pregnant woman living with HIV.

I face these issues.

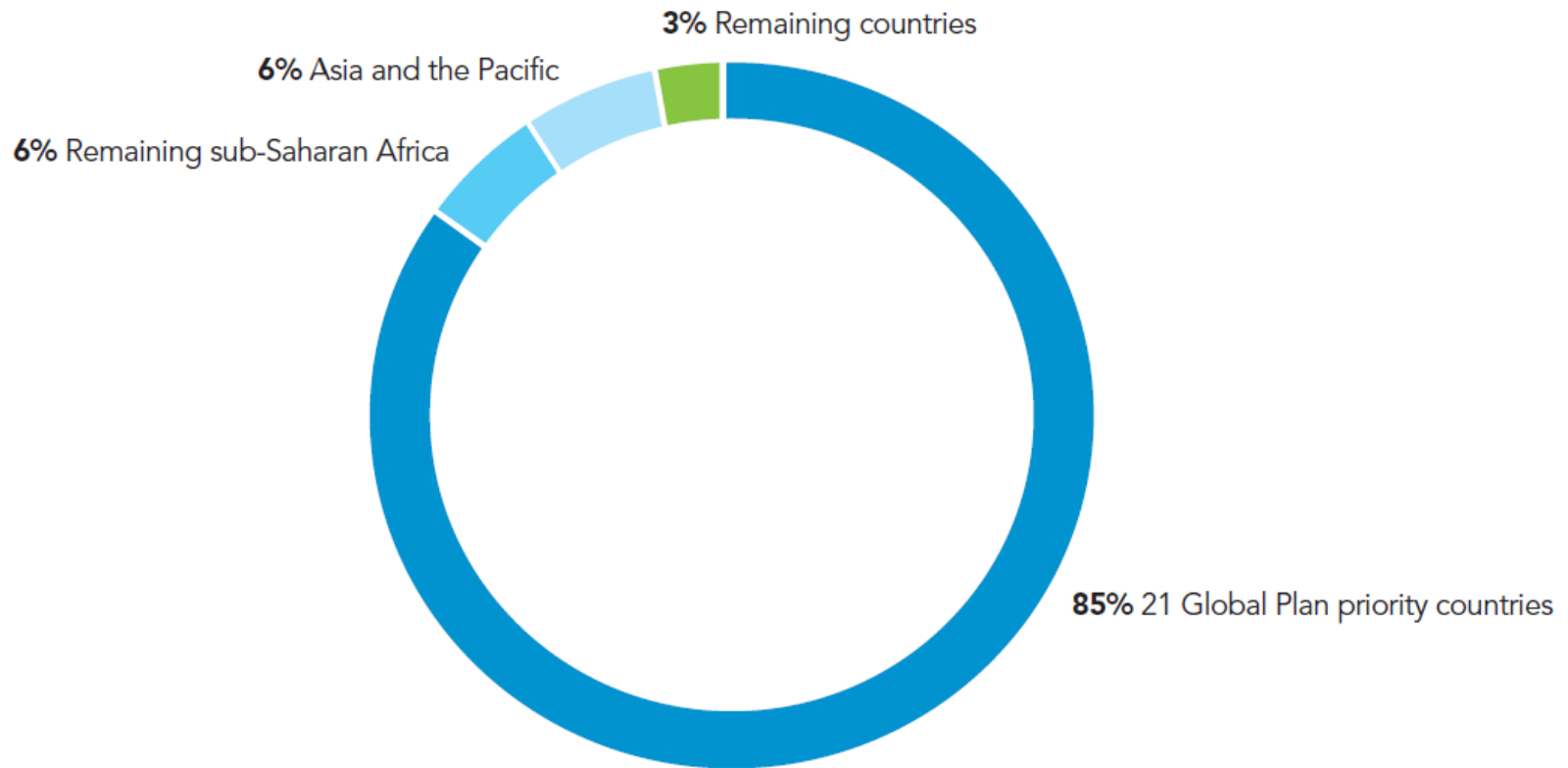
I am a child living with HIV. I face these issues.



