In many regions, social issues increase the risk of HIV infection making it difficult to tackle the global HIV epidemic effectively.

Certain groups of people are more affected by HIV than others. Sometimes this is because they engage in high-risk behaviours, while others experience stigma and discrimination that stops them from approaching HIV services.

It is important that these issues are well understood so that specially tailored prevention programmes can be rolled out and target to those groups most at risk of HIV.

### Key affected populations, HIV and AIDS

HIV disproportionately affects people belonging to certain populations, such as men who have sex with men and sex workers.

### HIV Stigma and Discrimination

Stigma and discrimination persist everywhere, and continue to prevent HIV services from reaching the people who need them most.

### Homophobia and HIV

Homosexuality is illegal in 73 countries. As a result, many men who have sex with men face high levels of homophobia and can't access HIV services.

### Gender inequality and HIV

### Human rights and HIV
Tackling gender inequality is key to reducing women’s vulnerability to HIV and achieving wider development goals. The promotion and protection of human rights is essential in order to ensure an effective response to HIV and AIDS.