Significant progress has been made in the fight against HIV & AIDS, with new HIV infections declining by an estimated 16% and AIDS-related mortality declining by 33% since 2010\(^1\). However, the reality is that young people are still being left behind, and whilst ending AIDS is within reach, structural barriers continue to hinder progress.

Aligned with the global commitment to ensure that ‘no-one is left behind’, and contributing directly to the SADC Regional Strategy on SRHR (2019–2030), FutureLife-Now! is a regional programme aimed at reducing new HIV infections and increasing adherence to ART amongst children and youth in the SADC region. By bringing together two critical elements for human development – education and health – and by building upon the systems strengthening and policy development that has taken place through Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL), FutureLife-Now! promotes greater self-confidence and hope for the future among young people in the SADC region.

\(^1\)2019 Global HIV & AIDS statistics – 2019 fact sheet UNAIDS

Ensuring that all people in the SADC region enjoy a healthy sexual and reproductive life, have sustainable access, coverage and quality SRHR services, information and education, and are fully able to realize and exercise their SRH rights, as an integral component of sustainable human development in the SADC region.

(SADC SRHR Strategy 2019–2030)
How will this be achieved?
FutureLife-Now! advances the region’s priority goals and commitments – especially those related to education, health, gender equality and climate change – so that the most vulnerable youth benefit from the development gains made. This is achieved by implementing a combination of strategies at multiple levels.

Regional strategies
All Member States will benefit from:
• Bolstered education sector responses to HIV & AIDS – through policy support
• Strengthened delivery of CSE (including ART adherence), and integration of CSE into pre-service teacher training
• Strengthened domestication of the SADC Policy Framework on CSTL
• Knowledge development – through annual regional sharing meetings, peer exchange visits and e-platforms

National and school level strategies:
New approaches – to be tested in schools in Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe for potential region-wide application – include:
• Increased access to youth-friendly HIV, SRHR and ART education, support and services – through testing context-specific school-based approaches
• Enhanced gender equality – through empowering girls and addressing the specific support needs of boys and young men
• Mitigating new vulnerabilities related to climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk through youth-led local action

How does FutureLife-Now! Support Young People?
A package of support, designed to empower young people to be active and engaged citizens, with the skills, capacities and knowledge to assume their responsibilities and exercise their agency, includes:
• Identification and referral systems that link learners to HIV/SRH/ART adherence support and services
• Targeted health messaging to support ART adherence
• School support structures, to facilitate access to support and services
• Tailored health messages, using digital and mobile messaging
• Individual risk assessments for HIV, STIs, GBV and TB

What about Scale-up and Sustainability?
Multiple partners collaborating at regional, national and local levels
At the regional level, key FutureLife-Now! partners include SADC, its Member States, MIET AFRICA and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Broad partner networks at each of these levels – including UN agencies, civil society organisations, the private sector, and communities – make important contributions.
What is FutureLife-Now!’s Vision?

- HIV & AIDS is not a public health threat by 2030
- Sexual and gender-based violence and other harmful practices, especially against girls, are eliminated
- Rates of unplanned and teenage pregnancies and unsafe abortions are reduced
- Universal access to integrated, comprehensive SRH services is provided, particularly for young people
- Barriers that serve as an impediment to the realization of SRHR are removed
- An enabling environment is created for young people to make healthy SRH choices that enhance their lives and wellbeing
- Empowered young people are engaged in local climate change action

How to find out more

For more information about the FutureLife-Now! Programme or to contact one of our In-Country Coordinators, email bashni@miet.co.za

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