HIV burden

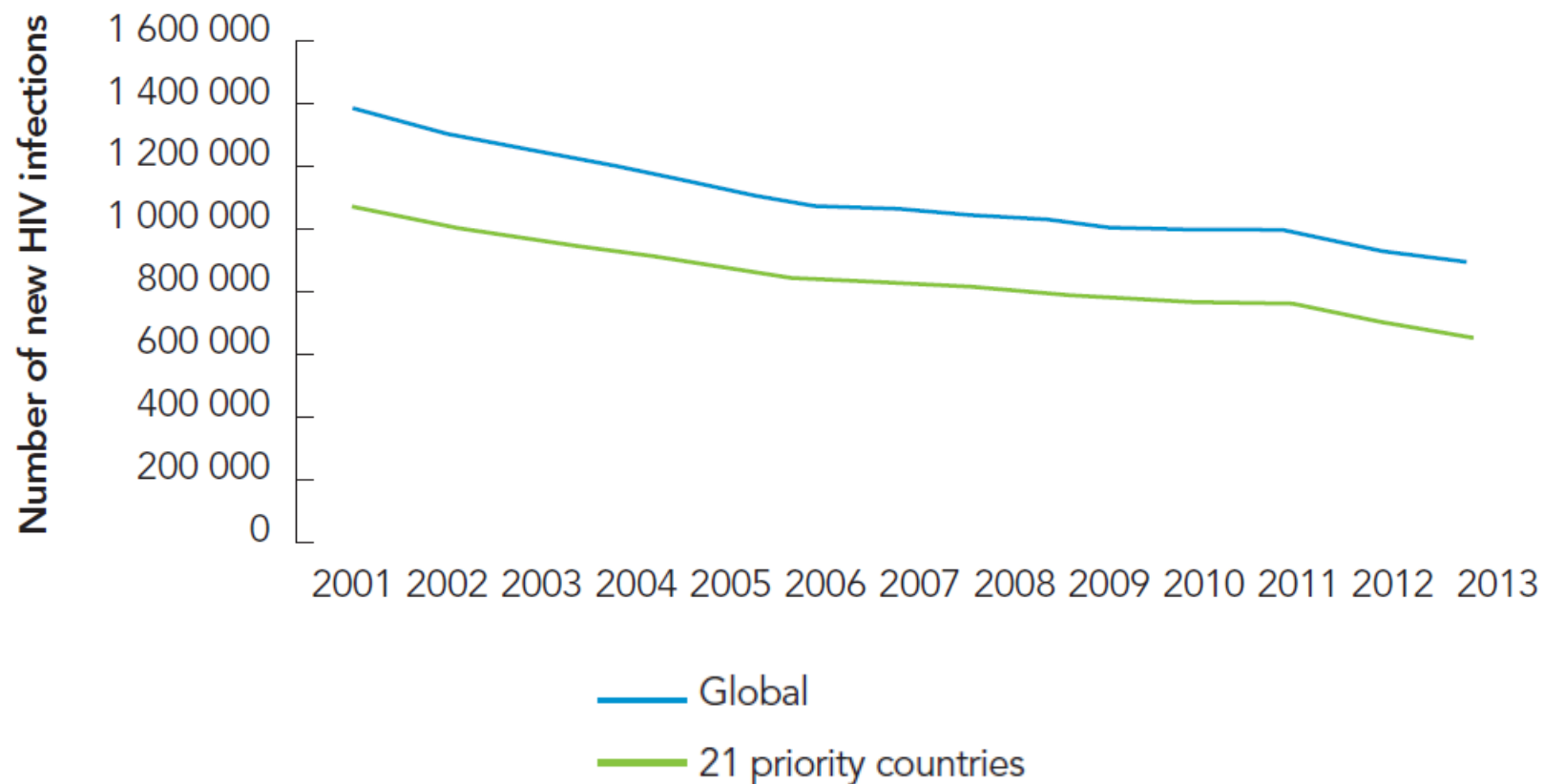
- HIV is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age.
- In 2013, an estimated 1.5 million women living with HIV gave birth, virtually unchanged from 2009.
- Globally, 3.2 million children under 15 were living with HIV in 2013, comprising 9.1% of all people living with HIV.
- Of the 3.2 million children living with HIV, 91% live in sub-Saharan Africa, 6% live in Asia and the Pacific and the remaining 3% are situated in the rest of the world.
- 240 000 children worldwide acquired HIV in 2013: one new infection every two minutes.

