Our history

The early days

Avert was founded in 1986, in the very early days of the HIV and AIDS epidemic. We were one of the first charities to give people the information they needed about HIV prevention and treatment and challenge HIV-related stigma. We sent millions of educational leaflets, posters and training guides across the UK and the world. We also gave medical research grants, including one of the first studies on HIV and its impact on women in the UK.

Avert.org

We launched www.avert.org in 1995. Our award-winning site is now one of the world’s leading online providers of HIV and AIDS information, reaching around 23,000 people every day. We are constantly developing the site to make our information more accessible, user-friendly and relevant.

Supporting civil society

In 2000, we started providing grants and technical support to local civil society organisations working in countries heavily affected by HIV. Since then we have supported more than 25 organisations working in East and Southern Africa, India and Russia. We remain committed to supporting civil society’s response to HIV. Our current partnerships are focused on Southern Africa.

Leading the way

In 2005, Avert continued to expand and lead the way in providing online HIV information through Avert.org, producing innovative content in accessible language. This was recognised in 2005, when
the site won first prize at the British Medical Association Patient Information Awards. And again in 2012 when we won the prestigious Nominet Internet Award under the ‘Online Training and Education’ category, in association with the British Library.

Trustworthy health information

In 2015, we became a certified member of the Information Standard, a UK National Health Service (NHS) accreditation that recognises trustworthy health information. We are also an accredited Google News provider.

To see more about our history and the history of the HIV epidemic, check out our HIV timeline.

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