

UNAIDS Releases 'Gap Report' On HIV and AIDS Epidemic

A 2016 UNAIDS Report on HIV and AIDS has revealed that since the start of the epidemic, 35 million people have died of AIDS-related illnesses while an estimated 78 million people have become infected with HIV.

The report, known as the 'Gap Report on AIDS' which was released by UNAIDS in Monrovia on Thursday July 28 at a press conference hosted by UNAIDS Regional Director for West and Central Africa Dr. Djibril Diallo, also highlighted the global summary of the AIDS epidemic in 2015.

The report placed the total number of people living with HIV in 2015 at 36.7 million, 34.8 million of whom were adults.

The report also indicates that 17.8 million of the total adult population was women, while 1.8 million were children above 15 years.

It says the number of people newly infected with HIV during this period was 2.1 million, 1.9 million of whom were adults, while 50 thousand were children above 15 years.

The report stated that the total number of AIDS related deaths in 2015 was 1.1 million, 1.0 million of whom were adults, while 110 thousand were children above 15 years old.

According to the report, 17 million people were also on HIV treatment during the period under review.

The report noted that to end the AIDS epidemic, the response to HIV needs to be put on the fast-track, and that the world needs to build on the incredible progress that has been made over the past 15 years.

It further noted that since 2000 the number of people on antiretroviral treatment increased from 770,000 to 17 million by the end of 2015.

Among other things, the report disclosed that an additional two million people living with HIV gained access to antiretroviral medicines during 2015 alone, while global coverage of antiretroviral therapy during the same period reached 46 percent.