Children (aged 0–14 years) living with HIV, globally



Source: UNAIDS 2013 estimates.

Number of new HIV infections among reproductive-age women (15–49 years old) globally and in 21 priority countries, 2001–2012



Source: UNAIDS 2013 estimates.

Why children and pregnant women living with HIV are being left behind

- HIV is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age.
- In 2013, 54% of pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries did not receive an HIV test, a key step to accessing HIV prevention, treatment and care.
- Without treatment, about one third of children living with HIV die by their first birthday and half die by their second.
- For children, the health benefits of HIV treatment are magnified. Beginning antiretroviral therapy before the twelfth week of life reduces HIV-related mortality in children living with HIV by 75%.
- The involuntary sterilization of women living with HIV, forced abortions and the criminalization of the vertical transmission of HIV have all been reported.

WHY CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND

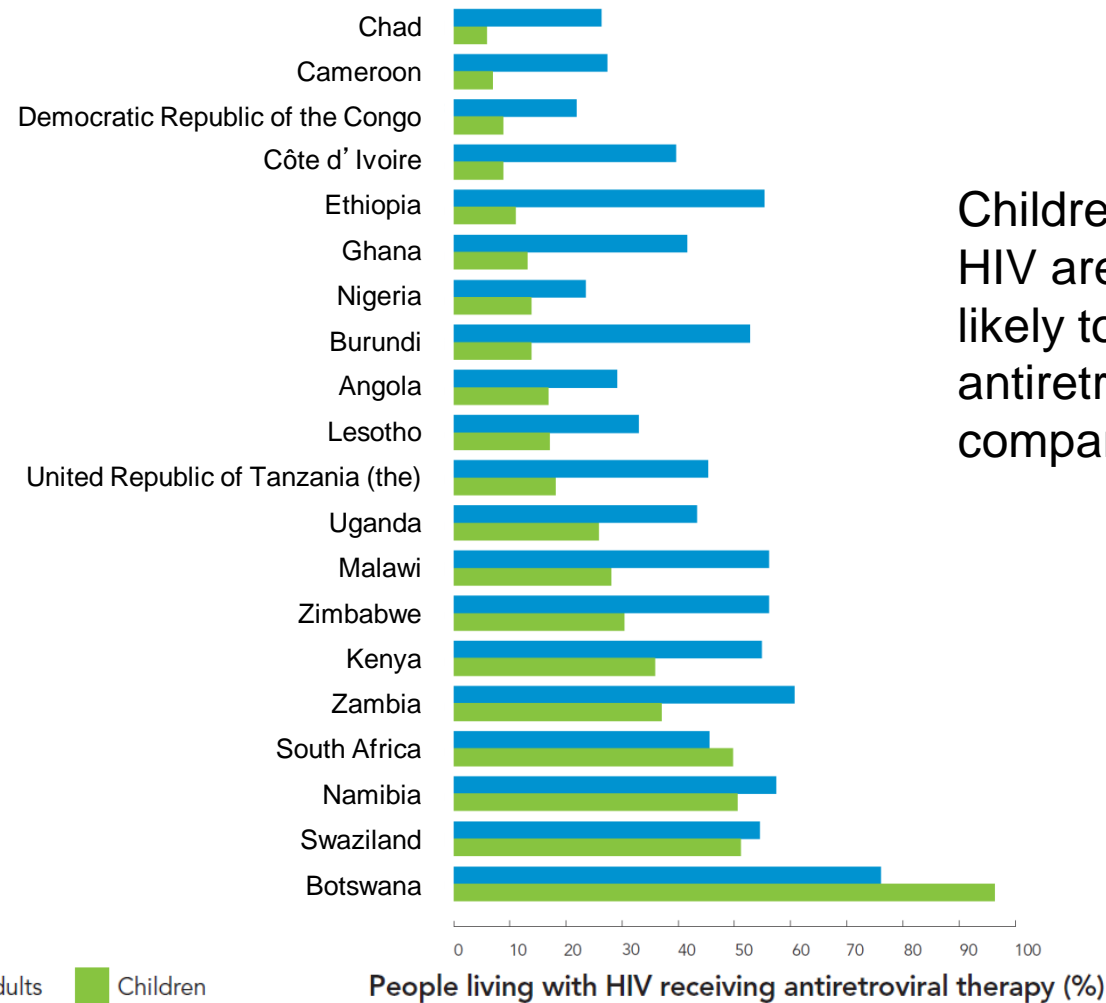
THE TOP 4 REASONS

- 01 Limited access to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services
- 02 Limited access to HIV treatment
- 03 Failure to prioritize children
