



DATA.FI IMPACT STORY

On UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals, Burundi is leading the way

Every year, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) holds a Country Operational Plan (COP) meeting of government officials, health professionals, and civil society representatives to discuss funding and priorities for the year to come. This year, at COP23 in Johannesburg, **Burundi was given special recognition** for the remarkable progress it has made towards the 95-95-95 UNAIDS goals.

Introduced in 2020 and adopted by UN member states in 2021, the goals call for 95 percent of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) to know their HIV status, 95 percent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection to receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 95 percent of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy to have viral suppression by 2030.

In Johannesburg, on March 6, the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, **Ambassador John Nkengasong**, acknowledged Burundi as the only francophone African country so close to meeting the UNAIDS goals and awarded its government with an honorary plaque. Ambassador Nkengasong had also recognized Burundi's public health progress in a February 15, 2023 action memo to the U.S.

The Burundi team celebrates as Director General of the Burundi Institut National de Santé Publique, Dr. Joseph Nyandwi, accepts an award of recognition from the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Nkengasong, on behalf of the Burundi health minister. Johannesburg, South Africa, March 6, 2023.



Ambassador in Burundi Melanie Higgins, in which he stated that **“Burundi’s progress towards 95/95/95 is remarkable.”**

Burundi’s drive to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic is a massive collaborative effort of local, national, and international stakeholders. We are proud of the role the Data.FI/Burundi team is playing as part of this wider effort. Through dedicated work and digital expertise, **Data.FI/Burundi has made numerous contributions to the recent promising record of success.**

One major area of innovation is SIDAInfo, Burundi’s HIV/AIDS electronic medical record (EMR) system. Working alongside the National AIDS and STI Control Program and the Directorate of the National Health Information System as well as with USAID implementing partners, Data.FI/Burundi has helped to scale and enhance SIDAInfo. The web-based EMR works off of a biometric unique ID solution and is now installed at 182 sites serving approximately 80 percent of PLHIV currently on treatment. This is vital for achieving 95-95-95 because it allows clinicians and health care providers to reliably monitor ART delivery and thereby maintain continuity of treatment for many more people.

Data.FI/Burundi also worked with the SIDAInfo Technical Working Group to develop a laboratory module within the system. This allows clinicians to receive real-time information on HIV viral load test results, and early infant diagnosis tests—significantly reducing the time it takes to connect PLHIV to care. The team has also successfully integrated a Recent Infection Surveillance System into SIDAInfo, helping to concentrate and adjust testing strategies according to which categories of people (age group, sex, geographic location, etc.) are experiencing recent HIV infections.



The technical director of the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the National AIDS Control Council, Dr. Georges Rukubo, posing with the award alongside Ambassador Nkengasong and the Burundi team. Johannesburg, South Africa, March 6, 2023.

Alongside these technical and digital enhancements, **Data.FI/Burundi helped train national government staff on data quality, data analysis, data use, and geographic information systems** to reinforce their capacity to supervise district-level program performance review meetings. This emphasis on strengthening local partners and system governance will help ensure the long-term sustainability of improved HIV/AIDS health outcomes for the entire country. It will also leave Burundi's health system better prepared to deal with other health risks and future epidemics.

Burundi's success is far from complete, and much remains to be done. However, the country proves that real progress is possible. As Burundi enters the next year of PEPFAR funding with more local flexibility and a greater emphasis on long-term planning, Data.FI is excited to maintain and build on past efforts.

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