HIV and AIDS in Africa continue to be long-term development challenges. East Africa and southern Africa are the regions hardest hit by HIV.

There has been considerable political and financial commitment to fighting the epidemic in this region, with some countries such as South Africa and Kenya seeing dramatic scaling up of prevention, treatment and care services.

However, many countries in this region are still reliant on donor funding to finance their HIV response.

Find out more about HIV and AIDS in West and Central Africa.

Last full review: 24 April 2017
Next full review: 24 April 2019

East and Southern Africa is the region hardest hit by HIV; it is home to over 50% of the total number of people living with HIV in the world.

Botswana has made great progress in reducing HIV prevalence through the provision of universal free antiretroviral treatment.

Kenya has the joint fourth largest HIV epidemic in the world but has been a pioneer in HIV prevention, including VMMC, PrEP and self-testing.
Lesotho has one of the highest HIV prevalences in the world, but treatment coverage remains inadequate.

Malawi has seen a significant drop in new HIV infections over the past decade, with young people remaining a concern.

South Africa, despite having the world's biggest HIV epidemic, now fully funds its HIV programmes.

eSwatini has the highest HIV prevalence in the world. This is largely due to cultural beliefs which discourage safe-sex practices.

In Tanzania, access to HIV treatment is low because of drug costs, a lack of healthcare workers and high levels of corruption.

Treatment programmes have been scaled up in Uganda, but access remains low. Punitive laws also act as barriers to HIV services.

Zambia has limited treatment access due to high drug costs, a lack of healthcare workers and high levels of corruption.

Zimbabwe has a high HIV prevalence, with unprotected heterosexual sex and mother-to-child transmission being major modes of transmission.
transmission are the primary modes of HIV infection in Zambia.

heterosexual sex continuing to be the main route transmission route for new infections.