- 04 Poorly integrated health-care services

Limited access to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services

- Globally, about 44% of pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries received HIV testing and counselling in 2013, up from 26% in 2009.
- There are currently few interventions being implemented to help women to remain HIV-free during pregnancy, breastfeeding and beyond. More effort is needed to address this gap. It may be particularly important for adolescent women, who may have less experience with and information about HIV.
- A broad range of human rights concerns have been documented in the context of HIV services for pregnant women and children:
 - Experiences of stigma, neglect and other negative attitudes and behaviours in health-care facilities.
 - Mandatory HIV testing and/or treatment or a lack of informed consent.
 - Lack of confidentiality.
 - Insufficient information and counselling on HIV testing and treatment.
 - Involuntary sterilization of women living with HIV, forced abortions and the criminalization of the vertical transmission of HIV.

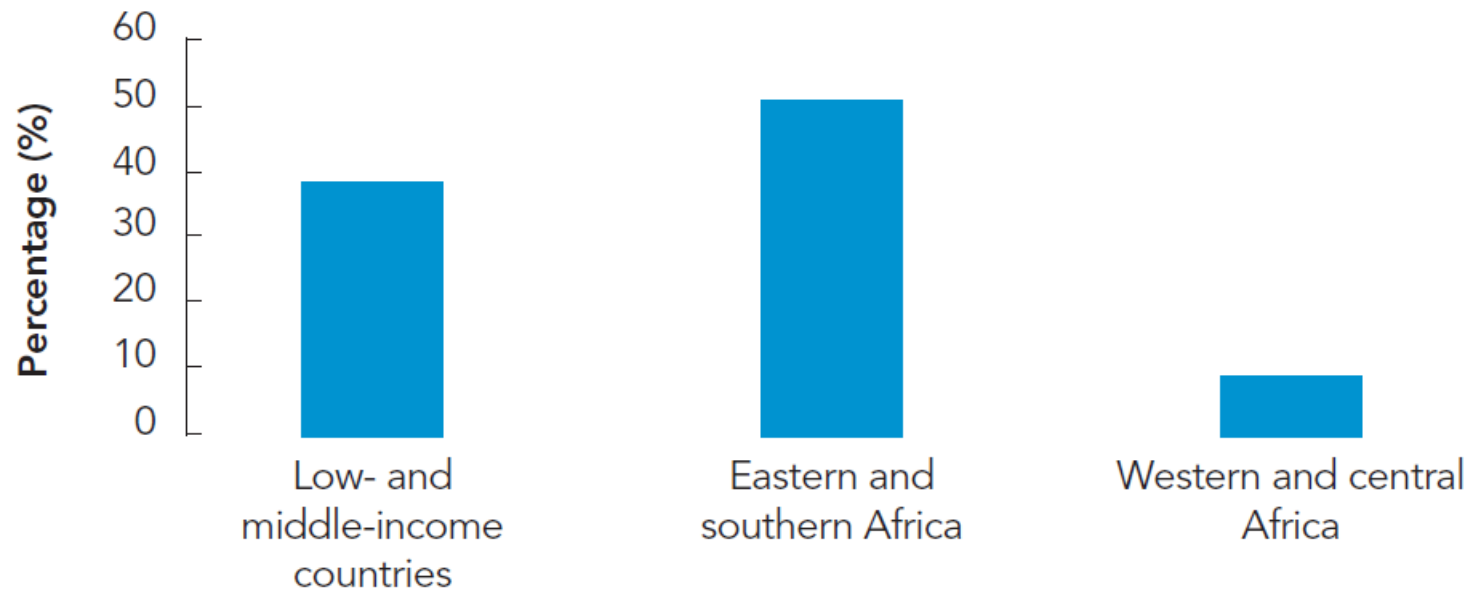
Percentage of adults (aged 15+) and children (aged 0–14) living with HIV who were receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2013, in 21 priority countries



Children living with HIV are one third less likely to receive antiretroviral therapy compared to adults.

Source: 2013 estimates from UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF.

Percentage of children born to HIV-positive women tested for HIV within two months of birth by region



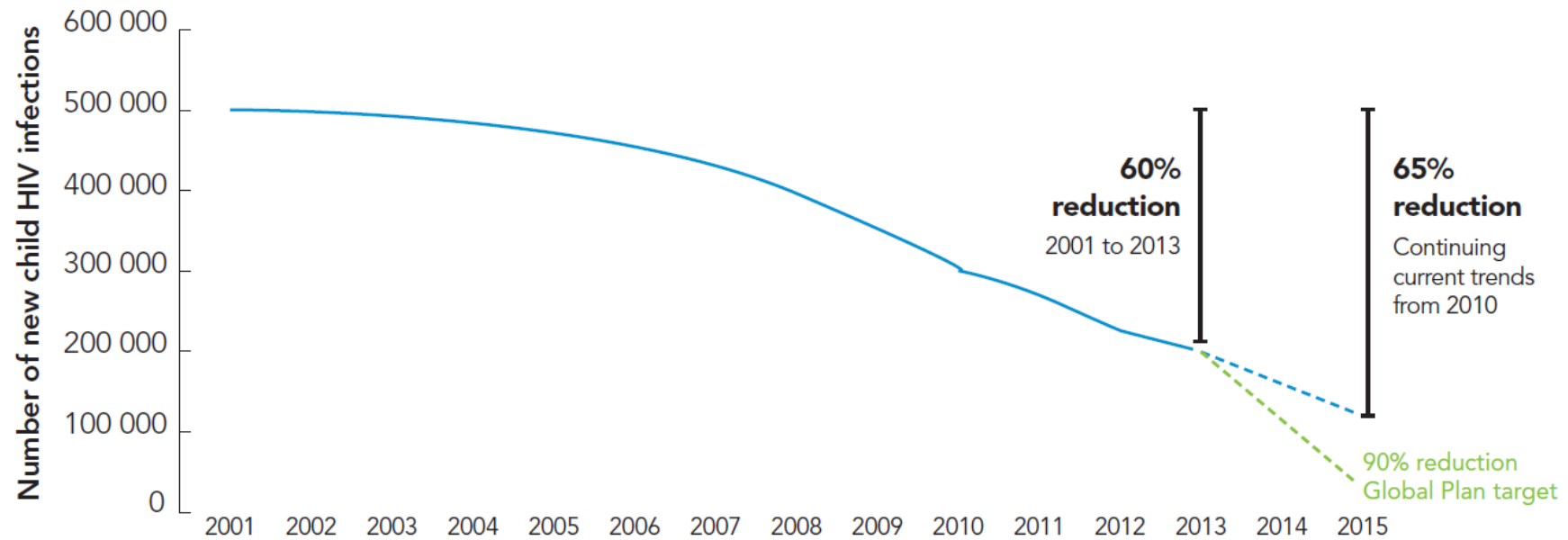
Source: Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting 2013.

CLOSING THE GAP

HOW TO CLOSE THE GAP

- 01 Improve access to health and HIV services for all women and children
- 02 Ensure treatment is available for all in need
- 03 Invest in paediatric commodities and approaches
- 04 Scale up integrated, family-centred health care services and information

Number of new child HIV infections globally, 2005–2013, and projected targets



Source: UNAIDS 2013 estimates.